

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

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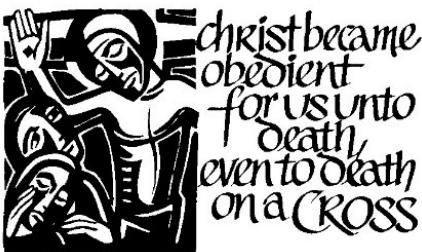
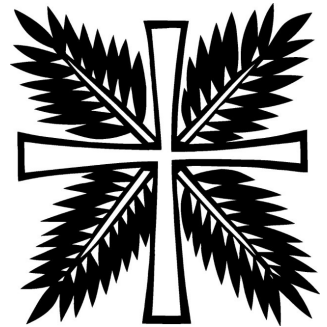
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24 MARCH 2024

LENT VI – THE SUNDAY OF PALMS AND PASSION

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue His ministry after His Passover from Death to Life. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insist that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicts that their faith will be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protest vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returns three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prays in agony over His impending fate, while His Disciples slumber through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denies Jesus, and the disciples are absent during Jesus' passion and death. During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in His obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son.



WE ARE UPDATING OUR CONTACT DETAILS FOR BOTH PARISHES!! WE NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO HOLD AND USE THIS INFORMATION. SOME HAVE MOVED. SOME HAVE ARRIVED AND SOME HAVE CHANGED THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE FILL IN THE SIMPLE FORM AND RETURN IT, EVEN IF YOU THINK WE ALREADY HAVE YOUR DETAILS

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Toddy Flynn, Denis Owen Slater, David John Duncan-Skingle, Fr. Raymond Haynes and Fr. Malcolm Ferrier

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Bishop Declan on his medical retirement, our new Bishop Elect Bosco McDonald, the parish of St George, Warminster

Churches Together: Holy Week

The united walk of witness to Cam Peak and the Holy Week services in our churches

Parish Prayer Rota: Members of the UCM

PALM SUNDAY – YEAR B – The start of Holy Week

Sat. 23 rd Mar		5.30pm	Procession & Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sun 24 th Mar		10.30am	Procession & Sunday Mass	Dursley
Mon 25 th Mar	Fig Monday	10.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
		Noon	Mass	Dursley
Tues 26 Mar	Temple	9.00am	Mass	Nympsfield
	Tuesday	10.30am	Funeral in Bath	
		Noon	Mass	Dursley
Wed 27 Mar	Spy	8.30am	Mass	Dursley
	Wednesday	11.00am	Chrism Mass	Clifton Cathedral
		6.00pm	Mass	Nympsfield

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

THE FIRST DAY – SUNSET THURSDAY TO SUNSET FRIDAY

28 th Mar.	Maundy Thursday 7.30pm	Joint Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	Dursley
29 th Mar.	Good Friday	Dursley Walk of Witness in the morning.	
	3.00pm	Joint Celebration of the Lord's Passion,	Dursley

THE SECOND DAY – SUNSET FRIDAY TO SUNSET SATURDAY

30 th Mar.	Holy Saturday – The Great and Holy Sabbath.	Noon in Dursley, Blessing of Food Baskets.	
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THE THIRD DAY – SUNSET SATURDAY TO SUNSET SUNDAY

30 th Mar.	Easter Eve 9.00pm	Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter,	Nympsfield
31 st Mar.	Easter Day 10.30am	Second Mass of Easter in Dursley	

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER – The start of Easter Octave

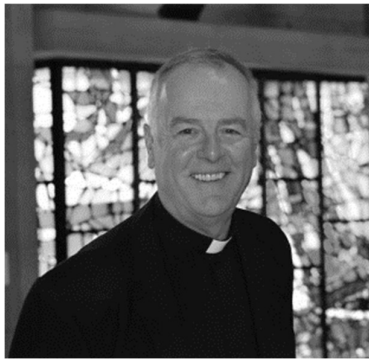
Sat. 30 th Mar		9.00pm	Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter	Nympsfield
Sun 31 st Mar		10.30am	Second Mass of Easter Day	Dursley
Mon 1 st Apr	EASTER MONDAY	Noon	Mass	Nympsfield
Tues 2 nd Apr	EASTER TUESDAY	Noon	Mass	Dursley
Wed 3 rd Apr	EASTER WEDNESDAY	Noon	Mass	Dursley
Thu 4 th Apr	EASTER THURSDAY	Noon	Mass	Nympsfield
Fri 5 th Apr	EASTER FRIDAY	Noon	Mass	Dursley
Sat 6 th Apr	EASTER SATURDAY	Noon	Mass	Dursley
		3.00pm to 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – THOMAS OR LOW SUNDAY

Sat 6 th Apr		5.30pm	Procession & Sunday Mass	Nympsfield
Sun 7 th Apr		10.30am	Procession & Sunday Mass	Dursley
		3.00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions	Dursley

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH: FOR THE NEW MARTYRS. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

RED BOXES Please return all red boxes for emptying by Sunday 14th April. Thank you. *Mary Cryan*



RESIGNATION OF THE BISHOP OF CLIFTON AND APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BISHOP

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has accepted the resignation of the Rt. Revd. Declan Lang as Bishop of Clifton. Bishop Declan was ordained the ninth Bishop of Clifton on 28th March 2001 and has served the Diocese for 23 years as Ordinary. The Holy Father has appointed Very Revd/. Canon Bosco MacDonald, a priest of the Diocese of Clifton, until now Dean of the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bristol, as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton. Immediately upon his election by the Pope, the Canon became a Monsignor, with the rank of a

protonotary apostolic. Monsignor Bosco MacDonald said, on hearing the news of his appointment: *I am humbled that His Holiness Pope Francis has called me to become the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton, following the retirement of Bishop Declan Lang who has served us so lovingly and faithfully for 23 years, giving his life completely to the joys and hopes as well as the challenges of our Catholic communities here in the West of England. As I embark on this new journey, I am filled with gratitude for the prayers and affection of so many wonderful priests and people, family, and friends far and wide. I am eager to renew my profession of faith and deepen my communion with the Successor of Peter and my brother Bishops. And just as Pope Francis encourages Bishops to be close to their people in a spirit of service, I accept this new role in obedience to my priestly call with a commitment to serve the priests and people of Clifton to the best of my ability, with care, tenderness, and compassion. May the love of Christ and the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, Conceived Without Sin guide every step I take as the 10th Bishop of this lovely Diocese of Clifton.*

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- The Fast of the Eyes started on the evening before Lent V. The statues and crosses of both churches, but not the Stations, are veiled in purple. This phase of Late Lent is also traditionally called Passiontide.
- **The Annunciation, normally kept on 25th March, is transferred out of Holy Week and the Easter Octave to the Monday after Low Sunday 8th April.**
- Tuesday 1st May Feast of St Joseph the Worker in Nympsfield, Secondary Patronal Feast. Those who were unable to join us on 19th March get a second chance on this day.
- Friday 3rd May, Feast of Saints Philip and James the Apostles, Fr. P's name day
- 5th May will be Greek or Orthodox Easter this year.
- **Wednesday 8th May at Noon in Clifton Cathedral Episcopal Ordination and Enthronement of Bishop Bosco McDonald as Tenth Lord Bishop of Clifton.**

VOLUNTEERS TO DO CHURCH LINENS

Every parish needs volunteers and Nympsfield and Dursley are no different. We have sadly said goodbye and commended to God's infinite mercy two people over the last six months, who have quietly served these two parishes in various ways. No one can replace the person we have sent to God's gracious keeping, but we can find individuals and rotas of people who will take up the baton and carry on with the job. In this case, we are looking for one or more men or women to launder the small linens we use at Mass, corporals, purificators and finger towels. We are happy to show anyone how the job is done. A rota of volunteers doing one Sunday a month would be ideal. It is not difficult or onerous. It is not gender specific. It is a non-speaking part and inconspicuous. We are, however, very grateful for this job being done. You would be contributing to the worship of Almighty God on earth and polishing your crown for heaven. Please speak to Fr. Philip or Deacon Dominic if you are volunteering or want to know more.



LOOKING FOR GLORY When the Our Lord Jesus Christ was told by His Most Holy Mother at Cana that the wedding feast was about to go pear shaped because they had no more wine, He told her that His Hour had not yet come. There are more references to this Hour of Glory as the Gospels unfold. Eventually, however, He says, "The Hour has come. Father, glorify Your Son." This is not a literal hour of sixty minutes, but the decisive moment of destiny, the events in Jerusalem leading up to the Resurrection.

It is not terribly difficult to see the glory in the discovery of the Resurrection. Triumph over death by rising from the tomb is something beyond the mind of man to imagine or invent. But Tradition says that the Hour of Glory encompasses the entire period Palm Sunday to Easter. We are going to have to look harder to see the glory.

We usually see humility in the Entry of Christ into Jerusalem on a donkey's back. We enjoy the waving palms and strewn garments. We join in with the shouts of Hosanna, but we often miss the point that the Kings of Ancient Israel road to their anointing and coronation on a donkey. We must look for the glory of Christ the King amidst the palms and the triumph, as well as when He wears the Crown of Thorns. Pilate's teasing, "So You are a king!" must be taken at face value. The Lord of Glory in the borrowed soldier's cloak and mocking crown is the King Whose Kingdom is not of this world.

We must remember that the Prophet Samuel anointed Saul the son of Kish as Israel's first king and later, at God's command, he anointed the shepherd boy David as king at Bethlehem. When we read at the start of Holy Week, about the anointing at Bethany with costly nard, we must not only think that the Saviour is being anointed for His burial. We must

think also that the anointed feet stand as a reminder of the Christ, the Anointed King, like King Charles at his coronation last May. It doesn't look very obvious, but this is the King, Who will kneel to wash His Apostles' feet. The last king of England to do this was James II, almost four centuries ago. The Anointed King is also the Suffering Servant.

The apparent low point of Gethsemane sees the Saviour arrested ignominiously, like a brigand, with torches and weapons. When St Peter tries to defend Him, ignorant of what is really going on, the Saviour not only heals Malchus the high priest's servant, whose ear had just been cut off. The Lord also proclaims to Peter and the others that He could call down 12 legions of angels if He wanted. He is the general of the Hosts of Heaven, the Commander in Chief, like King Charles for our Armed Forces. This is a statement of royalty in the darkness of the olive groves. If we are not careful, we miss this glimpse of glory.

We must look devoutly, prayerfully, repeatedly. If we do not see the Hour of Glory, we stand little chance of entering into it, this week or at the hour of our own departure from this world. The eyes of faith will show us. The believing heart will reveal it. It is the same gift of sight that shows us the wonder of the sunset and the wayside flower. So many do not see what is before them. They miss the dignity of the human person in the sick and suffering, the refugee and the war torn. What they do not see, they do not defend. Because they cannot look at the pain, they cannot see beyond it. They cannot see or perceive the glory and beauty that God gives us here, to invite us to glory hereafter.

