



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)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



SHADOWS TEMPTING US INTO THE DARKNESS EVEN FOR JESUS!

How hard it is to believe that Jesus really is our brother - really as human as we are. If He were not, then He could not redeem us! What Jesus has not shared, Jesus has not redeemed. So He shares with us our wrestling with our inner shadows, our struggles with our inner 'demons'. Being Son of God did not exempt Him from the struggles and the pain - anymore than it exempted Him from suffering and death. For He would not be human if He was exempted: and if He is not utterly human, then we are not saved.

So His struggles with the shadows of the Ego, the self-serving self (use the power to make yourself popular, powerful, wealthy!) are real, not symbolic; the demons tempting Him to avoid suffering, take the easy route are there in him until the end! But His love and truth and integrity win the victory over them, for all of us! We are redeemed - because He is Human!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS 10.00am

Signed Mass for Catholic Deaf Association, at 3.00pm.

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

TUESDAY: *Adoration* at 5.30pm Service of Word and Communion at 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY: *Adoration* at 5.30pm MASS at 6.00pm **(NB Note change of time)**

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

FRIDAY: **CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY - in solidarity with the world's Poorest.**

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

The Word is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart! - Believe & Proclaim

TODAY [1] We have begun Lent on Ash-Wednesday and on this **First Sunday of Lent** we join Jesus in the desert of struggle and encounter. Having been baptised in the Holy Spirit, filled with divine power for His Mission, he encounters the dark shadow side of the human condition that the Eternal Word of God lovingly embraces and becomes Flesh, becomes Human! And that struggle is with the inner demons of the false self - using Divine Power for self rather than for the other, serving self rather than the Kingdom. We can see no greater example of that temptation than in the crimes and scandal of child sexual abuse by clergy and religious and the clericalism that provides fertile soil for such self serving and self gratification to take place. Tempted as we are, Jesus is like us in all things, except sin! But He brings to our lives, the victory of Love, 'being for others', serving the Kingdom of God!

[2] We celebrate the **Rite of Election** with Molly to be baptised and confirmed and Beryl to be Received into Full Communion and confirmed at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for them and all journeying to Easter Sacraments during this sacred and renewing period of Lent.

[3] **Short Meeting of 170 Committee** at 12.15pm - all welcome

[3] We pray the **Stations of the Cross** at 1.15pm - praying especially for the victims and survivors of Child Abuse.

[4] **Signed Mass for the Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all welcome

NEXT SUNDAY [1] With the **Second Sunday of Lent** we celebrate Jesus transfigured in Glory, a Glory that foreshadows Jesus' journey through the darkness of Death on the Cross, burial in the tomb transfigured into the Glory of the Resurrection: that journey is also ours, because Jesus has liberated the New Life, brought about the New Creation. Let us accompany the wounded people of our world on their journey from despair to hope, from exclusion to belonging, from the wilderness to the Garden of Resurrection New Life!

[2] **Retiring Collection for CAFOD Lenten Fast from last Friday** - why not make every Friday in Lent a CAFOD Fast Day and support the development of the poorest communities?

[3] We have our first **LGBT+ Mass, launching our diocesan and parish Ministry among this wounded and excluded community of our sisters and brothers**. Mass at 3.00pm and all are welcome. Please pray for this new ministry of our parish, supported by our bishop.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of The Immaculate Conception, Devizes, with St Joseph's, Lavington, served by Fr Paul Gonsalves MSFS, Deacon David Wakefield and Parish Administrator Debra Pritchard and and both their communities.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Sunday Deuteronomy 26:4-10 / Psalm 90 / Romans 10: 8-13 / Luke 4: 1-13

Monday Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18 / Psalm 18 / Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday Isaiah 55: 10-11 / Psalm 33 / Matthew 6: 7-15

Wednesday Jonah 3: 1-10 / Ps 50 / Luke 11: 29-32

Thursday Esther 4: 17 / Ps 137 / Matthew 7: 7-12

Friday Ezechiel 18: 21-28 / Psalm 129 / Matthew 5: 20-26

Saturday Deuteronomy 26: 16-19 / Psalm 118 / Matthew 5: 43-48

COLLECTIONS

Env £ 109.48+ Loose £180.94 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £ 380.90 - **thank you!**

Cov with Poor £13.00 - **many thanks**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

13th March Ashley Churches Together Serving meet 12.30pm (Parkway Methodist Church)

13th March Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7.00pm

14th March Parish Finance Committee at 6.30pm (Presbytery)

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15th March	CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY - solidarity with the poor of the World
17th March	Mass for the LGBT+ community at 3.00pm - all welcome.
19th March	Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary
20th March	First Eucharist Parents Meeting at 4.00pm (Assisi Centre)
20th March	Bristol East Deanery at 7.00pm (St Patrick's) NB Parish Mass at 6.00pm
21st March	Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.00pm (Presbytery)
24th March	Feast of St Oscar Romero
24th March	Appeal for LEPROA - bringing healing to leprosy sufferers
26th March	(deferred) Feast of the Annunciation
28th March	Governors Meeting at St Nick's School
30th March	Celebrations of First Reconciliation with our children 11.00am and 2.00pm
5th April	First Baptismal Parents Preparation Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
7th April	Rite of Child Catechumen at 10.00am Mass
12th April	Second Baptismal Parents Preparation Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
14th April	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS
	Mass begins at School with Procession of the Palms at 10.00am
17th April	Mass of the Chrism at 11.30am (Clifton Cathedral)
18th April	HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Last Supper at 7.00pm
19th April	GOOD FRIDAY - United Open Air Stations of the Cross at 11.00am - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm - Taizé Prayer around the Cross at 7.00pm
20th April	HOLY SATURDAY Great Easter Vigil at 9.00pm
21st April	EASTER SUNDAY Solemn Mass of Easter at 10.00am

A NEW MINISTRY - WELCOMING THE LBGT+ COMMUNITY Thank you to the 25 people who shared a very open and respectful discussion of feelings, thoughts and issues around this new ministry being entrusted to our parish. Clearly it was a 'safe place' for people to share at a deep level, and this was most inspiring. There will be further opportunities for people speak concerns and voice hopes as well as for people to understand more fully what the Bible says and does not say about these issues. *This new Ministry will be launched at the first Mass for our Catholic LGBT+ community and their families and friends (and all our community) on Sunday 17th March at 3.00pm - for more details email: inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com*

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES AND GIFTAID *We are soon to begin a new year with our Offertory Envelopes. Many of us do not use these to plan giving - to make a priority of supporting the mission of the Church in our parish. If you do not have a box please ask Debo (back of the church with Andrew always) of the Parish Admin Team for a box of envelopes. And if you pay income tax please sign a GiftAid to benefit the parish. Your signature on the form means for every £1 you give, the government give us the 25p tax you pay on that £1 - your £1 is then worth £1.25 and without costing you a penny more! If every tax payer signed a GiftAid form, the parish would benefit by about £3000 per year! We must increase and maximise our giving if we are to pay for our Redevelopment buildings - Again please see Debo about this.*

HELP NEEDED FOR MONTHLY 'DEEP CLEAN' OF THE WILD GOOSE CAFE
With [Marie Kondo](#) mania sweeping the nation, we thought now would be a good time to ask: Do you feel inspired to deep clean the Wild Goose on a Tuesday morning? We're looking for two church teams of six to eight people who'd be happy to give up their Tuesday morning once a month for a spot of deep cleaning. If you'd like to help, please contact Steve Smith at steve.smith@crisis-centre.org.uk The question Marie would ask is, of course, 'Does it spark joy?' Well, we think that helping provide a clean and welcoming place for homeless people in our community might do just that. Contact Steve.

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CALLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION We are trying to find out whether we have enough young people over the age of 13 years (*and adults who have not yet been confirmed*) to invite the Bishop to come and celebrate this important Sacrament of Empowerment in the Holy Spirit with us here at St Nicks. Any young people over 13 years and any adults not yet confirmed - please contact Richard or Mary Hopper as soon as possible so suitable arrangements can be made - thank you!

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION EASTER 2019 Parents seeking the baptism of their children this Easter are asked to inform Eustace and Shella Tameh or Christopher and Epiphania Chipato or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptism celebration:

BAPTISMS EASTER SUNDAY 21st April & LOW SUNDAY 28th April at 10am Mass
RITE OF CATECHUMEN (Welcome) on Sunday 7th April at 10am Mass

First Parents Preparation Session on Friday 5th April at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

Second Parents Preparation Session on Friday 12th April at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

(NB This years other Baptismal Sundays are: 16th June (Feast of the Holy Trinity); 25th August (August Bank Holiday); 24th November (Feast of Christ the King)

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY - Fasting in solidarity with our poorest brothers & sisters

This coming Friday is the annual CAFOD Lenten Fast Day. The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is one of the 'Jewels in the Crown' of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This organisation on our behalf works in many of the poorest countries of the world, through CAFOD 'partners' (often though not always through the local Catholic Church) to bring long term development to the poorest communities, relief in times of famine and crisis, as well as campaigning for justice in line with Catholic Social Teaching, both locally and globally. It works for development education in our school, colleges and parishes. **PLEASE SUPPORT THEIR WORK VERY GENEROUSLY, ESPECIALLY DURING LENT - THIS FRIDAY AND INDEED EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT, USING THE SPECIAL CAFOD ENVELOPES. Fast for Justice and Human solidarity!**

THE TRUE FAST - ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS

"Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen."

WHY LENT?

We enter this privileged time of personal and community renewal which we call Lent. We join with Christ Jesus' 40 Days in the desert to journey with Him through the desert of silence and prayer, of deprivation and hunger, of thirst and yearning. Why? To grow to become more like Jesus in generosity of spirit, openness of heart, deeper communion with God, a readiness to give of ourselves to the Mission of the Gospel. These 40 Days express our communion with all catechumens of the Church journeying to the great moment of Baptism (or reception into Full Communion with the Church; these 40 Days are our journey to the renewal of our Baptism at Easter when we say again our 'YES' to being plunged into the Mystery of Christ and become truly Christ People, filled with His Spirit and knowing ourselves to be 'Beloved of the Father'. Let us embrace these most precious days of renewal.

WHAT TO DO IN LENT?

Stations of the Cross at 1.00pm on Sundays; **An extra weekday Mass** each week; **Adoration of Christ in the Eucharist** before or after Mass each day; **Bible Alive** to guide your prayer and **Bible study**; **Volunteer to help others** - at the Wild Goose (deep clean?), Borderlands, Children's Liturgy, Catechesis etc; **Special effort for CAFOD ... but above all, Prayer, Love, Bring another to Christ and His Church, Give to the Poor, work for Justice, Care for the Planet!**

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