



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

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

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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) Caretaking of our buildings: Volunteers needed

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

Parish Administration: Robert von Hawrylak and Team (0117-909-0419)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A / Year of Communion



SECOND COMING - IMPOSSIBLE!?

We cry out with the earliest Christians: 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus Come!' But does it make sense in our modern scientific world to think that one day Jesus will come 'on the clouds of Heaven' and transform all creation into His Glory?

Our world, our Universe has been evolving for billions of years. From this gradual evolution the amazing creation we call man and woman has emerged. Now we too shape the course of evolution, by our science and engineering, but our research and exploration. And that is what God always intended - He invites us to be 'co-creators' with Him of this evolving Universe, caring for His creation.

And what is the goal of this Evolution? Annihilation in another 'Big Bang' (or 'Cosmic Crunch?') Emphatically NO! We are to fill the world with the Spirit of Christ, so that evolution takes a new direction towards its truest destiny - utter integration into the reality of the Cosmic Christ! Jesus will come again - not on the clouds of heaven like some astronaut, but emerging in all creation clothed in the Glory of God's Love! We do not wait - we work for the Coming of the Kingdom by building a world of Justice, a world of compassion, an era of Peace!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am

Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - *all welcome!*

MONDAY: Service of Word & Communion at 9.00am, *followed by Day of Adoration*, until 4pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Francis Xavier, Missionary Jesuit priest (1506-1551)*
Adoration (intention - our school) at 5.30pm Evening Mass at 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Osmund, Bishop of Sarum (now Salisbury) (died 1099)*
Adoration, at 5.30pm Evening Mass at 6.00pm

THURSDAY: Service of Word and Communion at 12 noon, *followed by Adoration*, until 1.30pm

'Stay awake and stand ready for the Son of Man is coming!' - so 'walk in the Light!'

FRIDAY: ***Feast of St Nicholas of Myra (or Bari), Bishop and Martyr (4th Cent Turkey)***
Adoration at 8.15am *Morning Prayer* at 8.45am *Mass* at 9.00am
CONCERT - MANY VOICES FOR MORE JUSTICE, MORE LOVE at 6.30pm

SATURDAY: ***Feast of St Ambrose, Bishop and Theologian (339-397)***
Adoration at 11.30am *Mass* at 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] We begin the new Liturgical Year (Year A), with the **First Sunday of Advent**. Advent is a season when we 'wake up!' to the world around us and our responsibility, our mission in that world. We wake up to God's presence and activity in the events, joys and sorrows of our global community. We seek to be alert to the 'Coming of our God' every day and in every person and event that comes into our lives. We commit ourselves to 'beating every spear into a sickly' transforming destruction into creativity, building a new future!

[2] We begin **Gospel readings from St Matthew**, the most Jewish of all the Gospels. Emanating from a Christian made up Jews who embraced Christ as their Messiah without ceasing to be Jews, Matthew is helping them to discover a Christ (who appears to abolish so many of their traditions) who in reality fulfils their faith history, liberating them to be the foundation of global community embracing all peoples. This had always been God's intention and the purpose of their Covenant with the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob.

[3] In our diocese we begin this **Year of Communion** reflecting together on God's purpose for the Church as community, as the Sacrament of Divine Communion, Divine Love transforming our world into freedom, humanity and equality - true 'Communion'.

[2] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship** at 3.00pm

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Second Sunday of Advent** we celebrate God's Vision of Peace for our world, a peace that involves all creation in a new era of harmony and 'communion'. Soon we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, He who has sent us as Prophets of this Peace, builders of a new world of Communion where we live as sisters and brothers of all peoples, races, tribes and nations, sisters and brothers to every creature upon the face of the earth and in the depths of the seas. Constructing this world of Communion is the mission Christ has entrusted to His Church - US! That is why we are challenged to live that profound and loving Communion as the Body of Christ - a sign and sacrament of that new world!

[2] This is also **Bible Sunday** giving thanks for the Living Word of God we find in our Sacred Scriptures. Is the Bible our first and greatest prayer book? Is it our 'Daily Bread of Life' and the source of our Wisdom? What do we do to listen, to understand and to live the Word? The Catholic Church in England and Wales is observing a '**Year of the Word**' - let us grow in love for God's Word, like Mary, pondering It so that the Word be made Flesh in us!

[3] **Signed Mass for Clifton Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm

[4] **Retiring Collection for the Poor Missions of Clifton Diocese:** supporting those parishes that cannot support themselves in our own diocesan family - please be generous.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Joseph's, Bridgwater and Our Lady and English Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea served by Fr Frank Wainwright and both their communities.

PRAY EACH WEEK FOR A DIFFERENT MINISTRY OR MISSION OF THE PARISH

This week, pray God's Blessing and guidance for our **Children's Liturgy of the Word Team** who enable our 4-8 year old children to share meaningfully the Word of God we celebrate Sunday by Sunday. They enable our children to grow as in faith and experience the 'little Church' community together. **We always need to more volunteers**, so please speak to Mary Hopper. Could more parents get involved in this satisfying Ministry?

'Stay awake and stand ready for the Son of Man is coming!' - so 'walk in the Light!'

WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - YEAR OF COMMUNION

Sunday	Isaiah 2: 1-5 / Psalm 121 / Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24: 37-44
Monday	Isaiah 4: 2-6 / 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	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26 / Psalm 146 / Matthew 9: 35-10: 1, 6-8

COLLECTIONS

Env £306.26 + Loose £320.45 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £717.29 - **thanks!**

Cov with the Poor £30.00 **Youth Sunday** £50.49 **CAFOD** £10.00 thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

1st Dec	First Sunday of Advent - a new Liturgical Year.
1st Dec	Mass for Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome
6th Dec	Parish Concert - 'The Many Voices of Justice and Love' 6.00pm
8 Dec	Signed Mass with Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm
10th Dec	Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 6.00pm
12th Dec	GENERAL ELECTION - A DAY TO VOTE AND BE HEARD!
12th Dec	Aquinas Lecture by Prof Denys Turner at Bristol University - 6pm all welcome
13th Dec	Mass with LBGT+ community and family & friends at 3.00pm
17th Dec	Days of the 'Great O Antiphons' begin - preparing for Christmas Feast
19th Dec	Parish Service of Reconciliation at 7.00pm
21st Dec	Altar Servers Practice for Christmas at 10.30am
24th Dec	Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass & Blessing of Crib at 10.30pm
25th Dec	Feast of Christmas - Birth of our Saviour - Mass at 10.00am
27th Dec	First Pre-Baptism Parents Session at 6.30pm (the Assisi Centre)
29th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family and Rite of Child Catechumen at 10am
31st Dec	Watchnight Mass for the New Year at 10.30pm

NEW YEAR 2020

1st Jan	New Year's Day - Feast of Mary the Mother of God - Mass at 10.00am
3rd Jan	Second Pre-Baptism Parents Session at 6.30pm (the Assisi Centre)
5th Jan	Feast of the Epiphany - Senior Citizens Mass at 3.00pm
8th Jan	Borderlands Trustees meet at 10.00am
8th Jan	Parish Pastoral Council at 7.00pm
11th Jan	Combatting Human Trafficking Clewer Training Day - St Nicks 10am-12.30pm
12th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday
22nd Jan	First Eucharist Programme begins at 4.00pm (Assisi Centre)
23rd Jan	Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.00pm (presbytery)
24th Jan	First Reconciliation Programme begins at 4.00pm (Assisi Centre)
26th Jan	Ashley Churches United Service for Christian Unity Week 4pm (Ivy Church)
27th Jan	Holocaust memorial Day - 75th Anniversary of Liberation of Auswicz - Bristol Civic Event in City Hall 1.15pm to 4.30pm
1st Feb	Exploring what the Bible really says about LBGT+ issues.
9th Feb	Parish Forum - all invited to speak their voice and shape our mission 12.45pm
15th Feb	Parish Pastoral Council Vision Day
20th Feb	Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (presbytery)
23rd Feb	Bishop Declan celebrates Confirmation of our Young People 10am Mass
26th Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS
4th March	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.00pm

JOURNEY OF FAITH There is Journey of Faith this coming **Friday at 6.30pm in the Assisi Centre**. Who will you encourage to come and discover more about Christ Jesus?

'Stay awake and stand ready for the Son of Man is coming!' - so 'walk in the Light!'

FUND RAISING CONCERT FOR PROJECT 170 All are invited to take part in 'The Many Voices of Justice and Love'- cultural concert, Friday 6th December at 6.30pm for 7.30pm. Please put this date in your diary, and invite as many friends as possible. Let us repeat the success of last year's entertainment, food and conviviality to raise much needed funds for our building. If you would like to contribute with a performance, talk with Sherrie or Caroline; if you would like to contribute with food, talk with Ashley; if you would like to contribute in any other way, talk with Marta or Patience. There will be food available from 6.30pm and concert proper will start 7.30pm. **THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL THE PARISH FAMILY AND OUR MANY FRIENDS** *Servite domino in laetitia [serve God in joy]*

BAPTISMAL COURSE FOR PARENTS NEXT BAPTISMAL SUNDAY WILL BE JANUARY 12th - the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The First Parents Session will be on Friday 27th Dec at 6.30pm, with the Rite of Child Catechumen on Sunday 29th Dec (Feast of the Holy Family). The Second Parents Session will be on Friday 3rd January at 6.30pm (both sessions in the Assisi Centre). The Baptisms will be celebrated on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - 12th January at 10am. Mass Please register your child for Baptism with Eustace Tameh or Christopher Chipato - thank you

YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE 'Called to a Noble Adventure' Would you consider committing yourself to serving our young people in Youth Ministry? We have long wanted to expand our provision for the young people of our parish community (and perhaps beyond to young people in the area). **Is God calling you to this much-needed ministry in our parish? Then talk to Richard** and register for our Diocesan Youth Ministry Training Course for 10 Thursdays evenings in 2020 from January 13th to July 23rd 7.00-9.00pm at Alexander House, Pennywell Road. More info from Richard.

ADVENT AND CAFOD WORLD GIFTS The CAFOD World Gifts catalogue has arrived and our children in the Children Liturgy group will be collecting money to buy gifts for the poor of the world. **Please support them - and please incorporate CAFOD World Gifts among the gifts you give to family and friends this Christmas.**

PRE-CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Advent is a time when the Church strongly encourages us to prepare to make room of Jesus in our hearts and lives by 'clearing out the junk' 'de-cluttering our lives' so that there is plenty of 'Room in the Inn' of our hearts. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an encounter with the God of Love, the God of Mercy. He yearns that we grow in awareness of His Infinite love and that we grow in the freedom of love. Reconciliation is about growing in Christ by the Holy Spirit. So we are holding a **Parish Service of Reconciliation on Thursday 19th December at 7.00pm. I hope we will all make it a priority in our Christmas Preparation to make space and time to meet our Saviour, the Mercy of God made Flesh among us in this beautiful Sacrament of Peace.**

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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