



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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A



THE WORLD NEEDS DREAMERS!

'You're a bit of a dreamer' is usually a put down - but not with God. God is the great dreamer: he dreamed of a Universe vast and beautiful beyond imagination - and the dream came true! God dreamed of creatures made in the divine image and likeness - and the dream came true! God still dreams of a world where men and women love, respect and nurture each other, a world where 'there will be no more war or training for war', where the poor have good news every day and whose voices are heard and heeded!

And His dream one day will come true. But for this He needs other dreamers - other Joseph's who will share His dream and be obedient - which means to listen together with Him and together forge the dream of a New World (Jesus called it the Kingdom!).

Will you be a Joseph? Will we be a community of dreamers, daring the risks involved in making the dream come true? `Yes, the world needs dreamers - with enough imagination to build a New World!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am [*O Desire of Nations*]

Special Advent 'O Come Emmanuel' Prayer with Light at 1.00pm - all welcome

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2.00-3.00pm

MONDAY: Adoration at 8.15am *Morning Prayer* at 8.45am **Mass** at 9.00am [*O Emmanuel*]

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 9.45-10.15am

TUESDAY: *Christmas Eve*

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 9.45-10.15am and 4.30-5.00pm

*Joseph, fear not to take Mary as your wife, her child as your own -
He is the Emmanuel - 'God-with-us!'*

CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGINS

TUESDAY: MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 10.00pm

WEDNESDAY: SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 10.00am

**THURSDAY: *Feast of St Stephen, first Martyr and Deacon.*
Adoration at 9.15am *Morning Prayer* at 9.45am **Mass** at 10.00am**

**FRIDAY: *Feast of St John the Apostle*
Adoration at 9.15am *Morning Prayer* at 9.45am **Mass** at 10.00am**

**SATURDAY: *Feast of the Holy Innocents (Day of Prayer for all who have died in the womb)*
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass** at 12noon [*O Morning Star*]
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm**

TODAY [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.

[4] Minette and the Flower Arranging Team would welcome contributions to the cost of flowers not only for Christmas but throughout the year - please see her after Mass today.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**, God's great trust in our humanity, our relationships, our families in giving to Mary and Joseph His Eternal Son in which to grow in love, transforming all humanity into the Divine Life and Love. Our families today are far more diverse than in the past - and in all their diversity each are called to be 'the school of love' for a new generation, called to be the 'ecclesiola' of 'church in miniature. Let us pray for all families.

[2] We also welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought by our East Timorese friends.

[2] Fittingly, we celebrate during 10am Mass the **Rite of Child Catechumen**, welcoming babies and children into the family of the Church, rejoicing that their names are written in the heart of God - and in the heart of our family community at St Nicks. Pray for their families!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Bonaventure, Bishopston, Bristol served by Fr Tom Smith, Parish Administrator Mrs Joan D'Souza Apperley 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 **Zimbabwean Community, their societies and choir**. We seek in our parish to value and support the various cultural and ethnic communities among us - their uniqueness is a gift to us all. We seek also to help each such community to integrate into our society and especially to enrich the witness of the Church as a global family where none are strangers and all are sisters and brothers.

**Joseph, fear not to take Mary as your wife, her child as your own -
He is the Emmanuel - 'God-with-us!'**

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

Sunday	Isaiah 7: 10-14 / Psalm 23 / Romans 1: 1-7 / Matthew 1: 18-24
Monday	Malachy 3: 1-4, 23-24 / Psalm 24 / Luke 1: 57-66
Tuesday	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 / Psalm 88 / Luke 1: 67-79
MIDNIGHT MASS	Isaiah 9: 1-7 / Psalm 95 / Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2: 1-14
DAY MASS	Isaiah 52: 7-10 / Psalm 97 / Hebrews 1: 1-6 / John 1: 1-18
Thursday	Acts of the Apostles 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59 / Psalm 30 / Matthew 10: 17-22
Friday	1 John 1: 1-4 / Psalm 96 / John 20: 2-8
Saturday	1 John 1: 5-2: 2 / Psalm 123 / Matthew 2: 13-18

COLLECTIONS

Env £249.23 + Loose £201.72 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £541.81 - **thanks!**

Cov with the Poor £9.00 Project 170 (LGBT+ Mass) £27.56 Terry's stall £421.25 TA!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

24th Dec	Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass & Blessing of Crib at 10.00pm
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 10.00pm

NEW YEAR 2020

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 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 Friday 3rd January 2020 at 6.30 pm in the Assisi Centre. 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.

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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 denigrating 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

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 have launched 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.**

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. ***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.***

HIDDEN VOICES BRISTOL – Tackling Modern Slavery Together

How can our community work together to ensure that slavery practices don't take root in our area? "Hidden Voices" is an exciting ecumenical and community process which aims to inform and support local communities in taking action on the challenging issue of Modern Slavery within their own communities. "Hidden Voices" will help inform us about how to spot and challenge modern slavery and then join with others in Bristol in tackling the issue.

Our aim is that our communities should be equipped in understanding, detecting, and preventing slavery and trafficking, whilst also enabling those affected. The process takes place over three sessions. Please come even if you cannot manage all three sessions.

Time: 10.00-12.30 **Dates:** 11th January 2020 & then 25th January & 8th February.

Where: St Nicholas of Tolentino Church, Lawfords Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE Parking is available in Church Car Park on Pennywell Road.

To book or for more information and please email: hybristol@gmail.com

"Hidden Voices Bristol" is part of the growing <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/> Hidden Voices Network

ANNUNCIATION - THE GOD WHO ALWAYS SPEAKS, ALWAYS CALLS God never tires of bringing Good News, and whenever he does - something new is born! He announces first to Zechariah the priest and despite the priest's lack of faith (!), John the Baptist is born as the Voice for the Word. He announces to Joseph in a dream, and a new and more challenging dream is born from the shattered pieces of Joseph's simpler dream of Mary. He announces to Mary and the Divine Son is born, the Word is made Flesh and our Universal Brother comes among us! Later, through Simeon and Anna He announces salvation and Light not just for the Jewish world but for all peoples. And always the Word and the Spirit work together to bring the New-Born into the world - the Word thrills the imagination and the Spirit overshadows and fills the waiting heart. The God who speaks is the God who takes our flesh, our humanity to Himself and becomes the Emmanuel - God-with-us!

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