

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Thomas

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Parish Deacon: The Revd. Domenic Bucci 01453 542136

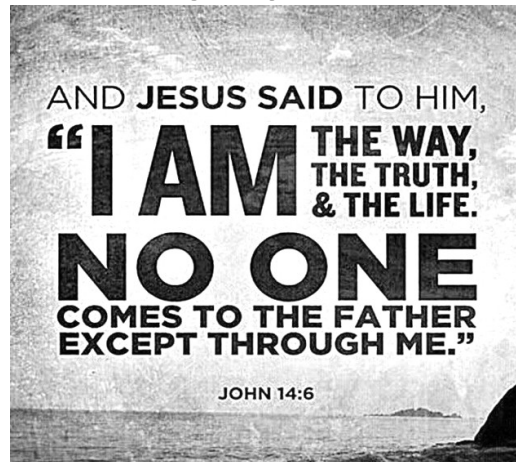
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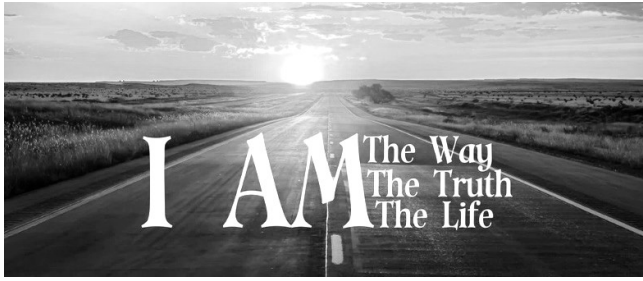
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)



WORSHIP FOR THIS WEEK

2 nd May	EASTER V	5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	St J's
3 rd May		10.30am	Sunday Mass (Whitney Family intentions)	St. D's
4 th May	ENGLISH MARTYRS Feast		No Public Office or Mass	
5 th May	Easter Feria	9.15am 9.30am	Lauds [Morning Prayer] Mass ()	St D's St D's
6 th May	St John the Evangelist in Eastertime	9.15am 9.30am	Lauds [Morning Prayer] Mass ()	St D's St D's
7 th May	Easter Feria	10.00am	Mass with school (M. J. Thomas RIP)	St J's
8 th May	Easter Feria	5.30pm 5.50-6.50pm 7.00pm	Vespers [Evening Prayer] Rosary and Holy Hour & Confessions Mass	St J
9 th May	Easter Feria	Noon 3.00-4.00pm	Modern Mass in Latin () Confessions	St D's St D's
9 th May	EASTER VI –	5.30pm	Sunday Mass (Pro Populo)	St J's
10 th May	Rogation Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Sunday Mass () Christian Aid Service (refreshments from 5.30pm)	St D's St James' Dursley

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY That everyone might have food Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



MASS PROPERS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon O sing a new song to the Lord, for He has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations, He has shown His deliverance. Alleluia.

First Reading Acts 6:1-7 *St Luke (author of*

Acts) paints for us the picture of the selection of the first Deacons.

Resp. Psalm. May Your merciful love be upon us, as we place our all hope in You, O LORD.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9 *St Peter tells us that we are a royal priesthood and chosen race.*

Sung Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – John 14:1-12 *From the Farewell Discourse at the Last Supper, we hear the Saviour giving reassurance about where He is going and how to get there – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

Communion Antiphon I am the True Vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- **SUNDAY 10TH MAY – DURSLEY AGM IN THE HALL AFTER A SHORTER SUNDAY MASS**
To receive last year's audited accounts and to consider the activities and spiritual life of Dursley Parish
- **Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day.**
Masses @ 5.00pm Wednesday 13th May in St Joseph's, Thursday 14th @ 10.00am in St Joseph's, @ Noon in St Dominic's, @ 7.00pm in St Dominic's
- Weekend 13th/14th June First Holy Communion Sunday in both parishes
- Thursday 18th June 11.00am in Clifton Cathedral Year 6 leavers' mass with the Bishop including children from St. Joseph's, Nympsfield.
- **SUNDAY 21ST JUNE – BOTH OF OUR NORMAL WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE CANCELLED AND THE TWO COMMUNITIES WILL MEET TOGETHER AT 11.00AM IN ST DOMINIC'S FOR PONTIFICAL MASS WITH BISHOP BOSCO MCDONALD**
- Saturday 11th July Food Event in aid of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers, the chairman's charity of Revd. David Vonberg, Churches Together
- Wednesday 15th July – Deacon Domenico Bucci's 20th Anniversary of Diaconal Ordination, 7.00pm Mass

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9TH MAY TO 16TH MAY

Shared moments to come together – Across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

1. Saturday 9th May at Cam Methodist church - Coffee Morning for Christian Aid 10.00am - 12 noon.
2. Sunday 10th May at St James the Great Anglican church. Refreshments available from 5.30pm. There will be video showing Christian Aid at work. Gather at 6.30pm for a reflective service of Evensong to give thanks and pray for Christian Aid.
3. Look out for envelopes and other ways to give.



“THY KINGDOM COME”
14TH MAY TO 24TH MAY

This is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has

grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. St George’s Anglican church, Upper Cam and St Cyr’s Stinchcombe will be taking part in this prayer initiative. ***St George’s is hosting 12 hours of prayer on Monday 18th May 8.00am to 8.00pm. Drop in at any time. They hope to set up at Prayer Tree outside the church to encourage passers by to pause and pray along side a Prayer Station inside the church. In addition, St George’s and St Cyr’s Anglican church, Stinchcombe hope to ‘Prayer Walk’ the streets of the two Anglican parishes.***

REGINA COELI [THIS IS SUNG THROUGHOUT EASTERTIDE AT THE END OF SUNDAY MASS]

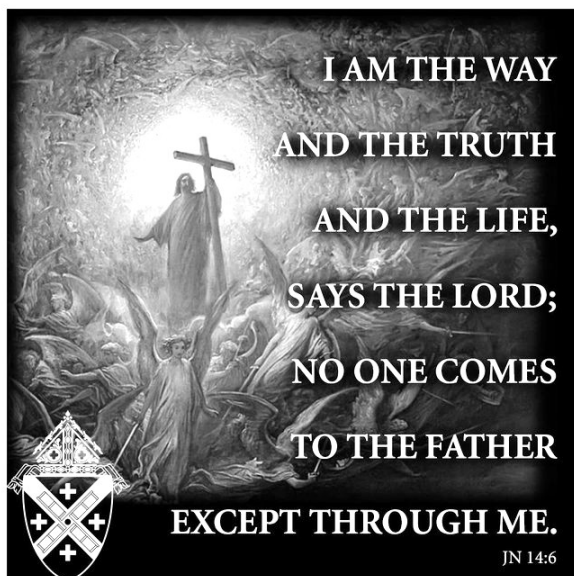
All: **Joy to thee, O queen of heaven, Alleluia
 He, Whom thou wast meet to bear, Alleluia
 As He promised hath aris’n, Alleluia
 Pour for us to God thy prayer, Alleluia**

Priest: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

All: **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia**

Priest: Let us pray

O God, Who by the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, have brought joy to the whole world. Grant that through the prayers of His mother, the Virgin Mary, we may be brought to the joy of everlasting life. Through the same Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

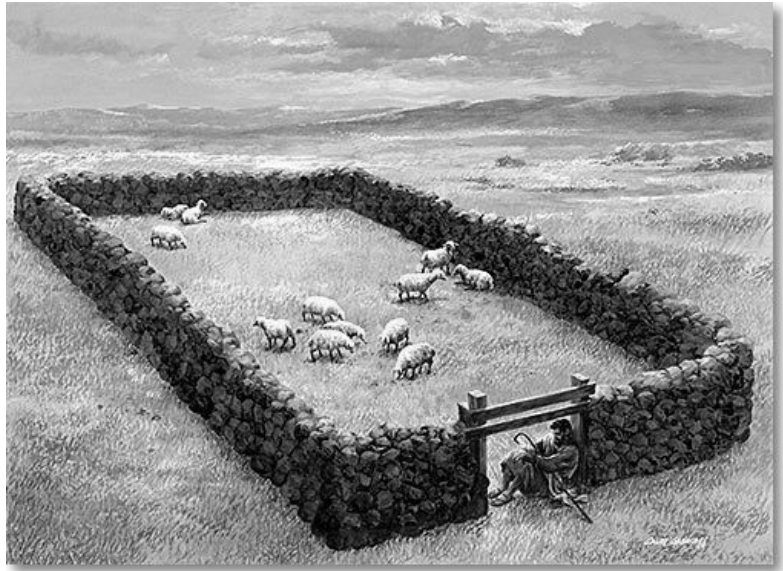


“THROUGH ME” Last weekend, on Good Shepherd Sunday, we heard the Saviour describe Himself as the Gate of the Sheepfold. It is slightly strange thing to call yourself, but if we picture a Middle Eastern shepherd sleeping across the doorway of a stone sheep pen, it all begins to make more sense. He keeps the flock safe inside, fed and watered and not wandering off. On the other hand, he is a door or gate, keeping dangerous wolves and thieves out.

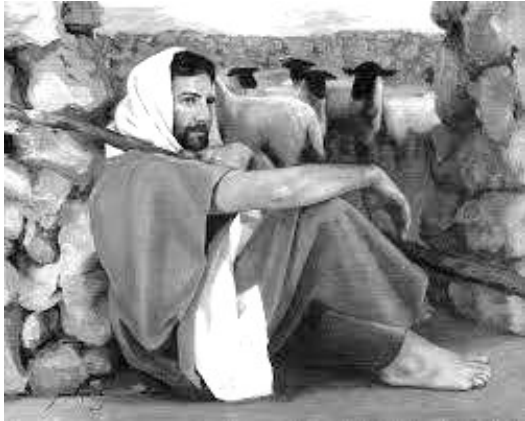
This Sunday, we hear the Good Shepherd continue this image. When St Thomas asks about knowing the way to heaven, Christ says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one, he says comes to the Father except through Him. Once again, we are looking at the Loving Shepherd

guarding the door and the sheep.

He is making a further claim, that He is unique, there is no other way but through Him. This is shocking to many today as in the Ancient Roman Empire. Not only was there Judaism, but there was the official pagan religion of the Empire, worshipping Jupiter and Juno and all the other gods. There was the even older religion of Pharaonic Egypt, with gods headed with animals and birds. The Cult of Isis the goddess of wisdom who brought her husband Osiris back from the dead. From Persia came the mystery religion of Mithras, who slew a bull. This was particularly popular in the Army and with retired soldiers.



Today, the Commonwealth has brought the religions of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan to our shores. Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and more. They all claim to be true and assure us that they will get us to heaven. The faith of the Native Americans is popular and even the made-up religion of the Force from the Star Wars films now makes its appearance in the National Census results.



We are asked to believe they are all the same, equally successful, truthful each and every one. They are all the same and it make no difference which you choose!!! This is simply not true. We must not let go of our fundamental belief in the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. He alone is the path which goes all the way to heaven's Pearly Gates. Amidst half-truths and blatant lies, He alone reveals reality to us, truthful and beautiful. There are demons and idols out there who will bring death and not life. Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no matter what others claim, no one comes to the Father except

through Him.

This does not justify pogroms and crusades against other religions. We are never going to tolerate the human sacrifices of the gods of Meso-America, the Aztecs and Toltecs etc. but we can live peacefully alongside the errors and faiths of other people. We have a right to propagate our faith, to proselytise and so do they.

It is not Islam that built Western civilisation or Hinduism that gave us our cultural and political values. It is uncomfortable to tell others that no one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ. If they do not believe in Him, they do not believe in nothing. The sad truth is that they will believe in anything, little green men from Mars, UFOs, lay lines and every conspiracy theory under the sun. May He Who Is the Gate of the Sheepfold protect us from nonsense and danger. AMEN.