



St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE

St Nicholas Presbytery, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-8810

Parish Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-0419

(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 12 noon; Tuesday 2 - 4pm; Friday 5 - 7pm)

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 07718598188

Parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com

Fr Richard's email: stnicks.bristol@blueyonder.co.uk

Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: www.tolentino.org.uk

Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

Deacon - Rev Jack Brannigan [retired] (01934-5195140)

Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaker: Hycienth Uchedike (07447940457)

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Margaret Ulloa (0117-915-0486)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE or REJOICING SUNDAY



Dance for Joy for you are baptised in the Spirit!

Anthropologists tell us that the origin of dance is worship - dancing for joy as a sacrifice of praise to God! You can be forgiven for not recognising that looking at some western dancing!!

David danced before the Ark of the Covenant as it was brought into his capital city of Jerusalem. As we will hear on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist while still in Elizabeth's womb danced and leapt before Mary the Ark of the Covenant as the unborn prophet recognised the unborn Saviour hidden in the womb.

But our dance is nothing compared to the Divine Dance - God who dances for joy over you and me. He is the Lord of the Dance, the Dance of Divine Love and Creative Energy at the heart of Creation! So let us indeed 'Rejoice!', dance for joy with our God as the Bridegroom comes seeking us. Dance for joy that God has come to His Temple - YOU! Filling you with the Divine Dance, the Divine Love, the Holy Spirit. Indeed the Lord is very near - within us!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am

ADVENT PRAYER - The Stations of Creation at 12.45pm

Days of the Great 'O' Antiphons

MONDAY: *'O Wisdom'*

Adoration at 8.30am Service of Word and Communion at 9.00am

TUESDAY: *'O Adonai - Lord God'*

Adoration at 5.30pm Evening Mass at 6.00pm followed by Scripture Group

WEDNESDAY: *'O Root of Jesse'*

Requiem Mass for Tim Dagger RIP at 10.00am

Adoration at 6.30pm Evening Mass at 7.00pm

THURSDAY: *'O Key of David'*

End of Term School Mass at 9.30am - all welcome!

Mass at 12 noon *Adoration* until 1.30pm

Prepare the Way of the Lord (x2) and all people shall see the salvation of our God!

FRIDAY: *'O Morning Star'*
Adoration at 8.15am *Morning Prayer* at 8.45am **Mass** at 9.00am

SATURDAY: *'O King of the Nations'* *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] The **Third Sunday of Advent** (traditionally named **'Gaudete'** or **'Rejoicing'** Sunday) celebrates with great joy the transforming presence of Jesus among us, the 'Anointed One' (the long-awaited 'Christ') who brings healing and new life into broken lives, broken communities and the deserts we have made of our world. He is recognised not because of His doctrine - but because of His action - may the same be true of the Church!

[2] We **Commission our new altar servers** and re-commission our other altar servers - praying God's blessing on their service of God and our community.

[3] Our **Advent Prayer at 12.45pm** is inspired by Pope Francis encyclical letter on Climate Change and Global Poverty ('Laudato Si') and St Francis of Assisi - his 'Canticle of the Creatures'. It will take the form of **'the Stations of Creation'**.

[4] A second **Retiring Collection for our parish SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] With the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** the Church's Liturgy turns to the immediate preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus our Saviour. As we reflect upon pregnant Mary's journey to pregnant Elizabeth - expressing in the children of the womb God's Visitation to our World, to us, we ask ourselves two questions. Are we open and welcoming to the Visitation of God in our lives (He comes in so many 'disguises'); and are we ourselves a Visitation of God into other people's lives? Love is All!

[2] During our Mass we will **bless our Christmas Tree (the 'Paradise Tree')**, explaining its Christian significance, reminding us of the fatal Tree of the Garden of Eden and the Life-giving Tree of the Cross of Christ.

[3] Our special **Advent Prayer at 12.45pm** will reflect upon the meaning of our Great 'O' Antiphons that characterise these last days of our Advent journey. A beautiful reflective time of prayer in Advent's growing Light!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Patrick's, Brockworth and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown, Gloucester served by Fr Christopher Hickey, Fr Paul Brandon, Deacon Brendan Vaughan-Spruce and Parish Administrator Lilly Vujakovic and both parish communities.

WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday Zephaniah 3: 14-18 / Responsorial Isaiah 12: 2-6 / Philippians 4: 4-7 / Luke 3: 10-18
Monday Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 / Psalm 71 / Matthew 1: 1-17
Tuesday Jeremiah 23: 5-8 / Psalm 71 / Matthew 1: 18-24
Wednesday Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25 / Psalm 70 / Luke 1: 5-25
Thursday Isaiah 7: 10-14 / Psalm 23 / Luke 1: 26-38
Friday Song of Songs 2: 8-14 / Psalm 32 / Luke 1: 39-45
Saturday 1 Samuel 1: 24-28 / Responsorial 1 Samuel 2 / Luke 1: 46-56

COLLECTIONS: - next week!

Env £124.75 + Loose £226.90 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £442.53 - thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16th Dec Commissioning & Re-commissioning all Altar Servers at 10am Mass
 18th Dec Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm
 24th Dec **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm**
 25th Dec **CHRISTMAS SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY at 10.00am**

Prepare the Way of the Lord (x2) and all people shall see the salvation of our God!

31st Dec 2019	New Year's Eve Watchnight Mass at 10.30pm (agape after)
1st Jan	FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEARS DAY 10am Mass
4th Jan	Requiem Mass for Mary Baccus RIP at 11.30am (St Nicks)
6th Jan	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
6th Jan	Senior Citizens Christmas Mass at 3.00pm, followed by Tea
12th Jan	Lay Ministers of the Eucharist Training Session One 9.30am-1.00pm (Hall)
13th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday
13th Jan	Night Shelter Volunteers Training at St Nicks, after Mass until 3.30pm
15th Jan	Parish Pastoral Council at 7.00pm
16th Jan	First Eucharist programme begins (& Parents' meeting) at 4.00pm (Assisi Cent)
18th Jan	First Reconciliation programme begins (& Parents' meeting) at 4pm (Assisi Cent)
19th Jan	Lay Ministers of the Eucharist Training Session Two 9.30am-1.00pm (Hall)
20th Jan	United Service for Christian Unity Week at 4.00pm (St Nicks - 170 event)
26th Jan	Lay Ministers of the Eucharist Training Session Three 9.30am-1.00pm (Hall)
27th Jan	Commissioning & Re-commissioning all Lay Ministers of Eucharist at 10am Mass
27th Jan	Annual Mission Appeal - this year by the Comboni Sisters
30th Jan	East Bristol Deanery meets at 6.30pm
6th Feb	Training Day and Evening on Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery (St Nicks)
23rd Feb	Borderlands Trustees meet 11am to 4.00pm
26th Feb	Bishop Declan celebrates 170 Anniversary Mass at 7.00pm
6th March	ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS

FROM COMMITTEE 170 1) The 170 Committee wants to thank our community for the extraordinary contribution (in so many different ways!) to the Multi-cultural Concert on 23rd November. We raised around £900 towards our building fund, and especially we celebrated our mission and our strong sense of togetherness in the most joyful way. We hope to repeat the experience next year!

2) The 170 Committee is looking for volunteers to organise a **family-fun event on Saturday 2nd March (working name 'Pancakes day')**. We are looking for ideas from all our different cultures who celebrate the last days before Lent in different ways. What do you do in your country for Shrove Tuesday (or Mardi Gras)? Do you have any ideas about what we could organise for children and their families on the last Saturday before Lent? Let us know!

CALLING ALL EU (European Union) CITIZENS - ALL WHO HAVE EU PASSPORTS

At a meeting in London this past week of Catholic Migrant Officers (and European national chaplains) from around England and Wales (sponsored by the Bishops' Conference), we examined the arrangements for all EU citizens (those holding EU passports, including their children born in UK) after 'Brexit'. Although clearly there is now doubt about 'Brexit', nevertheless it is vitally important that those concerned (which includes for instance people from Latin America holding Spanish passport and from Angola, East Timor etc holding Portuguese passports) understand the steps they need to take if they wish to remain in UK after 31st December 2020. It is relatively simple in most cases, but you must apply to the **'EU Settlement Scheme' from April 2019 and before end of June 2021**. We are going to explore how our parish community can support our sisters and brothers in applying for Permanent Settled Status. Meanwhile, for more information visit: www.gov.uk/eu-settled-status

JOURNEY OF FAITH We continue the Journey of Faith meetings each **Friday at 6.30pm** Who will you encourage to come and see what being a Catholic Christian means? Or come for a renewal of faith? Or seek Baptism and/or Confirmation?

SUPPORT St NICKS 170 FUNDRAISING THIS CHRISTMAS! Please support your parish community by also including our 170 T-shirts and mugs in your Christmas gift shop-

Prepare the Way of the Lord (x2) and all people shall see the salvation of our God!

ping. There will also be our special calendars also! All will help us repair the church and re-decorate it in this 170th Year!

LAY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST TRAINING I have called a number of our parishioners to serve our community as Lay Ministers of the Eucharist. The training Sessions will be in the New Year: **Saturdays: 12/19/26 January from 9.30am to 1.00pm (including 12 noon Mass); Commissioning & Re-commissioning of all Lay Ministers Sunday 27th January at 10.00am Mass.**

BRISTOL CHURCHES WINTER NIGHT SHELTER AT ST NICKS

So far we have only 7 volunteers from our parish to support this important part of our Mission - **WE NEED MORE!** We are hosting our homeless sisters and brothers each Wednesday from 20th Feb to 27th March. There are three shifts each night: Evening 5.30-10pm / Overnight 9.30pm - 7.00am / Morning 6.30-9.30am. For those volunteering for a shift, it is **very important that you attend training - you cannot volunteer without this training - for your own good as well as that of our guests!** PLEASE CONTACT ASHLEY TARDIVO (07584375049) or ashleytardivo@gmail.com **There will be an extra training session here at St Nicks after Mass on Sunday 13th January, finishing at 3.30pm**

If you cannot volunteer to do a shift there are also other ways you can support:

- [1] volunteer to cook food for both guests and volunteers - see Patience Bird (07411406411)
- [2] donate toiletries, male/female underwear and socks, hats, gloves, scarves, towels, duvet covers, pillowcases.
- [3] do the laundry of duvet covers, pillowcases and towels (once a week for 6 weeks or a rota).
- [4] become part of prayer circle to pray during the course of project.

NEW LITURGY COURSE FOR 2018/19 - YEAR OF PRAYER

To accompany our Diocesan Year of Prayer, the Liturgy Office is hosting a new course entitled 'Understanding and Praying the Liturgy'. Seeking to enable us to enter more deeply into the Mass both as an encounter with the Risen Christ and as prayer itself. Beginning with Bishop Declan we will be guided through the course by a number of excellent speakers, both from within and outside the diocese. Full details can be found on <https://cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/liturgy-office> or by phoning Richard Williams or Doreen Wyatt on 0117 902 5595.

PIETY STALL IN PARISH HALL

We have a wide variety of new stock, including cribs, statues, cards, and children's and adults prayer books, rosaries, candles etc. Come after Mass, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends and have a look to see what can help your and your family's faith grow!

BISHOP COMES TO CELEBRATE 170 YEARS OF MISSION HERE

I am delighted to announce that Bishop Declan will preside at a **Mass of Thanksgiving** and Recommitment on the occasion of our 170th Anniversary Year on **Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 7.00pm**. We will be inviting many from around the diocese to join us for this important celebration.

NOW YOU CAN GIVE TO ST NICKS BY CARD & PAY PAL!

Thanks to Henry you can donate or buy Year 170 items (t-shirts and mugs) or items from the Piety Stall by card.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES FOR 2019

Parents seeking the baptism of their children this year are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Christopher and Epiphania Chipato or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptismal Sunday is:

13th JANUARY at 10am Mass; With the **Rite of Catechumen on Sunday 6th January.**

The 2 parents Preparation sessions are to be arranged. The next Baptismal Sunday will be **Easter Sunday, April 21st during the 10.00am Mass**

Prepare the Way of the Lord (x2) and all people shall see the salvation of our God!