

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

Parish Priest: Father Philip Thomas

St Dominic's Presbytery Jubilee Road Dursley GL11 4ES 01453 542039

Permanent Deacon: The Revd. Domenic Bucci

01453 542136

Parish email: dursley.stdominic@cliftondiocese.com

website: dursleynympsfieldrcparish.co.uk


Parish priest email: philip.thomas@cliftondiocese.com

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



On this the Second Sunday of Advent [Bible Sunday], we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist in Scripture, appearing to prepare the way for Jesus and the salvation that He would bring to us. Bridging the divide between Old and New Testaments, The Baptist is presented to us as a model. We too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers and heralds in service to One Who is Greater than we are. Our baptism at the font commissions us to call others to life as Christian Disciples.

BLESSED Father, You have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Jesus Christ, Your Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in the same Saviour, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK			
Saturday 9 December Advent Feria	3.30pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
ADVENT II - B			
Saturday 9 December Sunday 10 December	5.30pm 10.30am	Sunday Mass Mass & Holy Baptism	Nympsfield Dursley
Tuesday 12 December Advent Feria	9.30am	Mass	Dursley
Wednesday 13 December St Lucy	9.00am	Mass	Dursley
Thursday 14 December St John of the Cross	10.00am	Mass with School	Nympsfield
Friday 15 December Advent Feria	6.30pm – 6.55pm 7.00pm	Exposition and Confessions Mass	Dursley
Saturday 16 December Advent Feria	3.30pm - 4.00pm	Confessions	Dursley
ADVENT III - B – O Sapientia			
Saturday 16 December Sunday 17 December	5.30pm 10.30am	Sunday Mass in Nympsfield Mass in Dursley	
GAUDETE SUNDAY IS OUR ‘WEAR SOMETHING PINK SUNDAY’ – A LITTLE ADVENT FUN.			
THIS YEAR, ADVENT III FALLS ON THE 17TH OF DECEMBER AND MARKS THE SHIFT INTO LATE ADVENT. USUALLY, THESE LATE ADVENT DAYS START AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY AND ST JOHN THE BAPTIST HAS THE SUNDAY ALL TO HIMSELF.			

Café Dominic is open for refreshments each Sunday after the 10.30 Mass at Dursley

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard

Responsorial Psalm

Let me see, O Lord, Your mercy, and give us Your saving help

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare a way for the Lord, and make His paths straight;
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God

Our Parish

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Goff Smith, Gerald Lockier, Michael Whittard

Diocesan Prayer Link:

St Augustine of Canterbury, Matson English Martyrs, Tuffley

Churches Together

Parish Prayer Rota:

The children of our parishes

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention of society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

RED BOXES DURSLEY & NYMPFIELD Please will anyone who did not return their box for emptying in September please do so by 12th December, as the office at Missio likes to have all monies for the year banked by the end of December. Thank you. *Mary Cryan.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAM, DURSLEY: FRIENDS AT CHRISTMAS: Christmas Day from 11.30am to 3.00pm at Dursley Methodist Church. If you will be alone at Christmas do join us for Christmas dinner and all the trimmings together with fun and festivities including entertainment, singing and a seasonal quiz. Transport to and from the church is available – this must be booked in advance. If you can't get out of the house you don't have to miss out - we can deliver a meal to your doorstep There is no charge. If you know somebody who will be lonely or if you would like to help as a volunteer, please contact Nicky Yudin Email: harrowyudins@aol.com 07999 755138

VALUABILITY – A BETTER WAY OF LOOKING AT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Pope Francis has invited the whole Church in December to pray that “people with disabilities may be the centre of attention in our societies”. Cristina Gangemi, a highly experienced disability advisor (who has long worked to make the Church a more inclusive, valuing and understanding place), uses a word ‘valuability’, a positive word that shifts the focus from vulnerability, and she has four P-words: “I argue against the overuse of the term vulnerability. All people are different. One of the things that makes us equal is the fact that we're all different. I find it very challenging to think of a person who experiences disability only as being vulnerable. That means they're open to being injured, open to being left out... But that doesn't characterise who they are. My experience of people with disabilities has always been people of immense value. If we're going to live a ‘valuability’ – a value of other people, rather than a vulnerability, noticing how they're injured, we need to look at four ‘P's.” So what are they? “To begin with, you must never **‘PRESUME’** anything about anybody. Never presume that another person is weak. You have to always be **‘PRESENT’** to the person you have before you, and that means recognising their value from the very outset of your encounter with them. “Then we have to recognise that each person has a **‘PURPOSE’**. If somebody is in church with you has a disability, there is a reason that they're there – they belong, they have a purpose. Then the last is **‘PATIENCE’**, we have to be patient with one another.”



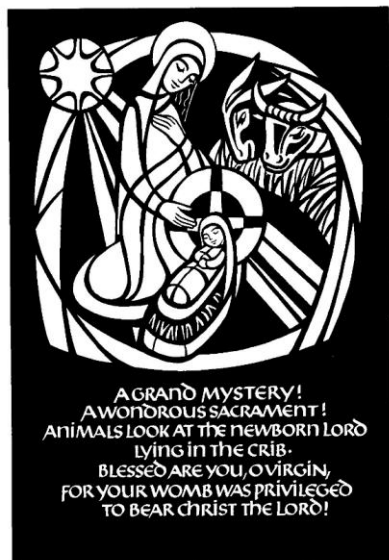
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR - SHAFTS OF LIGHT, SHAFTS OF HOPE IN ADVENT

This is a time of growing Christ-light in a darkened world, of waiting and hope, of light and joy. Join us as we reflect on these great themes with music, art, and scripture. See it as a mini retreat to give some focus to this busy time of present buying, food shopping, baking and wrapping of gifts. The mini retreat will be run twice online, just click on your chosen session link below: Thursday 14th December 7-8pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bef05e7a-38d9-4349-8c6c-39c0d79dda93@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94> Repeated on Tuesday 19th December 3-4pm:

OUR LADY IN ADVENT One of Advent's themes is waiting, patiently and profitably. Not surprisingly, Christians naturally turn to the waiting of Our Lady during her pregnancy. It is rare to find statues depicting Christ's holy mother pregnant, though pictures of her meeting with St Elizabeth at the Visitation are more common. The Middle Ages liked to keep a celebration of the Expectancy of the Virgin in the days at the end of Advent, running into Christmas time.

Another traditional way of thinking about the Blessed Virgin Mary has been to think of her not as a figure of the New Testament, but as a figure of the Old Testament. Thus, Christians have spoken of her as the Virgin Daughter of Sion and the Daughter of Israel. Mass propers of these titles abound. There are not only survivors from the Middle Ages, but more recently composed texts as well. These may be used on the free Saturdays of Advent and at the Traditional Rorate Masses.



These Masses usually start with the Latin word “rorate”, meaning Drop Down or Pour Down, asking the Father to pour down the Saviour like dew into the waiting womb of Our Lady. These Rorate Masses are rich in symbolism. They are usually celebrated by candlelight, starting just before dawn and aiming to finish as the light of day begins to pour in at the window. This shows how Our Lady stands at the junction of night and day, of Old Testament and New Testament. These Rorate Masses are very popular in Germany and Austria and are spreading through French and English-speaking lands. Maybe, we should consider having one or more next year, when we can arrange to serve croissants and coffee by way of breakfast to the hardy souls willing to come out at 7.00am. The ancient Ember Days of Advent also had

Marian themes, and this continues today into the last 7 days before Christmas, Late Advent Ferias. The days are also known by the names of the antiphons on the Magnificat at Vespers, better known to us as the verses of O Come O Come Emmanuel. They are in the wrong order in the hymn and start of the 17th December with O Sapientia [O Wisdom]

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER 3 December is the First Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of Year 2/Cycle B (St Mark). Pope Francis has also announced that it will be the first day of the 2024 Year of Prayer. This is a year in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. One thing you can do to prepare yourself, and possibly the most important, is to pray the *Our Father* – Pope Francis calls on the Church to focus especially on this prayer. Take some time out of your day and give it to God with this prayer.



The Oriana Singers Christmas Concert

Thursday 14th December 2023,
at 7.30pm.

St Dominic's Church, Dursley.

In aid of St Dominic's Hall Appeal Fund
and Fifth Gospel Christians.

A mixture of Christmas music
from 1500's to modern day.

Tickets £10 each