

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Thomas
St Dominic's Presbytery Jubilee Road Dursley GL11 4ES 01453 542039

Parish Deacon: The Revd. Domenic Bucci
01453 542136

Parish email: dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com

website: dursleynympsfieldrparish.co.uk

Parish priest email: philip.thomas@cliftondiocese.com

21ST APRIL 2024

EASTER IV – GOOD SHEPHERD OR VOCATIONS SUNDAY



As so often with St. John's Gospel, Chapter 10, the Shepherd Chapter, reminds us of the Beloved Disciples desire to show us exactly Who and What Jesus Christ is. We call this Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son, and this is leading us towards the full revelation of the Holy and Undivided Trinity.

In the unity that He shares with His Father, Jesus roots His voluntary Passover Mystery. Throughout the Passion, His great act of shepherding love, Jesus is joined to the Father, and we catch a glimpse of His desire to unite us to the Father as well. Jesus also refers to others with whom He shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under Jesus Christ the One Shepherd, as God desires.

EASTER IV – Good Shepherd or Vocations Sunday

Sat 20 th Apr		5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Powell Family RIP)	Nympsfeld
Sun 21 st Apr		10.30am	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Dursley
Mon 22 nd Apr	Easter Feria		No Public Mass, because of Fr. P's Day Off.	
Tue 23 rd Apr	ST GEORGE, Solemnity	9.30am	Mass ()	Dursley
Wed 24 th Apr	Easter Feria	9.00am	Mass ()	Dursley
Thu 25 th Apr	ST MARK, Feast	10.00am	Mass with the School ()	Nympsfeld
Fri 26 th Apr	Easter Feria	6.00pm	Exposition & Confessions	Dursley
		7.00pm	Mass (M. J Head RIP)	Dursley
Sat 27 th Apr	Easter Feria	Noon	Mass (Geraldine Moore RIP)	Dursley
		3.00pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley

EASTER V

Sat 27 th Apr		5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	Nympsfeld
Sun 28 th Apr		10.30am	Sunday Mass (Obre Arundell RIP)	Dursley

CAFÉ DOMINIC We are open after Mass for your delectation and delight, as well as refreshment and fellowship. If you would be willing to help set up before or clear up after the 10.30 Sunday Mass, probably for only once a month, please speak with Father Philip or Laura Gardiner.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

The Recently Dead: PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died locally and around the world.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Bishop Declan on his medical retirement, our new Bishop Elect Bosco McDonald, all who work at "St Ambrose", the Diocesan Curia and in Diocesan Services.

Churches Together: Work for Christian Unity, Sheep of One Fold

Parish Prayer Rota: Thanksgiving for the prayers and intercession of our religious sisters and our housebound parishioners.

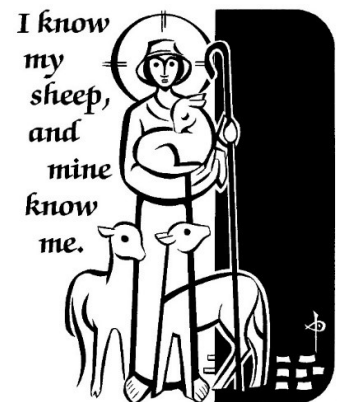
SUNDAY MASS PROPERS

Entrance Antiphon The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Communion Antiphon The Good Shepherd has risen, Who laid down His life for His sheep and willingly died for His flock. Alleluia!



SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK Because this is Good Shepherd Sunday, the collection is for the clergy training fund.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL: FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Look out for Christian Aid Week in May
- Wednesday 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday. Prayers for God's blessing on the world of work, farms, shops, schools and factories, industrial, educational, and rural chaplaincies. Traditionally, the Litany of the Saints was sung in procession through the fields and factories, sprinkling with holy water as they went. It was very much an outdoor, outside of church occasion, "a real cope and wellies job"! Maybe we should plan to revive this custom and have some fun along the way next year!!!
- 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.
- **Thursday 9th May Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity and Holy Day of Obligation**
- **Sunday 12th May 4.00pm May Devotions and Benediction in honour of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles in Dursley. Would Nympsfield like a May Devotion and Benediction on Pentecost Sunday??**
- 25th May, Saturday at Noon, Annual Celebration Mass for Family and Marriage in Clifton Cathedral
- **Sunday 2nd June Said Mass without Sermon, followed by refreshments AND St Dominic's Parish Meeting**
- 8th/9th June First Holy Communion Weekend.



200 CLUB DRAW *If you would like to sign up too be part of this monthly draw, please speak to Sue Whitney.*

'INVITED' A FORMATION COURSE This is a course running from the last week of April to July, on Wednesday evenings. It is organised by and taking place in the parish hall at our neighbours, Immaculate Conception in Stroud. It is for anyone wanting to learn more about their faith and passing it on to others. It will suit experienced catechists and those relatively young in the Faith.

**ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

EASTER GREETING TO OUR LADY, BEFORE THE LAST HYMN @ SUNDAY MASS

**Joy to thee, O queen of heaven, Alleluia!
He Whom thou wast meet to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised, hath aris'n, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, Alleluia!**

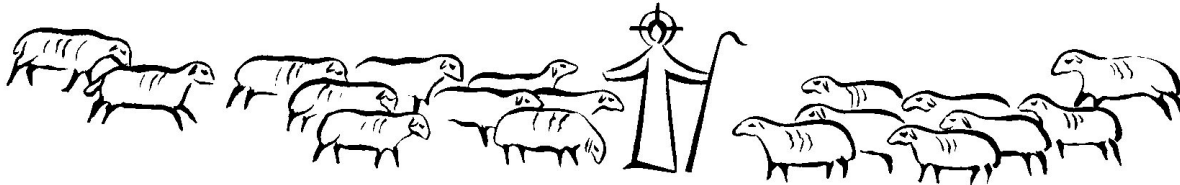
Rejoice and be glad, o virgin Mary, Alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!



Let us pray.

O God, Who has brought joy to the whole world, grant that through the prayers of His mother, the Virgin Mary, may be brought to the glory of the glory of the Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord.
AMEN.

HALL REBURBISHMENT UPDATE Our plans to refurbish the parish hall have been continuing quietly but efficiently. You will recall the photo article in the Gazette. Before you see any scaffolding and works can even begin, we have had to lay out money on the necessary legal documents and requirements. We have had a bat survey done, [same bat time, same bat channel!] We have sought and been granted planning permission. Architect's drawings are required to obtain costings and estimates, before we can apply for grants or start the necessary fund raising. Our aim is to be environmentally friendly in all we do, as the Holy Father has so strongly suggested. Our hall is not just a parish resource but also a community hall, for many and various outside groups, from children's birthday parties to Karate. We want the hall to be warmer and this will require replacement windows as well as the major work on the roof. It is large undertaking but it we are confident in a continuing future and in offering a valuable service to those around us. Please remember this work in your prayers and in your giving. Major fund raising will begin as soon as we have more costings.



LITTLE WAY TRUST - ST-JOSEPH'S LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD Becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust on 1st.January 2024 meant changes for local governors. Our focus is now on School Improvement, providing a better environment for our Staff and Pupils and monitoring their progress, but St Joseph's needs governors to function. Could you fill the role? We are looking for catholic Foundation Governors to join us. Yes, it is a time commitment, and you need I.T. skills and common sense but it is hugely rewarding to watch the progress made by the pupils and see the care and dedication of the staff. Of course, training is provided, and we are friendly and supportive. So would you like to join us? Do you have some spare time? Are you interested in the future of Catholic education? To learn more, contact St" Joseph's School by phone 01453 860311 - by email clerk@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk - or look online www.st-josephs-Gloucester.sch.uk.

FR. PHILIP WRITES We are inclined to downgrade the image of the Good Shepherd, by making the sheep into sweet lambs, fluffy and squeaky clean. No effort or care is needed and there is enough saccharine in the scene to sink a battleship. It is not true to life. In the Cotswolds, we are aware that the



fortune of the area depended on Medieval sheep and the woollen industry. Great churches like, Fairford, Cirencester, South Cerney and Chipping Campden are known as the Wool Churches because they were built with the wealth of the local farmers and wool merchants. Fluffy lambs and glorious churches make us forget the very hard work of the shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Sheep rustling was rife. Though the cold and wet got in the bones, whilst the hands remained soft and supple with the lanolin from the wool, the smell never went away, even when it rained. Shepherds were frequently unable

to get to Mass in the Middle Ages and many thought they were a bad lot. Traditionally, they were buried with a ball of raw wool bunched up in one hand, so that God would know why He hadn't seen them often in church. Pope Francis has reminded the Church's shepherds to smell of the flocks they tend. Whether it is Chanel Number 5 or engine oil, they work hard for the good of others. Pray for your deacons and priests. Pray for our new Bishop, that, together, their work of care and concern may bring us the love of the Stricken and Risen Shepherd, Christ the Lord.