

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)****FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*****A MEETING PREGNANT WITH SALVATION FOR THE WORLD!***

Two women meet - and rejoice to share both good news and the risks they are taking. Two children growing in the womb meet and bring life to each other. In the womb of Elizabeth is carried all humanity's hopes for a better world, a world of justice, of freedom, of peace and of love. In Mary's womb God fulfils His promise, and answers the cries of humanity for a new future.

Every woman who carries a child in the womb carries humanity's hopes, carries the promise of a new future, for the child and for the world. Every woman who carries a child in the womb also carries the reality of God within her and within her child, carries God's answer of fulfilled Promise.

In every child heaven and earth are joined and hope is rekindled. In every child God comes to visit His People. They hold the secret of the Kingdom of God and we cannot understand understand the wonder of our Father's love unless we begin to see through the wonder filled eyes of the child. We need the heart of the child truly to welcome the Coming of Love made Flesh in Jesus our brother.

Let us be bearers of both the hopes of the world and the promise of God; may each of our lives be pregnant with hope for our world, brining the Father's mercy to birth among all peoples.

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Blessing of Christmas Tree at 10.00am 'O Emmanuel' Advent Evening Prayer of the 'O' Antiphons and Adoration at 1.00pm

MONDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE

***Adoration* at 8.30am *Morning Prayer* at 9.15am **Mass** at 9.30am**

***Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)* 10.30-11.00am & 4.00-5.00pm**

Blessed is she who believed the promises made her by Lord would be fulfilled!

Christmas Season Begins

MONDAY: **MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR** at 10.30pm.

TUESDAY: **SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS** at 10.00am

WEDNESDAY: **Feast of St Stephen, First Deacon & Martyr (Boxing Day)**

Adoration at 9.15am **Morning Prayer** at 9.45am **Mass** at 10.00am

THURSDAY: **Feast of St John, the Apostle and Evangelist.**

Mass at 12noon, followed by **Adoration** until 1.30pm

FRIDAY: **Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

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

SATURDAY: **Feast of St Thomas a Becket, martyred Archbishop of Canterbury (1118-1170)**

Adoration at 11.30am **Mass** at 12noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30-5.00pm only

TODAY [1] With the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** the Church's Liturgy turns to preparing us more immediately for our remembrance of the Birth of Jesus - but so that we can yearn for the Re-Birth of the entire Creation in Christ at His Final Coming. We hear the Gospel of the Visitation - Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, hurries across the hill country to greet Elizabeth, carrying John the Baptist in her womb. All human hope (John) leaps for joy at meeting God's entire self-giving (Jesus) that fulfils all human hope.

[2] We **bless the Christmas Tree** during this 10am Mass - the Tree that symbolises both the tree of our Fall (the First Adam) and the Tree of our Redemption (the Second Adam - Christ). Parents - if you have a christmas Tree in your home, why not gather your children around it and bless it on Christmas Eve?

[3] A very beautiful **Advent Evening Prayer (incorporating the Great O Antiphons)** with **Adoration** at 1.00pm - do come!

NEXT SUNDAY [1] We celebrate the beautiful **Feast of the Holy Family**. A day to give thanks for our families, to hold each other with love, to pray for those families separated for whatever reason, but especially because of fleeing terror and war. A time to care for those who have no families. A day to rejoice that God comes into our families with tender love.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Edmund, Calne, and St Anthony of Padua, Melksham, served by Fr Vincent Curtis and both their communities.

WORD OF GOD FOR FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday	Micah 5: 1-4 / Psalm 79 / Hebrews 10: 5-10 / Luke 1: 39-44
Monday	2 Samuel 7: 1-16 / Ps 88 / Luke 1: 67-79
Tuesday	Midnight Mass Isaiah 9: 1-7 / Ps 95 / Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2: 1-14 Dawn Mass Isaiah 62: 11-12 / Ps 96 / Titus 3: 4-7 / Luke 2: 15-20 Day Mass Isaiah 52: 7-10 / Ps 97 / Hebrews 1: 1-6 / John 1: 1-18
Wednesday	Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59 / Ps 30 / Matthew 10: 17-22
Thursday	1 John 1: 1-4 / Ps 96 / John 20: 2-8
Friday	1 John 1: 5-2: 2 / Psalm 123 / Matthew 2: 13-18
Saturday	Colossians 1: 24-29 / Psalm 22 / Luke 22: 24-30 or Matthew 10: 28-33

COLLECTIONS

Env £127.98 + Loose £176.17 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £394.73 - thank you!

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Caritas Fund £100.00 Project 170 (from Zimbabwean Community) £71.82

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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)
<u>2019</u>	
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)
15th Feb	Healing Mass for World Day of the Sick at 7.30pm
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

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS For those not using Offertory envelopes, there are some 'Christmas Offering envelopes available today for the Christmas Offerings. The Collections at Christmas and Easter are your personal offering of financial support for your parish priest, and makes up a major part of his annual 'wage'. Thank you for your generosity.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER! As for the past few years, there will be a New Year 'Watch Night Mass' at 10.30pm on 31st December, praying the New Year in. This is the Diocesan Year of Prayer - we need to pray for our war-torn world, for our polluted Earth, for our refugee and asylum-seeking sisters and brothers - and for our won families and parish family! Much to pray about as we enter a New Year - a New Hope! Following the Mass and greeting the New Year in the name of Christ, there will be a bit of a party in the Hall - you are invited to bring some food to share. I do hope many will come especially as this is our 170th Birthday Year.

HEALING MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12th Come to this special **Healing Mass for the World Day of the Sick in this Diocesan Year of Prayer** here at St Nicks on Friday **15th February at 7.30pm**. To offer or receive Healing Prayer is a very special experience, as Jesus touches another with healing love through you (or to you through another). Jesus' Word of Healing is an event of transformation as we pray with and care for the sick and housebound, the troubled and anguished. We become the Father's Mercy reaching into the wounds of humanity with wine of compassion & peace. Come yourself and bring others to Healing Prayer in the name of Jesus and let Him change you!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES - CALLING ALL PARENTS! First Eucharist Programme begins on Wednesday 16th January 2019; First Reconciliation

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Programme begins on Friday 18th January - both at 4.00pm and both at the Assisi Centre. There will also be a meeting for all parents in the Eucharist programme on Wednesday 16th and for parents of Reconciliation programme on Friday 18th January - both also at 4.00pm at the Assisi Centre.

SENIOR CITIZENS EPIPHANY MASS As part of our parish initiative for the Jubilee Year of Mercy we will hold a quarterly Mass and Tea for our elderly and housebound parishioners, beginning on **Sunday 6th January at 3.00pm**. We will need help with transport so volunteers please! Also with arranging tea - sandwiches and cakes etc. This is part of our desire to expand our care for and valuing of our elderly parishioners. Please support.

FROM COMMITTEE 170 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 resume on **Friday 4th January 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 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.**

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.

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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!

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**

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