



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: 0117-904-0479

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) 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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A - 'Gaudete' Sunday



JOY, THE ECHO OF GOD'S LIFE IN US

Is there a reason to be joyful when we look around our world - rich nations refusing to tackle climate change and global warming, refusing to end of poverty, refusing to welcome those fleeing terror and poverty; preferring to spend our wealth on weapons of destruction instead? So why rejoice??

Because God does not protect Himself from this alienated and destructive world, but seeks to find a home among us - in the poor places, conflict-ridden places - and in your heart and mine! Will there be room for Him in the inn of our hearts?

Let us indeed 'Gaudete' - Rejoice! Because God knocks upon the door of our lives and asks to be let in and change everything within us so that we can change everything around us! Indeed our joy is founded upon the God within us, the Immanuel God-with-us; and our joy will echo God's Life and Love within us to a world needing the joy of liberation! Let us light up the world with God's Joy!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am

Mass with the LBGT+ community, their family & friends at 3.00pm - all welcome

MONDAY: *Adoration* at 8.15am Service of Word & Communion at 9.00am

DAYS OF THE 'GREAT 'O' ANTIPHONS - Preparing for the Feast of Christmas

TUESDAY: *Adoration (intention - school)* at 5.30pm Evening Mass at 6.00pm ['O Wisdom']

WEDNESDAY: School Advent Mass at 9.30am (Church) ['O Lord God']
Adoration at 5.30pm Evening Service of Word & Communion at 6.00pm

THURSDAY: Service of Word & Communion at 12 noon, followed by *Adoration* until 1.30pm.
['O Root of Jesse']

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 6.30am Evening Mass at 7.00pm ['O Key of David']
Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.45-8.30pm

'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice! [x2]
Rejoice! Rejoice and again I say Rejoice! [x2]'

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass** at 12noon [*'O Morning Star'*]
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] The **Third Sunday of Advent** focusses on the witness of the last and greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist. He came to 'prepare the Way of the Lord', the friend of the Bridegroom, Jesus, who makes all things ready for Jesus to enter every human heart and give New Life. We are called to make our world ready for Jesus to enter afresh and transform all creation - let us make 'his paths straight'. It is also known by its old Latin name 'Gaudete' Sunday, which means 'Rejoicing' Sunday - we rejoice that the Lord is coming, are joyful that [2] All are welcome to come and share in the **Mass with our LBG+ Catholic community and their friends and families** at 3.00pm - why not come and pray with us.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** prepares us more immediately for the Christmas Feast by reflecting on the call of St Joseph to share the dream of God for our world by accepting the child of Mary as his own son - thus Jesus becomes through Joseph's adoption of Him, truly a Son of David and therefore fulfilling the prophecies that foretold that the Messiah would be a descendent of the great King David. Joseph plays his part in the unfolding story of Salvation. We too are called to share the Dream of God - the Kingdom.

[2] **Special Advent 'O Come Emmanuel' Prayer with Light** at 1.00pm, followed by **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** at 2.00-2.30pm

[3] **Parish Retiring Collection for our SVP** and the Christmas Gifts they give to so many people on our behalf. I want to encourage younger adults to join our Parish Society of St Vincent de Paul and so extend its invaluable cafe for the poor and vulnerable in our area.. Please consider giving a couple of hours a week to the mission of the Church at St Nicks.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Holy Family, Patchway, Bristol served by Fr Eugene Campbell, Deacon Donald Cramer-Barnicoat and all their community.

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

This week, pray God's Blessing and guidance for our **Pastor, Richard and retired Deacon, Jack (and Joan his wife)**. All ordained ministry is to serve the growth of the Body of Christ, to enable the many ministries and charisms the Spirit distributes freely among the People of God - to encourage their growth and gather them all in unity. Ordained ministry must never replace or prohibit lay ministry and initiative. Challenge me if and when I do! (Richard). Please see reflection on Priesthood elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

Sunday	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 / Psalm 145 / James 5: 7-10 / Matthew 11: 2-11
Monday	Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17 / Psalm 24 / Matthew 21: 23-27
Tuesday	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 / Psalm 71 / Matthew 1: 1-17
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23: 5-8 / Psalm 71 / Matthew 1: 18-24
Thursday	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25 / Psalm 70 / Luke 1: 5-25
Friday	Isaiah 7: 10-15 / Psalm 23 / Luke 1: 26-38
Saturday	Song of Songs 2: 8-14 / Psalm 32 / Luke 1: 39-45

COLLECTIONS

Env £128.20 + Loose £144.42 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £363.20 - **thanks!**
Cov with the Poor £12.50 **Poor Mission of Diocese** £73.70 - **thanks!**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

13th Dec	Mass with LBG+ community and family & friends at 3.00pm
17th Dec	Days of the 'Great O Antiphons' begin - preparing for Christmas Feast
17th Dec	Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (Presbytery)

'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice! [x2]
Rejoice! Rejoice and again I say Rejoice! [x2]'

19th Dec	Parish Service of Reconciliation at 7.00pm
20th Dec	BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN OF THE CHURCH from 10am
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
<u>NEW YEAR 2020</u>	
1st Jan	New Year's Day - Feast of Mary the Mother of God - Mass at 10.00am
3rd Jan	Confirmation Candidates Retreat 9.30am to 4.00pm at Emmaus, Whitchurch
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 LGBT+ 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

ALL ALTAR SERVERS TO ATTEND PRE-CHRISTMAS PRACTICE Could parents of our Altar Servers please make sure all servers attend the Practice on Saturday 20th Dec at 10.30am **PROMPT**. Thank you.

JOURNEY OF FAITH Friday at 6.00 pm in the Assisi Centre [*Please note slightly earlier time*]. Who will you encourage to come and discover more about Christ Jesus?

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.

RICHARD AT FUNERAL IN GERMANY My German Aunt, Helga McKay, died this week (may she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord). The last of the generation preceding us. I am travelling Wednesday pm to Germany for her funeral on Thursday and return Friday pm. Unfortunately that means cancelling the Parish Service of Reconciliation on Thursday.

COMBATTING HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH I recently attend the meeting of Diocesan Migrant Officers and other Catholic organisations serving migrant communities which addressed issues of Hate Crime and Hate Speech. It is so easy to use abusive and den-

***'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice! [x2]
Rejoice! Rejoice and again I say Rejoice! [x2]'***

igrating language to individuals or about groups of people, but as Christians we are to treat every human person as our sister or brother, with dignity and respect. Holocaust and Genocide begin with hate speech, dehumanising language that then escalates into physical violence and ultimately genocide. Whether it is about race, religion, tribe, sexuality, mental illness, disability etc it must be challenged everywhere especially in our Catholic communities.

GREETING FROM SR LIZ FERRIE DC At last week's meeting of the Migrant Officers Meeting in London, I met up (unexpectedly) Sr Liz who used to be here in our parish. Many remember her very fondly and he remembers us all also. She sends her love and prayer and hopes to visit St Nicks early in 2020.

MANY THANKS FOR OUR WONDERFUL CONCERT- many voices for Justice & Love
A very sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make this concert such a success - a wonderful evening of celebration of who we are as a community, our Gospel based values, the gifts and talents to be found among us, especially our children and young people. Thank you to all who organised, performed attended and otherwise supported. **We raised £600!**

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.**

NEW CHURCH BOILER WORKING - ALLELUIA! The new boiler and radiators have been installed and I hope we all notice the difference, especially in the Parish Hall! The total cost (for which we had not budgeted!) is £7000 + VAT (ie £8750). **So we are launching an urgent BOILER APPEAL FUND ... Thank you to those who have already donated! Please be as generous as you can and gift-aid any donations if you are a tax payer.**

BIG CLEAN UP OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS - volunteers please! Brothers and sisters, please come and give a couple of hours to clean our church - Fri 20th Dec 10am

PRE-CHRISTMAS SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION In Advent the Church strongly encourages us to make room for 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, so that we grow in awareness of His Infinite love and in the freedom of love. Reconciliation is about growing in Christ by the Holy Spirit. **Unfortunately, because I now must be in Germany at my Aunt's funeral, the Service of Reconciliation has to be cancelled. However 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.**

PRIEST - Prophet and Shepherd The priest is the servant of the Eucharist, who gathers the People of God that the Spirit might form us as the Missionary Body of Christ, and then sends us out into the world to work with God - co-creators with the Father, bearers of healing Salvation with Jesus and renews of the face of the Earth with the Spirit. The priest is our brother who walks with us and helps us listen together to the Voice of the Spirit in our times - to see 'the Sign of the Times' that we the Church might be God's radical love poured out with abundant generosity into the hurting heart of the world. As a brother he is our shepherd who needs us all to be shepherds; he is a prophet who challenges us - and wants to be challenged by us! He is a leader who knows how to serve, a preacher who knows how to listen, a prophet who has the courage both to challenge and be challenged. The ordained priest and the Priestly People - journeying with one another in faith and love, forming each other as a People of Hope, a People of Love, a People of Mission - God's People!

***'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice! [x2]
Rejoice! Rejoice and again I say Rejoice! [x2]'***