

**ST DOMINIC'S, DURSLEY**  
**&**  
**ST JOSEPH'S, NYMPSFIELD**

Parish Priest: Father Philip Beisly

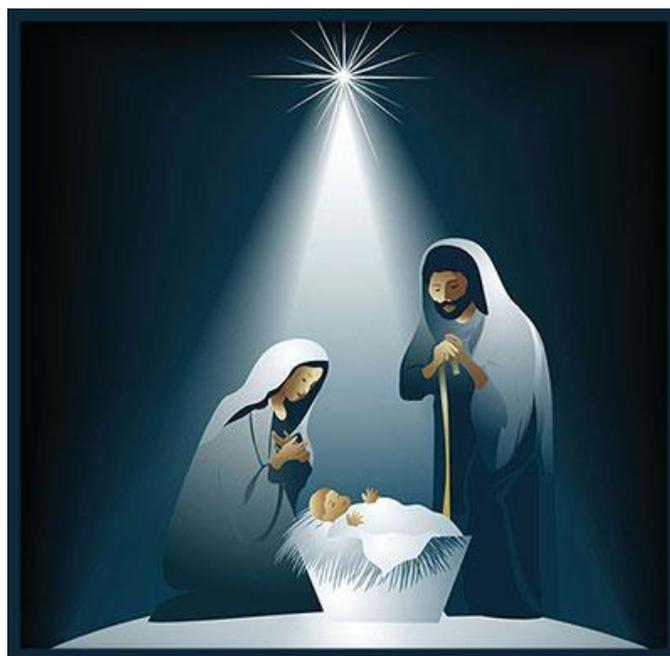
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**CHRISTMAS 2021**



**Father Philip and Deacon Domenic  
wish you every blessing at Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

**SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C**



**Gospel (Luke 1: 39 – 44)**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**Reflection**

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

**SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER**  
**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Gospel (Luke 2: 1 – 14)**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was not room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turn to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord, and here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Christmas Eve, Friday 24 December**

8.30pm at St Dominic's

**Christmas Day, Saturday 25 December**

9.00am at St Joseph's

11.00am at St Dominic's

## SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, YEAR C



#### **Gospel (Luke 2: 41 - 52)**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

#### **Reflection**

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasises Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

## PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY for those who have died recently

### Diocesan Prayer Links:

December 19: Corpus Christi/Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph Weston Super Mare

December 26: St Luke and St Teresa Wincanton

### Churches Together Prayer Rota:

December 19: Dursley Tabernacle

December 26: The Quarry Chapel

### Churches Together Prayer Rota:

December 19: The congregation at Dursley

December 26: The congregation at Nympsfield

### Raffle in aid of *Stella Maris*

The raffle has raised £340 so far, a tremendous total to send to our Parish charity for 2021. Very many thanks to all who supported it in any way. We have now drawn the winners for the raffle. A list has been posted at the back of St Dominic's – please claim your prize!

### Christmas Offering

This is made directly to the priest, so either send a cheque to Father Philip at the Presbytery or return an envelope (*available at the back of church*)

### Mass Times

Friday 17 December	7.00pm	Mass	Dursley		Saturday 25 December	9.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
Saturday 18 December	5.30pm	Mass	Nympsfield		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	11.00am	Mass	Dursley
Sunday 19 December	10.30am	Mass	Dursley		Sunday 26 December	10.30am	Mass	Dursley
Wednesday 22 December	9.00am	Mass	Dursley		Wednesday 29 December		<b>No Mass</b>	
Thursday 23 December	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield		Thursday 30 December		<b>No Mass</b>	
Friday 24 December	8.30pm	Vigil Mass	Dursley		Friday 31 December		<b>No Mass</b>	

There will be no bulletin for **Sunday 2 January**, but the normal schedule of services will resume with Mass at 5.30pm on **Saturday 1 January** at Nympsfield.

See the website for details