



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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A / Bible Sunday



WILD ABOUT THE WORD!

Not a very respectable preacher, this John the Baptizer - all that desert stuff, dressed in smelly camel skin and what a diet! Locusts and wild honey!! Certainly would not be admitted to a seminary or to the priesthood!

Why did God shape and choose this wild man to be the prophet of the Word? Maybe we need to be a bit more wild about God and His Word? Because God does not want a respectable people - he wants a people of fire with the Word, on fire with a passionate love that will cry JUSTICE, will cry FREEDOM, will cry CHANGE!

God will not be contained in our tidy, circumscribed churches, rules and creeds. God is a wild and uncontainable Love who turns the tables, upsets the ordered, in order to make dramatic space for the New Order that raises up the poor. You have to be a bit wild to love this God! And to proclaim this Word!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am

Signed Mass with the Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm - *all welcome!*

MONDAY: **FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY**

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

TUESDAY: *Adoration (intention - our school)* at 5.30pm *Evening Mass* at 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY: *Requiem Mass for Diane White RIP* at 12noon (Camerton Parish Church)

Adoration at 5.30pm *Evening Mass* at 6.00pm

THURSDAY: **Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe (apparition as Aztec princess 1531)**

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

**'Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prepare the Way of the Lord,
And all people shall see the salvation of our God!'**

FRIDAY: ***Feast of St Lucy, Martyr (Sicily in 304) - 'Bearer of Light'***
Adoration at 8.15am *Morning Prayer* at 8.45am *Mass* at 9.00am

SATURDAY: ***Feast of St John of the Cross, Carmelite priest, Reformer & mystic (1542-1591)***
Adoration at 11.30am *Mass* at 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [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.

NEXT SUNDAY [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'.

[2] The Christian Churches in UK celebrate this **Bible Sunday** giving thanks to God for the great gift the Living Word expressed in our written Scriptures. The Scriptures, both Hebrew and Christian, are the books of the Faith community of the People of God, tracing humanity's evolving understanding and experience of God and tracing also God's gradual disclosure, revealing the Divine Reality - which is always unconditional love.

[3] There is a **Retiring Collection for the upkeep of our Cathedral Church** - as we also support this community by our prayer today.

[4] All are welcome to come and share in the **Mass with our LBGT+ Catholic community and their friends and families** at 3.00pm - why not come and pray with us.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Peter & St Paul Cathedral Church, Clifton, Bristol served by Canon Bosco MacDonald, Fr Cavan McElligott, Deacons Kevin Moloney, Paul Brandon, James Patrick, Parish Administrator Mary Manners and all their community. Pray for the Diocesan Ministry of our Mother Church, the Cathedral, which holds the Chair of Teaching ('Cathedra') of our Bishop.

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?

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

Sunday	Isaiah 11: 1-10 / Psalm 71 / Romans 15: 4-9 / Matthew 3: 1-12
Monday	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 / Psalm 97 / Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/ Luke 1: 26-28
Tuesday	Isaiah 40: 1-11 / Psalm 95 / Matthew 18: 12-144
Wednesday	Isaiah 40: 25-31 / Psalm 102 / Matthew 11: 28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41: 13-20 / Psalm 144 / Matthew 11: 11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48: 17-19/ Psalm 1 / Matthew 11: 16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-4, 9-11 / Psalm 79 / Matthew 17: 10-13

COLLECTIONS

Env £173.50 + Loose £103.34 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £367.42 - **thanks!**
Cov with the Poor £5.00

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2019

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
17th Dec	Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (Presbytery)
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

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?

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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.

COMBATTING HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH Twice yearly I attend the meeting of Diocesan Migrant Officers and other Catholic organisations serving migrant communities. On Thursday I was in London for this meeting, 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. We know that Holocaust and Genocide begin with hate speech, disparaging and dehumanising language that then escalates into physical violence and ultimately genocide. Whether it is about race, religion, tribe, sexuality, mental illness, disability etc etc - it must not be found in our Catholic communities and everyone of us has the duty to challenge it when we hear it.

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.**

NEW CHURCH BOILER TO BE FITTED I am sure you have all noticed how cold the church and especially the parish hall has been over the past two or three weeks. Unexpectedly, we are having to install a new boiler, which will be installed on Monday 9th December. In January two extra radiators will be installed in the parish hall (all agree that the two existing radiators are inadequate to the task of heating such a large space). The total cost (for which we had not budgeted!) will be £7000 + VAT (ie £8750). **So we are launching an urgent BOILER APPEAL FUND ... please be as generous as you can and make sure any donations are gift-aided 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 SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) In Advent 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 our **Parish Service of Reconciliation is 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.**

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