

**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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**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)**

**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)**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR 'B' - ST MARK'S GOSPEL***Advent - about baby Jesus ... or a New World?*

Our God is the God who comes - comes to us, draws near to us. The infinite transcendent God yearns with a passion to come and dwell in our poor, cold, human hearts. What a God, this God who comes!

Jesus birth in the cold poverty and homelessness of Bethlehem is a sign of this yearning love of the God who will come to those places, people and realities that we would not want to approach!

Yet this (the baby of Bethlehem) is not the coming we yearn for in Advent - we yearn rather the Coming that will gather all creation into Divine Glory, the Coming that will forever conquer death and liberate life in all creation. Yearning for the Final Coming of Christ is the song that has also arisen in the Christian heart with the cry 'Maranatha' 'Come Lord Jesus, come!'

So we open our lives to His Coming each day in Eucharist, in the Poor, in the new breath of the Spirit, in the unexpected person or event, that we can make ready our world for the great Day of His Final Coming!

**SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (live-streamed: [Parish Website](#))**

**MONDAY: *Feast of St Andrew, Apostle and patron of Scotland*  
*No Service today***

**TUESDAY: *Feast of Bl Charles de Foucauld & St Edmund Campion, Alexander Bryant, Ralph Sherwin, Priests and Martyrs*  
*Funeral Service for Jeff Longdon RIP at 2.15pm (S Bristol Crematorium)*  
*Mass at 6.00pm (live-streamed on [Parish Face Book Page](#))***

**Churches re-opened for public worship from Wednesday Dec 2nd**

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**WEDNESDAY:** *Feast of the Women Martyrs of El Salvador, Jean Donovan, Sr Ita Ford, Elba Ramos and their companions*  
*Prayer & Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Parish [Face Book Page](#))*  
*Adoration at 5.15-5.45pm      Mass at 6.00pm (live-streamed: [Parish Website](#))*

**THURSDAY:** *Feast of St Francis Xavier, Jesuit Missionary priest (1506-1552)*  
*Prayer & Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Parish [Face Book Page](#))*  
*Adoration at 5.30pm      Mass at 6.00pm*

**FRIDAY:** *Feast of St John Damascene, priest & Theologian (8th C) & St Osmund, Bishop*  
*Adoration at 5.30pm      Mass at 6.00pm*

**SATURDAY:** *Adoration at 8.15am    Mass at 9.00am (Note change of time)*  
*Services of First Reconciliation: 10.30am / 12 noon / 2.00pm*  
*Adoration & Evening Prayer at 6.00pm (live-streamed on Parish [Face Book Page](#))*  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment only*

**TODAY** [1] We begin a new **Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent**. We celebrate the 'God Who comes' - God comes in every atom of creation, in every moment of history, in every sacramental encounter, in every moment of prayer, in every person, in every cry of anguish and suffering of the poor. And every coming of our God prepares us for that great and final coming when all creation will be gloriously alive with divine love and gathered into the Body of Christ. Let us 'be awake' to welcome every Coming of Christ today so as to ready our world for that transfiguring Final Coming!

[2] We have the **Children's Advent Calendars** we give to the Children's Liturgy Group. Unfortunately we cannot distribute them until the Second Sunday of Advent when we hope we can come together again for Mass. Meanwhile I will place a pdf copy of the Calendar on the parish website. We also have some adult **Advent Prayer booklets** to help make Advent a special time of prayer and reflection in the midst of everything else happening this particular Advent. They will be available both from the Parish office and the porch of the Church in due time. Cost £1.00

[3] Although we are not able to have Children's Liturgy yet, we want to **encourage our children to collect for CAFOD World Gifts** as they have in previous years - with help from families of course! More information from Mary Hopper or Mike Burke.

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] On the **Second Sunday of Advent** we celebrate God's call to the Church, to each of us, to be contemporary 'John the Baptists' - prophets preparing the Way of the Lord as He comes to enter every human heart, every human institution, every society and culture. Everywhere God's People are to bring 'consolation' (Isaiah reading), to bring 'Liberation' - human freedom is a sign of God's presence and the action of grace - the Divine Love! We are called to enlarge human freedom and work for Justice in the name of Christ's Gospel.

[2] **WE CAN RETURN TO ATTENDANCE AT MASS, AND THE CHURCH CAN SAFELY WELCOME 125 PEOPLE - SO PLEASE DO COME! IF THERE IS A DEMAND FOR MORE CAPACITY THEN I AM HAPPY TO CELEBRATE A SECOND MASS AT A TIME TO BE AGREED.**

**COVID REGULATIONS FOR RE-OPENING CHURCHES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP**

Because Bristol is in Tier 3 we can still come to Mass but we must observe extra restrictions: People are to attend Mass in groups of **more than 6 nor with people from outside of their household or support bubble**. Those attending mass **must not socialise/interact** with people from outside of their household or support bubble while **inside the church building**. Those attending can only socialise/interact with people from within their household or sup-

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port bubble while outside the church building in groups of up to 6. (**Diocesan guidance on the Government regulations 27/11/2020**)

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays for all Hospital Chaplaincies in our diocese: their chaplaincy teams and those communities of the sick, their families and the health care workers who serve them. Healing is at the heart of the Mission of the Church - and our health care workers and carers are, knowingly or not, part of God's healing work, part of the Church's Healing Mission. We pray for them especially during this time of Covid pandemic. **Can I remind everyone that when a Catholic goes into hospital, the patient or their family MUST request a visit from the Catholic Chaplain - data protection and confidentiality rules in hospitals prohibit the passing on of information to chaplaincies otherwise.**

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** This week, pray God's Blessing and Guidance in the Holy Spirit for our **Zimbabwean community - the Catholic Zimbabwean association and the national chaplains who serve them:** this community celebrate Mass monthly (in normal times) here at St Nicks. We pray also the people of Zimbabwe who continue to suffer the denial of democracy and injustice, poverty and governmental oppression and violence. May their suffering soon end and a new beginning come!

**WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8 / Psalm 79 / 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 / Mark 13: 33-37
<b>Monday</b>	Romans 10: 9-18 / Psalm 18 / Matthew 4: 18-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 11: 1-10 / Psalm 71 / Luke 10: 21-24
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 25: 6-10 / Psalm 22 / Matthew 15: 29-37
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 26: 1-6 / Psalm 117 / Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 29: 17-24 / Psalm 26 / Matthew 9: 27-31
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26 / Psalm 146 / Matthew 9: 35-10: 1, 6-8

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Env £50.00 + Loose £150.00 + PayPal £195.80 + S/O's £111.05 = TOTAL: £506.85 thanks!  
*I wish also to thank all who give great and small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and every giver is equally valued and these gifts are used to serve the growth of the Kingdom of God. Thank you!*

Our Caritas Fund is supporting so many people as those unemployed are increasing at this time.

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

29th Nov	<b>First Sunday of Advent - New Liturgical Year (Year B - St Mark)</b>
1st Dec	Parish Finance Committee meet at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
2nd Dec	<b>Mass for the Women Martyrs of El Salvador</b> at 6.00pm (n Parish Website)
3rd Dec	Meeting of First Reconciliation children and parents at 4.00pm
3rd Dec	Meeting of Parish Council Executive Group at 7.00pm
5th Dec	<b>First Reconciliation Services - 10.30am / 12noon / 2.00pm</b>
8th Dec	<b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b> 6pm Mass (streamed on Parish Website)
9th Dec	Vision Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
10th Dec	Diocesan Safeguarding Commission meets
13th Dec	<b>2020 First Eucharist Sunday [Now confirmed as date for First Eucharist]</b>
25th Dec	<b>FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b>
<b><u>2021</u></b>	
1st Jan	<b>Feast of Mary the Mother of God - New Year's Day</b> - Mass at 10am
10th Jan	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday</b>
21st Jan	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.00pm

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**THE YEAR OF ST MARK** This year (Year B) the whole Church ponders Mark's Gospel: it is the earliest of the Gospel narratives, completed before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in 70AD. The author is thought to have been St Peter's disciples, John Mark, and the text to have originated in the Christian community in Rome over which Peter presided. It conveys to us a most human Jesus, expressing his emotions of joy and anger. It is also a Jesus who challenges the sacred institutions of His time - Temple, priesthood, sacrifices and their leadership. Jesus provokes conflict throughout Mark's Gospel, because these sacred places and people were hiding the face of God, rather than revealing the Divine. So it is a study of conflict and the prophetic call of our baptism to be in conflict with institutions that dehumanise and diminish the wonder and beauty of the human person: for when the human person is not revered, God is not found or worshipped despite all our rituals!

**ADVENT - THE VISION OF MISSION** Advent is a time for 'people with far-seeing eyes' - awakened to the reality of our world, ready to listen and to gaze: in order to recognise where, when and how Jesus comes in the 21st century (in the poverty, among the oppressed, disguised as an addict or as homeless, crying out for acceptance and freedom in the asylum-seeker, yearning for peace among the women and children who are the greatest victims of our wars). But you have to have courage to see and to hear - and more courage to speak and to act! The Spirit of God unfolds a vision of Mission - to transform the deserts and wastelands of our world into places of hope, rich and fertile in humanity and justice, healing and freedom. Our Mission is world-challenging and world-changing. Let our worship empower our mission, as we gaze upon bread from the fields and wine from the hills being transformed utterly in Christ by the Spirit and the Word through the ministry of the Church!

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES** These Programmes for 2020 were sadly interrupted because of the Covid 19 pandemic and the national lockdown and further restrictions later. We wish to complete these programmes before Christmas:  
**First Eucharist Programme each Wednesday 4.00pm NB CHANGE [on Zoom]**  
**First Eucharist Sunday on December 13th [confirmed for this day]**  
**First Reconciliation Programme Thursday at 4pm [final session December 3rd]**  
**First Reconciliation Celebrations Saturday December 5th 10.30am / 12noon / 2.00pm**  
**This completes the 2020 Sacramental programmes.**

**JOURNEY OF FAITH 2020-2021** We are supporting those seeking Baptism and Reception into the Church who attend St Mary-on-the-Quay where there is no Journey of Faith course. We are happy to share faith and faith journeys with the four people from there who are interested. **The 2020-2021 Journey of Faith is on Zoom at 4.30pm each Tuesday.** We invite any adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation or Reception into the Catholic Church to contact myself or Mary Hopper as soon as possible. The Journey of Faith is suitable not only for those seeking full communion with us, but also for Catholics seeking to understand their faith more deeply, or those who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to complete their 'sacramental initiation'.

**TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE & CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:** We no longer stock these papers, but you can get them delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :£22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00

**STARTING SCHOOL?** If you have a child born between **1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2021** onwards. Complete an application form available from the school admissions team of **Bristol City Council (unless you are living in parts of North Bristol covered by S Gloucestershire Council or the Kingswood area covered by Bath and North East**

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*Somerset Council*). If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Closing date of **15 Jan 2021**

**CHRISTMAS AND THE PARISH FOOD BANK** We would like to give a small Christmas gift to everyone who comes to 'St Nicholas Bread' food bank, and with a gift voucher to all the families who come. Will you help us to do this, be part of the giving, by donating, marking your donations 'Christmas Foodbank' - thank you.

**NEEDS OF OUR FOODBANK** We are urgently appealing for the following food for our food bank: *Tins of Tuna, Sardines and Mackerel Tinned Vegetables Tinned Fruit Rice Pudding Pasta Sauces - We also always need more long-life milk.* Please drop them off at the Parish Office between 9am to 1.30pm or by arrangement at the office or presbytery. **Many thanks for your invaluable support** - on Friday we had 175 people come to the food bank and during this past week 55 new people were registered. Poverty levels are increasing dramatically and we must respond in the name and love of Christ. We are also having to store some supplies in the church and the parish hall. *The Church is for the 'breaking of bread'*

### **CONFIRMATION AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

Our God, Abba our loving Father, loves to pour Divine Gifts upon us whom He loves. He poured the Holy Spirit into our hearts at our conception so that we could be human - made in the Divine Image and Likeness. In Baptism He pours the Spirit again so that we can experience Him as the love that fulfils our lives and draws us into profound intimacy with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the The Sacrament of Confirmation, the final step in 'Initiation' into the Body of Christ, God pours His Spirit into our being to gift us for Mission and Ministry, gifts us so that we can be gift to the Church and to the world. Holy Spirit comes to empower the Christian for ministry in the Body of Christ and mission to the world in the name of Christ. It is an essential part of our growing into Christ that we not only experience His love but become His Love for others. So the Holy Spirit comes with charisms and gifts to equip us as co-workers with Jesus Christ in the immense task of building up God's Church, proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News, bringing healing and hope to the broken and oppressed, and ultimately 'renewing the face of the earth'!

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