



## 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](mailto:bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com)

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Clifton Diocesan Website: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: [www.tolentino.org.uk](http://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)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Mothering Sunday



### ***JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD!***

We journey to the Pool of Baptism throughout Lent - journey to cleansing waters, to healing waters, to life-giving waters, to waters that bring us 'enlightenment'. Many of the Churches of Eastern Tradition still call Baptism 'the Enlightenment'. That is why the baptised person is given a baptismal candle lit from the Easter Candle of the Resurrection Light! For by living deeply our Baptism ('living deeply our new life') we are bearers of Jesus' light into a world darkened by inhumanity, brutality, war and poverty.

Lent is a journey into the Light of Easter: and this Light of the Gospel Light of the Spirit, Light of Christ will challenge all the dark places that lurk in our hearts. To be 'enlightened' is to be challenged to change, to be honest, to allow self-reality to dawn: for only the 'truth sets us free'. Light will always convert us not only into more self-awareness and self-honesty, the only path to holiness, but also will convert us into more 'otherness': our lives will become a gift to others, a light that will guide another to the Waters of New Life and Hope of Freedom. Let us too go to the Pool this Easter.

**SUNDAY:** NO PUBLIC MASS - FOLLOW ST NICKS MASS ON FACE BOOK at 10am

**MONDAY:** *No Service streamed*

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St Oscar Romero, Martyred Archbishop of San Salvador (d 1980)*  
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

**WEDNESDAY:** *FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD*  
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

**THURSDAY:** Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

*You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord - live like Children of Light*

**FRIDAY:** Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

**SATURDAY:** Streamed Mass on Face Book at 12noon

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** by appointment

**TODAY** [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Lent, known also as 'Laetare (Rejoicing) Sunday'** 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. In these darkened days of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to rejoice - however God's infinite love for each of us is the true cause of our joy!

[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** - please pray for the healing of our planet, walking with Jesus in the dark valleys 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'. As soon as possible, this set of Stations of the Creation will be posted on the Parish Website

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Fifth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus who brings us to the fullness of Life - for He is the Resurrection and the Life. As Lazarus is brought back from death into life, so Jesus journeys through the Cross and the tomb to liberating Resurrection. His journey is also ours. May all afflicted by this virus, all who are fearful during this pandemic come to know the Christ who journeys with them through death into Life in all its Fullness.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Sacred Heart, Chew Magna, and St Pius X, Withywood, served by Fr Michael Healy, Deacon Mark Forge, Parish Pastoral Assistant, Mrs Debbie Forge, Parish Administrator Alice Maimone and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** This week, pray God's Blessing upon **our Parish Finance Committee**, who have responsibility for the administration of our finances, maintenance of the buildings and other material and human resources. God's Option for the Poor and the Mission of the Church is always central to the work of this committee. Our buildings are to be always at the service of the wider community, especially the most marginalised and deprived. ***During this period when Public Mass cannot be celebrated, please continue to support the mission of the Church in our parish, through regular giving, occasional donations, standing orders and Gift Aid. THANK YOU!***

**WORD OF GOD FOR FOURTH WEEK OF LENT**

<b>Sunday</b>	1 Samuel 16: 11, 6-7, 10-13 / Psalm 22 / Ephesians 5: 8-14 / John 9: 1-41
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 65: 17-21 / Psalm 29 / John 4: 43-54
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12 / Psalm 45 / John 5: 1-3, 5-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8: 10 / Psalm 9 / Hebrews 10: 4-10 / Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Thursday</b>	Exodus 32: 7-14 / Psalm 105 / John 5: 31-47
<b>Friday</b>	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22 / Psalm 33 / John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
<b>Saturday</b>	Jeremiah 11: 18-20 / Psalm 7 / John 7: 40-52

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**COLLECTIONS**

Env £129.00 + Loose £220.94 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £400.52 - **many thanks!**

**Covenant with the Poor £5 Donation (Yoga Class) £15.00 Project 170 £40.00 (LGBT+ Mass) thank you!**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

24th March **Feast of St Oscar Romero - 40th Anniversary of his martyrdom**  
 25th March **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**  
 5th April **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**  
 9th April **Maundy Thursday - Streamed Mass of the Last Supper at 7.00pm**  
 10th April **Good Friday - Streamed Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm**  
 11th March **EASTER VIGIL MASS streamed at 9.00pm**  
 12th March **Streamed MASS OF EASTER DAY at 10am**  
 19th April **Low Sunday Mass streamed at 10am**

**SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS FOR WORSHIP AND LITURGY** The Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, listening to the strong advice of the Government and its medical and scientific advisers, have taken certain measures to support the efforts to limit and delay the spread of the COVID-19 for the sake of Public Health during this emergency.

[1] Mass and other services are to be celebrated privately, without a congregation. ***We are arranging for Sunday and weekday Mass to be live streamed on the Parish Face Book***

[2] The Sacrament of Reconciliation to be celebrated by appointment

[3] All are encouraged to take part in Mass through the internet (**daily Mass broadcast from St Nicks daily, except Mondays**) and make a 'spiritual communion'

[4] Hold the Sunday Holy by prayer and reflecting upon the Scriptures of the Day (***made available on our Parish Website***) - the Rosary or the Stations of the Cross recommended

[5] Baptisms to be deferred (except for extreme pastoral need) until Public Worship resumes, and celebrations of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation likewise postponed.

[6] Weddings also to be postponed until gatherings are resumed: except in exceptional circumstances and with only priest, bride and groom and immediate family present.

[7] Funerals to take place only at Crematorium or graveside with immediate family, with Memorial Mass postponed until public gatherings resume.

**DAILY MASS AND SOME TIMES OF PRAYER BROADCAST ON FACEBOOK**

You can see the times of live-streaming for Mass at the beginning of the Weekly Newsletter. Try to join your community in Spiritual Communion, reflecting on the Scriptures, praising God and interceding for our world in these crisis days. In these times of severely restricted movement and activity, use some of that time to deepen your faith and your understanding of the Scriptures. Resources will be posted on our Parish Website: [www.tolentino.org.uk](http://www.tolentino.org.uk) and Mass and other prayer will be broadcast on the parish facebook page: **St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church Bristol**. Please excuse the temporary varied quality (we are using Richard's iPhone), but we expect better broadcasting as we acquire better equipment this week. ***We had 250 viewings of the first broadcast Mass yesterday!***

**PARISH MINISTRY CONTINUES** [1] **The Parish Office will be open from 10am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday** so that our ministry of care and support, especially for the poorest who need our Food Bank and Caritas Fund, can continue. Please phone the parish office (0117-9090419) during these times or myself at the presbytery (0117-9098810 – at any reasonable time) with your questions, concerns or need for any kind of support.

[2] **The Parish Office and members of the Parish Pastoral Council will co-ordinate care and support** for those who are in isolation or are vulnerable in any way. Volunteers to

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help from those able to do so are very welcome. We must care for one another as well as pray for each other.

[3] Apologies, but a word about **Parish Finance!** We are anticipating a marked increase of calls on our Caritas Fund and Foodbank as the health crisis increases and many more people will find themselves with little or no income. We are committed to meet this need as far as we possibly can – as Pope Francis says ‘we are the Church of the Poor, the Church for the Poor’. But we need your continued help and generosity! We are dependent upon our weekly collections but if no Public Mass there is problem! We ask you to continue your weekly offering: either by making a standing order to the parish account or filling in the Diocesan Standing Order and Gift Aid Form (email for details); or by giving you money offering and donations to the Food Bank to the Parish Office during Office hours.

[4] **Finally**, this is a Lent like no other – a call to walk with Jesus in the wilderness and in the emptiness and loss of the desert of this crisis to grow in love and deeper faith. This is **a call to prayer and care to a new sacrificial level. May the Holy Spirit lead us and empower our prayer and care for one another.**

**CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC - A CALL TO PRAYER AND CARE** Please take a copy of the prayers issues by our Bishops and use it daily in your own homes - support the sick, all medical staff caring for them, those caring in our nursing and elderly people's homes and countries without our sophisticated health service. Let us all care for the vulnerable in our neighbourhoods, especially those who are self-isolating? Prayer and Care.

**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 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. **Watch on Facebook this 40th Anniversary Mass of St Oscar Romero at St Nick's, Tuesday 24th March at 6.00pm.**

**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. ***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.*** Thank you!

**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 bring them to the Parish Office or the Presbytery letter box along with your normal parish offering. **Thanks!**

**BAPTISM POSTPONED** Sadly, we will not be able to celebrate Baptism at Easter and so the parents preparation sessions are also postponed until Public worship and gatherings are resumed.

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