



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 'Creation' Sunday



We are not orphans, for there is another Advocate!

Sometimes it is only when someone has left that we realise how close we are to them, how they have become truly part of us. Jesus speaks of His 'leaving us' at the Ascension - but while he truly leaves, it is only so that He can be even closer - no longer at our side, but now deep in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit, the gift of Father and Son, their togetherness and loving union, is now poured into our hearts. Because of this Spirit within, we cry out from our depths 'Abba, Father'; we exult to shout to the world with a cry from the heart 'Jesus is Lord'.

The Spirit is the Advocate - speaking to the Father of His daughters and sons that we are; speaking to our hearts of the Father's immeasurable unfathomable love for you and me. The Spirit speaks for us to God, and to us for God!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS FOR THE HEALING OF OUR PLANET - on Facebook 10am
Stations of Creation streamed on Facebook at 3.00pm

MONDAY: Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Facebook at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury, Archbishop of Canterbury (909-988)*
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY: Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

*'The Father will give you another Advocate, the Holy Spirit
who will lead you into all Truth and bind you together in My Love'*

THURSDAY: ***FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holy Day of Obligation)***
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

FRIDAY: ***Feast of St Rita of Cascia, Wife, mother and Augustinian nun (1381-1453)***
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

SATURDAY: **Streamed Mass on Face Book at 12noon**
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 6.00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment only

TODAY [1] On the **Sixth Sunday of Easter** we celebrate the Risen Jesus who by the gift of His Spirit comes to dwell within us and among us in a revolutionary new Way. The Holy Spirit of Divine Love becomes our Life and witnesses to Jesus risen and alive within us. Indeed after His Ascension, He does not so much leave us (as 'orphans') but becomes more profoundly present within and among us with the power of His life and love!

[2] **This is the beginning of 'Laudato Si' Week**, as the Church is asked to reflect upon a crisis greater than Covid 19 - the crisis of Climate Change and Global Warming and the global injustice that accompanies it! **If you have not read Pope Francis Encyclical, 'Laudato Si', I urge you to do so if at all possible. This marks its 5th anniversary.**

[3] We will pray the **Stations of Creation**, inspired by St Francis's Canticum of the Creatures and Pope Francis Encyclical Letter to 'All Christians and People of Goodwill' **'Laudato Si'** - **join us on the Parish face Book at 3.00pm.**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Seventh Sunday of Easter** we celebrate the Risen Christ who constantly prays for us His disciples, that we will be true to Him, as missionary disciples. On the night of the Last Supper, gathered with disciples in the Upper Room of His last Passover, He prays that we be consecrated in the Truth, living in the world as signs of His Love without conforming to the negativity that is part of our world - to live as signs of a New World emerging among us. His Church is to be a Sacrament of that 'New World', the Kingdom of God!

[2] We will be joining those first disciples in the Upper Room of Waiting and yearning for the 'power from on high' - the Holy Spirit. Our **Service at 3.00pm will be Adoration and Prayer to the Holy Spirit as part of the first and greatest of the Church's Novena, invoking the Renewing and Reforming and Empowering Holy Spirit upon ourselves, our parish and the Church of our time.**

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION ***Who is this Who ascends into Glory?***

Ascension? Some kind of medieval throw-back - a myth that belongs to a 'flat earth' past? As if Heaven was up there somewhere! Can we believe in the Ascension in our modern world of Hubble telescopes and deep space exploration?

Yet this is our brother, our flesh, our humanity, gathered up into the Divine, carrying us and all that is human into the very inner life of God, of the Trinity. His ascension is ours, for He carries us with Him, in Him. Ascension is not some weird and divine form of space travel, but rather the wonder of our transformation into a divine humanity. This is the Feast of our human dignity, for we are being 'divinised' as the great saints and mystics have dared to say, following the teaching of St John and St Paul.

Forever our flesh is now 'seated at the right hand of the Father', sharing the throne of God, utterly caught up in infinite and eternal loving that creates the Universe! No wonder He sends us out with this Good News to tell all the world, all creation!

***'The Father will give you another Advocate, the Holy Spirit
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DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Stanislaus, Dulverton and Sacred Heart, Minehead with Watchet, Somerset served by Fr Michael Thomas, Deacons Vincent Woods and David Croucher, Parish Administrator, Lorraine Taylor and all their communities

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing upon our team of **Children's Liturgy of the Word** leaders. This ministry is vital to the formation of our younger children, enabling our 4-8 year olds celebrate the Mass in a way appropriate to their age and development. The work of this Team lays the foundation for further catechesis of our children in school and Sacramental Programmes. They need suitable volunteers - perhaps parents of some of these children. It is a rewarding experience.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday	Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17 / Psalm 65 / 1 Peter 3: 15-18 / John 14: 15-21
Monday	Acts of the Apostles 16: 11-15 / Psalm 149 / John 15: 26-16: 4
Tuesday	Acts of the Apostles 16: 22-34 / Psalm 137 / John 16: 5-11
Wednesday	Acts of the Apostles 17: 15, 22-18: 1 / Psalm 148 / John 16: 12-15
Thursday	Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11 / Psalm 46 / Ephesians 1: 17-23 / Matthew 18: 16-20
Friday	Acts of the Apostles 18: 9-18 / Psalm 46 / John 16: 20-23
Saturday	Acts of the Apostles 18: 23-28 / Psalm 46 / John 16: 23-28

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Env £100 + Loose £200 + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £390.58 -

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE STANDING ORDERS IN FAVOUR OF THE PARISH OR MADE OTHER DONATIONS TO THE PARISH - since the lockdown in mid-March you and others have donated £4292.00 to the work and mission of the parish. This does not include donations specifically to the Foodbank and the Caritas Fund - thank you for your generosity.

If you have not yet contributed, please find ways of continuing to support our parish with your offerings (perhaps by making a Standing Order, GiftAided if possible - details from Robert at the Parish Office). And our Caritas Fund is supporting so many people as those unemployed are increasing in at this time. **THANK TO ALL** who are supporting our Foodbank with donations of food or money.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

20th May	Funeral Service for Jim Sorhaindo RIP
21st May	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
31st May	FEAST OF PENTECOST - BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH
7th June	FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
9th June	Funeral Service for Faustina Ogbu RIP
14th June	FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI - The Body and Blood of Christ
19th June	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC GATHERINGS FOR WORSHIP AND LITURGY The Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have taken certain measures to support the efforts to limit and delay the spread of the COVID-19 for the sake of Public Health.

[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 (**Mass broadcast from St Nicks daily**) and make a 'spiritual communion' - please see special prayer on website

[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 'Prayer of the Church' recommended

'The Father will give you another Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will lead you into all Truth and bind you together in My Love'

[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.

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

PARISH MINISTRY CONTINUES [1] **The Parish Office will be open from 10am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday** (no longer on Saturdays) 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 (0117-909-8810 – 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 help from those able to do so are very welcome. We must care for one another as well as pray for each other. Please do not hesitate to contact us for support (telephone no above)

[3] Apologies, but a word about **Parish Finance!** We are experiencing a marked increase of calls on our Caritas Fund and Foodbank as the health crisis increases and many more people 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.

‘LAUDATO SI’ WEEK 16-24th May The global Catholic family will pray together for a more just and sustainable world on Sunday, 24 May, the final day in Laudato Si’ Week. During this moment of crisis, our faith guides us. Throughout the week of 16 to 24 May, Catholics everywhere will unite in solidarity to reflect on and build a better future. At noon local time on 24 May, the last day in Laudato Si’ Week, we unite in prayer to lift up the gift of our faith to the world. Together, we’ll create a worldwide wave of prayer, as people in each time zone around the globe pray together. Imagine the power of a unified prayer for a more just and sustainable world. Join us and register for ‘Laudato Si’ Week and receive a link to the prayer card we’ll use on 24 May. As people everywhere urgently search for hope, we’re coming together as Catholic sisters and brothers to fortify our spirits and our resolve. Everything is connected, and a more just and sustainable world needs each and every one of us. Our faith is more than a source of strength in challenging times. It’s a guide to the future we’re building together.

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PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE HORN OF AFRICA AND INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

“Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their lands. And may we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice against oppression. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

A PRAYER FOR ALL CREATION: (Pope John Paul II)

In the Risen Christ all creation rises to new life. From the moment when your tomb, O Christ, was found, there began the time in which the whole of creation sings your name “which is above every other name” and awaits your final return in glory. During this time, between Easter and the coming of your everlasting Kingdom, a time like the travail of giving birth (cf. Rom 8:22), sustain us in our dedication to building a more human world, a world soothed by the balm of your Love. Paschal Victim offered for the salvation of the world, grant that this commitment of ours will not falter, even when weariness slows our steps. You, victorious King, grant to us and to the world eternal salvation!

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**Jesus, my Brother and Lord,
I recognise you present with me
in the Breaking of the Bread and the sharing of the Cup,
in this most holy Sacrament of Your Body and Blood.
I love you Who come to me in the poverty of this bread and wine
and desire with all my heart to receive you into the core of my being.
It hurts that I cannot at this time eat Your Body and drink Your Blood, but I truly
believe you do come to me in all fulness.
For Your love unites me spiritually with my Eucharistic Community,
with Your whole Body, the Church.
I believe nothing can separate me from Your love.
I thank you with all my being that I am now one with you
and my sisters and brothers in Your Church
through this Holy Eucharist.
Praise to You, my Food and my Love, my Brother and my Lord! AMEN!**

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