



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

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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR 'C' - YEAR OF PRAYER



'COME, LORD JESUS, COME!'

For sure He is coming! He came hidden in poverty and obscurity, recognised only by some poor shepherds, some wandering wise ones and some doubtful apostles.

He comes today, now, also hidden in the poverty of bread and wine, in the frailty of our brothers and sisters in hurting humanity, in the gentleness of a friend's touch.

He will come no longer hidden, but with glory blazoned across all creation (the truth hidden behind words like 'riding on the clouds of heaven'). He will come because creation is fulfilled and finally fully evolved into the wonder of Christ Omega. He will come because we have worked to transform our world into a place of justice, of goodness, of truth, of humanity - and therefore a place of the Divine, the Kingdom. May our lives serve the ancient cry of the Christian's heart - Come Lord Jesus!

SUNDAY:

PARISH MASS at 10.00am

ADVENT PRAYER at 1.00pm

Catholic Handicapped Fellowship Mass at 3.00pm

MONDAY:

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

TUESDAY:

Feast of St Francis Xavier, Jesuit priest and St Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury

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

WEDNESDAY:

Adoration at 6.30pm **Evening Mass** at 7.00pm

THURSDAY:

Feast of St Nicholas of Myra, Bishop & Patron of children (4th century)

Mass at 12 noon *Adoration* until 1.30pm

FRIDAY:

Feast of St Ambrose, Bishop & Theologian (339-410)

Adoration at 8.15am **Morning Prayer** at 8.45am **Mass** at 9.00am

Monthly Taizé Prayer around the Cross at 7.30pm

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SATURDAY: ***Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary, Principal Patron of Clifton Diocese Adoration*** at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] We begin a new Liturgical Year (Year C cycle - the Year of Luke's Gospel) with this **First Sunday of Advent**, echoing the great cry of the first Christians 'Come Lord Jesus, Come soon!' Stay awake Jesus insists - watch, work, prayer for the Final Coming of Christ that will transform all creation into His Body, for he is the Fulness of all Creation when He comes 'all in all!' Let us be awake for His coming every day!

[2] Today is a **Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees** - a prayer and work close to our hearts in this parish. Over 66 million refugees and displaced peoples world-wide - the greatest human disaster and tragedy the world has known! And yet so often we turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the cries of pain - while we allow our governments to build walls of brick, barbed wire and even harder hearts!

[3] We will have **Special Advent Prayer each Sunday at approximately 1.00pm** - this Sunday it will be dedicated to praying for our refugee and asylum sisters and brothers.

[4] **Retiring Collection for the Poor Missions of Clifton Diocese** - please be generous.

[5] Being the **first Sunday of the month**, we have our **Covenant with the Poor Offertory** - please give gifts of money in the special envelopes and gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs (especially pasta, rice, tins of tomatoes, fruit, fish and meat, and pasta sauce, UHT milk, small jars of coffee and hot chocolate, packs of biscuits and breakfast cereals etc etc). Please be generous as the demands on this fund is very heavy indeed.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] The **Second Sunday of Advent** focuses on John the Baptist as the great Prophet who 'prepares the way of the Lord'. Dwelling in the wilderness of prayerful waiting upon the Word, spoken into the heart and mind that is still and silent, John then emerges to call people to conversion of heart and life to make room for the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, who comes to 'wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around us'.

[2] **Special Advent Prayer at approximately 1.00pm** - we will pray for the Mission of the Church, both globally and in our parish community, as we too invite others to meet the Lord.

[3] **Mass for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired** at 3.00pm - all welcome.

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

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Gerard Majella, Knowle, Christ the King, Knowle West, and St Bernadette's, Whitchurch, served by Fr George Henwood, Fr Michael d'Mello, Fr Matt Anscombe, and parish administrator Mrs Alice Maimone and all their communities.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday Jeremiah 33: 14-16 / Psalm 24 / 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2 / Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Monday Isaiah 2: 1-5 / Psalm 121 / Matthew 8: 5-11

Tuesday Isaiah 11: 1-10 / Psalm 71 / Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday Isaiah 25: 6-10 / Psalm 22 / Matthew 15: 29-37

Thursday Isaiah 26: 1-6 / Psalm 117 / Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

Friday Isaiah 29: 17-24 / Psalm 26 / Matthew 9: 27-31

Saturday Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 / Psalm 97 / Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12 / Luke 1: 26-38

COLLECTIONS: - next week!

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

CONCERT 170 raised over £850 and was an inspiring and joyous evening - thanks to all!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd Dec **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR OF LUKE BEGINS**

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4th Dec	Committee 170 planning co-ordinating Group meets at 7.00pm (Assisi Centre)
6th Dec	Meeting of Diocesan Migrant Officers in London
8th Dec	New Altar Servers Training 10.30-11.30am
8th Dec	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
12th Dec	School Nativity Plays at 1.30pm and 5.30pm (in the Church)
13th Dec	Senior Citizens Christmas Meal at 6.00pm (parish hall)
15th Dec	New Altar Servers Training 10.30-11.30am
16th Dec	Commissioning & Re-commissioning all Altar Servers at 10am Mass
24th Dec	CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm
25th Dec	CHRISTMAS SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY at 10.00am
31st Dec	New Year's Eve Watchnight Mass at 10.30pm (agape after)

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1st Jan	FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEARS DAY
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
6th Feb	Training Day and Evening on Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery (St Nicks)

THE YEAR OF LUKE With a new Liturgical Year (Sundays Year C) nearly all the Sunday Gospel will be taken from Luke's Gospel. Luke, a disciple of St Paul, expresses especially the Gospel as Paul preached it to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world: a Gospel that was Good News to the Poor, a Gospel of Mercy and Forgiveness, a Gospel filled with the Holy Spirit and Hope, a Gospel of Joy, a Gospel of equality for women - a Gospel for our Age!

DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER Having focussed in the past 12 months on 'Mission', the diocese now turns to the well-spring that gives us the energy and vision for Mission - to utter necessity of Prayer. Luke's Gospel gives us particular insights into Jesus as the Man of Prayer, constantly turning to His Father, finding quiet spaces on hillsides (often in the dark hours of night) during which He would pray, enter afresh into His Divine Communion with Abba, Father through the bond of love that is the Holy Spirit within Him and between Him and the Father. He is our model of Prayer - a prayer that drives us (inspires us) to action (mission) a prayer that is shaped by that action/mission! Let us deepen our prayer, our contemplative union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit this coming year.

ADVENT - THE VISION OF MISSION Advent is a time for 'people with far-seeing eyes' - awakened to the reality of our world, ready to listen and to gaze: in order to recognise where, when and how Jesus comes in the 21st century (in the poverty, among the oppressed, disguised as an addict or as homeless, crying out for acceptance and freedom in the asylum-seeker, yearning for peace among the women and children who are the greatest victims of our wars). But you have to have courage to see and to hear - and more courage to speak and to act! The Spirit of God unfolds a vision of Mission - to transform the deserts and wastelands of our world into places of hope, rich and fertile in humanity and justice, healing and freedom. Our Mission is world-challenging and world-changing. Let our worship empower our mission, as we gaze upon bread from the fields and wine from the hills being transformed utterly in Christ by the Spirit and the Word through the ministry of the Church!

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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?

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS As we draw near Christmas, can we think again about giving friends and family the gift of a **CAFOD WORLD GIFT** - and so our giving helps the poorest of the Earth? Leaflets available in the porch today. **Our Children's Liturgy Group will be collecting once more for World gifts this Advent!**

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 shopping. 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.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS INVITED TO TRAIN We wish to recruit new altar servers to be trained and commissioned before Christmas. All girls and boys who have celebrated their First Eucharist are welcome to apply. Please see Fr Richard, Mary Hopper or Sam Masenya. Training Sessions: **Saturdays: 8th Dec/15th Dec 10.30-11.30am with Commissioning of ALL ALTAR SERVERS on Sunday 16th December at 10am mass**

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.

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