



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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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A Readings)



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

What on earth is He doing? No self-respecting Jewish 'holy man' or rabbi would venture into Samaritan country: they are the hated enemy and for sure God had no time for them. They had destroyed the unity of the nation, of the People of God some 600 years earlier - and we and God have long memories! They are outside the concern of God!

And it gets worse: he is speaking to a woman - in public! A Samaritan woman! Even drinking from her cup! And what a reputation she has! Just goes to show this young rabbi knows nothing and is 'beyond the pale'. Like her, he is a disgrace!

To go the excluded of the excluded - to descend into the pit of condemnation: this is Divine Love, this reveals the true nature of God. Not possessive or precious about 'ritual purity', seeming holiness, but passionate to bring love to the loveless, to gather in the most excluded and reveal them to the world as 'closest to the Father's heart'!

'To the lost Christ shows His face; to the unloved He gives His embrace; to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place!'

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS 10.00am

Stations of Creation at 1.00pm - prayer for all suffering the Cyclone in SE Africa

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

TUESDAY: *Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (deferred)*

Adoration at 5.30pm Mass at 6.00pm,

WEDNESDAY: Requiem Mass for Kenneth Gibbs RIP at 10.00am

Adoration at 6.30pm Mass at 7.00pm

THURSDAY: Mass at 12.30pm, followed by *Adoration* until 12.00pm **(NB Change of time)**

'As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World' says Jesus - so walk in the Light!

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 8.15am *Morning Prayer* at 8.45am **Mass** at 9.00am
Taizé Prayer around the Cross at 7.30pm

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 8.30am *Morning Prayer* at 9.15am **Mass** at 9.30am
Services of Reconciliation at 11.00am and 2.00pm,
including First Reconciliation of our children - all are welcome

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after 10am Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] On the **Third Sunday of Lent** we turn (for three Sundays) to Cycle A readings - the great Lenten Gospels. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well in Samaria. As a holy rabbi he should not be in such territory, he should not be talking to her, he should not be asking her for water ... etc etc! He breaks all the 'rules' and conventions, the taboos - such is His yearning to bring God's love to this most excluded and marginalised woman. Are our hearts filled with the same yearning as Jesus for the excluded of our time?

[2] During the 10am Mass we 'hand on' **the Creed, our faith**, to our elected catechumens, the faith they are coming to believe and live as part of our faith community, the global Catholic Church. Please remember them and all the Catechumens of the whole Church in your prayer as we all prepare to touch again the waters and call of our baptism at Easter.

[3] **Stations of Creation** are prayed at 1.00pm for an increased urgency in seeking life-style changes that will serve to heal our planet and arrest Global Warming, so that we can pass on to future generations a beautiful planet where humanity and all species can flourish.

[4] We welcome a speaker from **LEPRA**, inviting us to support by prayer and giving the work of this Catholic organisation that serves victims of leprosy among many parts of the developing world.

[5] Although we celebrated yesterday the life, witness and martyrdom of **St Oscar Romero**, the first Feast of this great contemporary saint an martyr for Justice is today and we will mark this during our 10.00am Mass

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** (also called 'Laetare' or 'Rejoicing' Sunday) celebrates Jesus the Light of World - He who 'comes to enlighten all who come into this world'. Healing the man born blind at the Pool of Siloam so clearly prepares us to celebrate Baptism this Easter and to confess our blindness to the love and wisdom of God and the ways we do not walk the Way of Christ's Love. Let us return this Easter to waters of Baptism, renewing our Baptismal commitment to living in Christ. Let us prepare by seeking healing of our blindness to love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent.

[2] **Special Appeal for the Disaster Fund for Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique** devastated by the Cyclone. I know you will be as generous as possible for our beleaguered sisters and brothers.

[3] **Stations of the Cross** are prayed at 1.00pm for the victims of and communities devastated by the Cyclone that hit **Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique**.

[4] This is also '**Mothering Sunday**' when we remember with gratitude all that our mothers have done for us in carrying us, giving us life, loving and nurturing us.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Stanislaus, Dulverton and Sacred Heart, Minehead, with Watchet, served by Fr Michael Thomas and Deacons Vincent Woods and David Croucher and all their communities

WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Sunday Exodus 17: 3-7 / Psalm 94 / Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 / John 4: 5-42
Monday 2 Kings 5: 1-15 / Psalm 41 / Luke 4: 24-30
Tuesday Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8: 10 / Psalm 38 / Hebrews 10: 4-10 / Luke 1: 26-39

'As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World' says Jesus - so walk in the Light!

Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9 / Ps 147 / Matthew 5: 17-19
Thursday	Jeremiah 7: 23-28 / Ps 94 / Luke 11: 14-23
Friday	Hosea 14: 2-10 / Psalm 80 / Mark 12: 29-34
Saturday	Hosea 5: 15-6: 6 / Psalm 50 / Luke 18:9-14

COLLECTIONS

Env £ 150.28+ Loose £475.25 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £ 716.11 - **thank you!**
CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY £199.82 **Zimbabwean Project 170** £42.17
Pax Christi £5.00 - many thanks

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

24th March	Feast of St Oscar Romero
24th March	Appeal for LEPROSA - 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 11.00am (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
24th April	Parish Pastoral Council at 7.00pm (Assisi Centre)
28th April	Senior Citizens Mass with Sacrament of Anointing at 3.00pm
11th May	A Day of Prayer with Mary, Mother of the Poor 10am to 4pm St Nicks
25th May	A Retreat Day led by Little Sisters of Jesus on charism of Bl. Charles de Foucauld

A NEW MINISTRY - WELCOMING THE LBGT+ COMMUNITY

Thank you to all who came and shared Mass with our sisters and brother of the LGBT+ community. It was a very healing Mass and brought one or two who had experienced such rejection from the Church that this was the first time for many years they had come to Mass. There was such love and acceptance flowing through this Mass: for me, it was a joy and privilege to preside. May I remind all of us, especially those of us who have difficulties that such a Mass be celebrated, that we are carrying out the wishes of our Bishop Declan in accord with the priorities of Pope Francis - who famously said when asked about the LGBT+ community 'who am I to judge?'. Please come and talk with me about difficulties and reservations you may have about this ministry.

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.

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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)

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!**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH SVP Within the Society of St Vincent de Paul we urgently need a Central Council Secretary and Treasurer. The vacancies require someone to attend 3 Central Council meetings a year. For further information, anyone interested in the secretary position can contact me on this email: SVP@Cliftondiocese.com For the treasurer position would they contact John Kittow at johnkittow@hotmail.com Thank you for your help with this. Julie Godwin (CC President Clifton Diocese)

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2019 Mary, Mother of God, invites you to come on pilgrimage to the shrine of Lourdes in France for a week of prayer, friendship, fun and community. **August 23rd to 30th. For further information, tel: 01179025590 or email: lourdes@cliftondiocese.com** Pilgrimage Director Deacon Paul Thompson, led by Bp Declan

SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP I would like to encourage regular participation in this group so that we can deepen our love for and understanding of the Sacred Scriptures. It would be ideal for all Lay Readers and Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, as well as Children's Liturgy leaders. In this Year 170 this would be an excellent way of sharing together and deepening our faith, rooted in the Bible. In the Diocesan Year of Prayer - come and discover the Bible as our first and greatest 'prayer book'! Every Tuesday after 6.00pm Mass.

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