



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)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 'Communication Sunday'



The Best Communication - is Communion

Our world loves programmes, projects, initiatives. A new technique will deliver effective evangelisation! Let's find novel new ways to spread the message! As so often, this is partly true, but only a half-truth.

Look at the illustration here: what do you see? Individual people gathering together in close relationship becoming the Cross of Christ lifted high for the world to see! The real key to evangelisation today is the same as it was in Jesus' non-techno world - 'Love one another as I have loved you ... By the love you have for one another will all know you are my disciples ... Father may they all be so completely one that the world will believe'.

Yes we need to use every modern technique of communication, social media, internet, TV etc - they are all the gift of God! But without love it is all empty noise and seductive addictions! Only love evangelises, only love draws people to glimpse the new humanity that fulfils human longing; only love can change the human heart, change our world. Love alone can conquer everything. So Jesus prays for the unity of His disciples. Loving unity is the secret of effective mission and witness. Come Spirit!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS - on Facebook 10am
Adoration & Evening Prayer of the Holy Spirit on Facebook at 3.00pm

MONDAY: *Feast of St Bede the Venerable, Celtic Monk, theologian and historian*
streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Facebook at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Philip Neri, priest, founder of Oratorians, Reformer (1515-1595)*
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

'I pray for them: all I have is Yours, Father, and all You have is Mine, and in them I am glorified - I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world'

WEDNESDAY: ***Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, first Archbishop of Canterbury (d. 604)***
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

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 Paul VI, Reforming Pope of Vatican II, Peace maker (1897-1978)***
Streamed Faith Reflection on Facebook at 10.30am
Streamed Mass on Face Book at 6.00pm

SATURDAY: **Streamed Mass on Face Book at 12noon**
Pentecost Vigil Prayer invoking the Spirit on Facebook at 6.00pm
***Sacrament of Reconciliation:** by appointment only*

TODAY [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.**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] We celebrate the second greatest Feast of the Church's Year - the birth of the Church in a ferment of praise and mission on **Pentecost Day**, as the Wind and flame of the Spirit shakes the disciples and liberates them and us to love with the heart of Christ Jesus. ***Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of the faithful, enflame us with Your Love!***

[2] **On the Eve of Pentecost (Saturday at 6.00pm) we will have Vigil Prayer** invoking the Holy Spirit overshadowing our parish, our diocese and the whole Church so that we might play our part in 'renewing the face of the Earth'.

[3] We will pray the **Evening Prayer of Pentecost at 3.00pm on Pentecost Sunday**, together with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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!

'I pray for them: all I have is Yours, Father, and all You have is Mine, and in them I am glorified - I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world'

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Dominic, Dursley and St Joseph, Nympsfield served by Fr Philip Beasley, Deacon Dominic Bucci and all both communities

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing upon our **Pastor, Richard and our retired Deacon, Jack and his wife, Joan. Pray also for all preparing to serve God's people in these ministries of leadership and service.** Of course we are called to be shepherds to one another, servants of our sisters and brothers in the community and beyond. Our priests and deacons are commissioned to encourage and unite the ministry and charism of the Spirit in each baptised and confirmed person. May we work together in love and prayer to build a united Body of Christ witnessing to the Risen Christ, proclaiming Good News to the Poor and being Christ-like servants of our world and our planet.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday	Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-14 / Psalm 26 / 1 Peter 4: 13-16 / John 17: 1-11
Monday	Acts of the Apostles 19: 1-8 / Psalm 67 / John 16: 29-23
Tuesday	Acts of the Apostles 20: 17-27 / Psalm 67 / John 17: 1-11
Wednesday	Acts of the Apostles 20: 28-38 / Psalm 67 / John 17: 11-19
Thursday	Acts of the Apostles 22: 30, 23: 6-11 / Psalm 15 / John 17: 20-26
Friday	Acts of the Apostles 25: 13-21 / Psalm 102 / John 21: 15-19
Saturday	Acts of the Apostles 28: 16-20, 30-31 / Psalm 10 / John 21: 20-25

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Env £210 + Loose £ + S/O's £90.58 = TOTAL: £300.58 -

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

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
20th June	Parish Pastoral Council meets via 'Zoom' at 2.00pm

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

'I pray for them: all I have is Yours, Father, and all You have is Mine, and in them I am glorified - I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world'

[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

[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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ON 'ZOOM' Yesterday (Saturday 23rd May) we held our first ever PPC meeting via Zoom - the wonders of modern communication technology. It was good to see each other again and talk together. Having shared how the lockdown period has been for each of us - and we all missed our community being together especially at Mass - we then discussed the **future of the parish FoodBank** which is currently giving food to 500 people a week. We suspect that this has become a permanent ministry of our parish for the foreseeable future (with the post-pandemic financial crisis causing much hardship to many in our area). How will we sustain it in terms of accommodating the supply of food once the Assisi Centre returns to normal usage, as well as the personnel needed for it to continue on a permanent basis. It is a challenging ministry not for everyone! We also explored how we can **open up the Church** (when we are allowed to, probably in a limited way in July or August) for private prayer and/or Mass - the logistics of reduced numbers to enable social distancing at Mass, the vastly increased hygiene required, and therefore increased numbers of people involved in this. Perhaps we would need two maybe even three Sunday Masses and how we would decide who would come to which Mass - also a suggestion whether we could use the school playing field. Many ideas, no solutions but we have begun the thinking! We also discussed **what might be needed to live-stream Mass permanently when we return to the Church and the infrastructure need for this**. We also discussed how we can have **effective pastoral care for parishioners who do not have access to the internet**. And there was a **big thank you to Eneyi for her great work with the Catholic Women's WhatsApp group that has helped so many during the isolation**. We also had a financial update from Robert and expressed our thanks to those who have generously supported the parish financially during the lockdown and all who have donated food or money to the Parish Foodbank and Caritas Hardship Fund. We set another meeting via 'Zoom' for Saturday 20th June at 2.00pm.

'I pray for them: all I have is Yours, Father, and all You have is Mine, and in them I am glorified - I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world'

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!

***'I pray for them: all I have is Yours, Father, and all You have is Mine,
and in them I am glorified - I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world'***