



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 & Hall/Room Bookings: Robert von Hawrylak and Team (0117-909-0419)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



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 at 10am

Stations of the Cross at 1.00pm (*prayed for Refugees and asylum-seekers*) - **all invited!**

Mass with LGBT+ community & friends at 3.00pm (**all welcome**)

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

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Patrick, Bishop & Patron of Ireland (390-461?)*

Scripture Group at 4.30-5.30pm *Adoration* at 5.30pm Mass at 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary (transferred because of Requiem Mass)*

Adoration at 5.30pm Mass at 6.00pm

If only you knew what God is offering - the water I give becomes the Spring of Life

THURSDAY: **Requiem Mass for Peter John-Philip** at 12.30pm (*Note change of Mass time*)

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

SATURDAY: **Adoration** at 11.30am **Mass** at 12noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.30pm

TODAY [1] The **Third Sunday of Lent** brings us one of the great Gospels that prepares us for the celebration of Baptism and the Renewal of our baptismal Promises this Easter: Jesus meeting the Woman of Samaria at Jacob's Well and leading her to drink from the well-spring of the Holy Spirit He unseals within her. This most unlikely candidate becomes Evangelist of her community who had previously rejected her. Miracles of the Spirit!

[2] At the end of Mass today Robert, our parish administrator and Chair of our Finance Committee will give the **Annual Financial Statement**, with questions and discussion after Mass over coffee in the side room.

[3] **Stations of the Cross** at 1.00pm - please come and pray for the **67 million Refugees** world-wide and the work of Borderlands and so many other agencies serving and defending them. Pray for a 'new heart' in our own nation and all Europe to these our sisters & brothers.

[4] **Mass with the LGBT+ community and friends and families** at 3.00pm - **all welcome!**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus gift of Baptism that heals our blindness to God and each other, bringing us out of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. Jesus heals the man born blind, sending him to wash in the Pool of Siloam in the Temple precincts. He is the Light in our darkness, the one who opens our eyes to see the world as God does. And in seeing, liberates the power of loving, caring, transforming our world.

[2] It is **Mothering Sunday** - a day to remember and care for our mothers, giving thanks for their dedicated love and life-giving. We pray especially for refugee mothers, mothers forcibly separated from their children (for whatever reason), mothers who grieve the loss of their children, single parent mothers and women who have been unable to have a child.

[2] **Stations of the Cross at 1.00pm** - please come and pray for the healing of our planet, walking with Jesus in the dark values of pollution, exploitation and rape of the Earth, bearing death on indigenous peoples who can teach us how to care for our forests and animals. We are praying the '**Stations of Creation**' inspired by the Canticle of the Creatures composed by St Francis of Assisi and by Pope Francis ground-breaking Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si'.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Gregory the Great, St Thomas More, Cheltenham and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Charlton Kings, served by Fr David Mills, Fr Tony Pazhayakalm CST, Fr Mark Moran, Deacon Robin Littlewood, Parish Administrator Mrs Mary Challis, Mrs Linda Portwain and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing upon **our Catechists**, who prepare our children and young people for Sacraments and our parents who seek Baptism and other Sacraments for their children. They are Ministers of the Word and involved in the formation of new disciples of Christ. ***We are an urgent need to recruit and train more catechists to continue this vital ministry in our parish. Please see Mary Hopper or Richard.***

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 Daniel 3: 25, 34-43 / Psalm 24 / Matthew 18: 21-35

Wednesday Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9 / Psalm 147 / Matthew 5: 17-19

Thursday 2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16 / Psalm 88 / Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22 / Luke 2: 41-51

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Friday Hosea 14: 2-10/ Psalm 80 / Mark 12: 28-34
Saturday Hosea 5: 15-6: 6 / Psalm 50 / Luke 18: 8-14

COLLECTIONS

Env £144.59 + Loose £228.50 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £463.76 - **many thanks!**
CAFOD £279.20 **Covenant with the Poor** £10 **Donation** (Ethiopian Church) £320.00
Project 170 £127.00 **thank you!**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

15th March Annual Parish Financial Statement at the end of 10.00am Mass
 17th March Emergency Parish Pastoral Council on Coronavirus planning at 7.00pm
 18th March Borderlands Trustees meet at 10am
 18th March Ashley Churches Together meet at 12.30pm (St Nicks)
 21st March Training of New Altar Servers at 10.15am (Church)
 22nd March Rite of Adult Catechumen at 10am Mass
 24th March **Feast of St Oscar Romero - 40th Anniversary of his martyrdom - Mass 7pm**
 25th March **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**
 27th March Monthly Taizé Prayer around the Cross at 7.30pm
 28th March Services of Reconciliation (including celebration First Reconciliation)
 29th March Rite of Child Catechumen at 10am Mass
 1st April Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (Presbytery)
 5th April **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**
 9th April **Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Last Supper** at 7.00pm (Watching to 12pm)
 10th April **Good Friday - Liturgy of the Passion** at 3.00pm
 11th March **EASTER VIGIL MASS at 9.00pm**
 12th March **SOLEMN MASS OF EASTER DAY at 10am with Baptisms**
 15th April Borderlands Trustees meeting at 10.00am (Assisi Centre)
 16th April Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (Presbytery)
 19th April **Low Sunday Mass at 10am with Baptisms**

EMERGENCY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ON CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC In the light of increasing measures to limit and delay the spread of this virus, especially its threat to life for elderly and vulnerable children and adults, and with more seeping measures likely in the near future, I have called together on **Tuesday 17th March at 7.00pm** our PPC to plan our parish community's response: how do we support those who will self-isolate? how will we support our elderly and frail, how will we continue the prayer and liturgical life of our parish, how will we conduct our ministries and mission? Big questions without easy answers, but we would be irresponsible simply to allow events to overtake us without due forward planning. *I hope for a full attendance. Thank you!*

CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC - A CALL TO PRAYER AND CARE Last Sunday I printed the prayer sheets offered by our National Liturgical Committee - please take a copy and use it daily in your own homes - support the sick, the medical staff caring for them, those researching a vaccine, our nursing and elderly people's homes and those countries without our sophisticated health service. And how can we - YOU - care for the vulnerable in our neighbourhoods, especially those who are self-isolating? Prayer and Care - our response to the Coronavirus crisis.

COME, CELEBRATE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ST OSCAR ROMERO'S MARTYRDOM

On the 24th March, eve of the Feast of the Annunciation (celebrating the Word made Flesh in the womb of Mary), Archbishop Oscar Romero was shot by a government death squad while he was celebrating Mass. Immediately hailed by his stricken people (and all the poor of Latin America) as a Saint and Martyr, he was recognised as such and canonised by Pope Francis in 2018. This Prophet of the Poor and tireless servant of Peace and Liberation is undoubtedly

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the Patron Saint of the Church's core Mission of promoting Justice, Peace and Freedom and calls us all to live with courage God's Option for the Poor. **Come, be inspired by his 'Word made Flesh' and celebrate this 40th Anniversary Mass of St Oscar Romero at St Nick's on Tuesday 24th March at 7.00pm.** It will be followed by Latin American refreshments.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS We will begin training new Altar Servers on **Saturday 21st March at 10.15am** - those we have celebrated their First Eucharist are invited to come and train to serve their parish family in this important way.

FOODBANK - URGENT REQUEST Thank you for such consistent support - our parish foodbank (and the Parish Office Team who service all who come in need) does so much good, helping people who are often desperate and under-nourished. **THANK YOU! We need urgently jars of coffee, kilo bags of sugar, tins of meat and fish (as many as possible), long-life milk, tins of vegetables, 1 litre bottles of cooking oil, tins of rice pudding and fruit, cereals.** Please note that WE DO NOT NEED rice, pasta or tins of baked beans. Thanks

POPE FRANCIS ON THE 'TRUE FAST' "Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen."

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY Please support CAFOD's work in solidarity and sacred communion with the hungry of the world by making every Friday in Lent a CAFOD Fast Day; bring more justice & equality to our world! Place your contributions in the CAFOD envelopes, and place them in the Offertory along with your normal parish offering. **Thanks!**

JOURNEY OF FAITH Friday 20th March at 6.30 pm in the Assisi Centre.

LENTEN SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION (INCLUDING FIRST RECONCILIATION WITH OUR CHILDREN) It is so important that we prepare well to recommit ourselves to discipleship of Jesus by renewing our Baptismal Promises this Easter. The Church *very strongly recommends* that part of our Lenten journey of Repentance and Renewal is the celebration of God's infinite mercy towards us which we encounter and receive in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **ON SATURDAY 28th MARCH THERE WILL TWO SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION - at 11.00am and at 3.00pm,** There will be a visiting priest joining Richard for these celebrations during which some of our children will meet Jesus in this Sacrament of Mercy for the first time. *As Bishop Declan preached at St Patrick's on Thursday evening, 'We receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to become, each of us, a Living Sacrament of Reconciliation'.* Do come and meet Jesus' mercy!

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES FOR 2018 Parents seeking the baptism of their children this Easter are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Christopher and Epiphania Chipato or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptism course and celebration:

BAPTISMAL SUNDAYS 12th & 19th APRIL at 10am Mass

Preparation Sessions: Friday 27th March & 3rd April at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

Rite of Child Catechumen Sunday 29th March at 10am Mass

CLIFTON CHILDREN'S SOCIETY There has been a significant rise in the number of younger sibling groups taken into care and waiting for adoption. CCS has an excellent reputation for finding permanent families for these and other children who are 'hard to place'. If you feel you could be an adopter. Please call 0117 935 0005 for an informal discussion or contact info@ccsadoption.org Adoption transforms lives and offers a new start - a new life!

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