



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

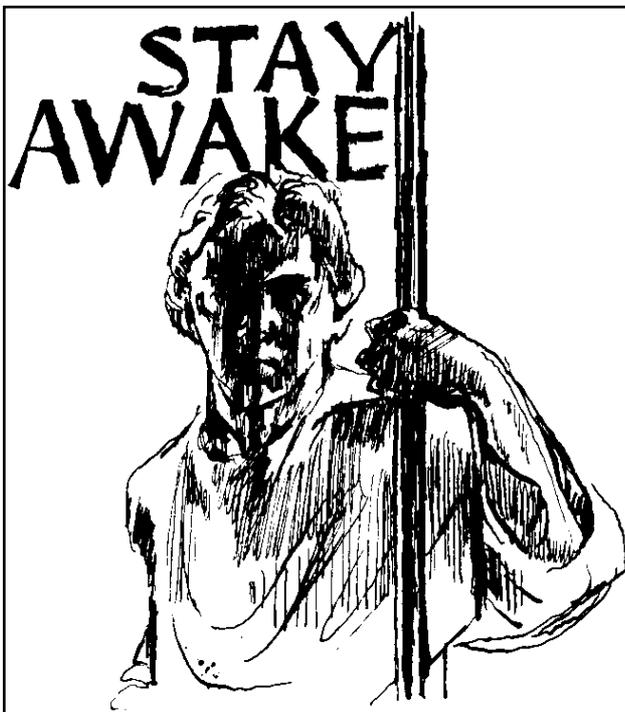
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR 'B'



WILD ABOUT THE WORD!

Not a very respectable preacher, this John the Baptizer - all that desert stuff, dressed in smelly camel skin and what a diet! Locusts and wild honey!! Certainly would not be admitted to a seminary or to the priesthood!

Why did God shape and choose this wild man to be the prophet of the Word? Maybe we need to be a bit more wild about God and His Word? Because God does not want a respectable people - he wants a people of fire with the Word, on fire with a passionate love that will cry JUSTICE, will cry FREEDOM, will cry CHANGE!

God will not be contained in our tidy, circumscribed churches, rules and creeds. God is a wild and uncontrollable Love who turns the tables, upsets the ordered, in order to make dramatic space for the New Order that raises up the poor. You have to be a bit wild to love this God! And to proclaim this Word!

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

MONDAY: *Feast of St Ambrose, bishop and theologian (339-397)*
No Service today

TUESDAY: *Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Adoration at 5.45-6.20pm Mass at 6.30pm (live-steamed: [Parish Website](#))

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, seer of Our Lady of Guadeloupe (b1474)*
Prayer & Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Parish [Face Book Page](#))
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

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FRIDAY: *Prayer & Reflection at 9.45am (live-streamed on Parish Face Book Page)*
Adoration at 6.00pm *Mass at 6.30pm*

SATURDAY: *Feast of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, Patron of Latin America*
Adoration at 11.00am *Mass at 12noon*
Adoration & Evening Prayer at 6.00pm (live-streamed on Parish Face Book Page)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass & 4.30pm

NB PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF WEEKDAY MASS TIMES TO 6.30PM

TODAY [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] Today is also **Bible Sunday**, when we give thanks that God speaks to our hearts and minds through the written word of the Sacred Scriptures - enabling us to 'hear' the Word made Flesh. The Bible gives us the privileged account of God's self-revelation to humanity, and the account of humanity's developmental discovery of the liberating Truth that is God's Word - discovering over time the depth and beauty of the God of Love. The Bible is our primary manual of prayer and meditation. Let us 'abide in His Word' so as to live in His Love.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Third Sunday of Advent** is '**Gaudete**' Sunday - '**Rejoicing**' Sunday. We celebrate the joy of waiting and working for the Kingdom to come in all fulness, the joy of being embraced by God's mercy and forgiveness. John the Baptist was the herald of this joy, and like him we are called to be Heralds, prophets of the Gospel of Joy.

[2] This joy is all the greater today as we celebrate the long-awaited **Mass of First Eucharist with three of our children, Kaori, Alison and Aria**. Unusually a very small group this year and whose preparation was interrupted for months by lockdown and pandemic, but has been completed more recently via Zoom sessions. We pray for them and their families.

[3] It is also **Home Mission Sunday**, transferred from October because of the lockdown restrictions. It is our joy to be witnesses of Christ Jesus and the joy and fulness of Life faith in Christ brings us. May we rejoice to share with family, friends and neighbours Him who is the deepest love of our lives.

COVID REGULATIONS FOR RE-OPENING CHURCHES FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

Because Bristol is in Tier 3 we can come to Mass but observe extra restrictions: People are to attend Mass in groups **of no 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**. We can only socialise/interact with people within our household or support bubble 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 Chaplaincies to Her Majesty's Forces in our diocese: their chaplaincy teams and those communities they serve. We pray for peace in our world and that our armed forces may always seek to preserve and protect peace.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing and Guidance in the Holy Spirit for our **Ethiopian Orthodox Community** that worships each Sunday (in normal times) in the Romero Room of the Assisi Centre. We pray also the people of Ethiopia and Tigray during this time of conflict, praying for peace and for the thousands who have been displaced by the conflict.

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WORD OF GOD FOR SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 / Psalm 84 / 2 Peter 3: 8-14 / Mark 1: 1-8
Monday	Isaiah 35: 1-10 / Psalm 84 / Luke 5: 17-26
Tuesday	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 / Psalm 97 / Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12 / Luke 1: 26-38
Wednesday	Isaiah 40: 25-31 / Psalm 102 / Matthew 11: 28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41: 13-20 / Psalm 144 / Matthew 11: 11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48: 17-19 / Psalm 1 / Matthew 11: 16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-4, 9-11 / Psalm 79 / Matthew 17: 10-13

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £70.00 + Loose £00 + PayPal £570.68 + S/O's £111.05 = TOTAL: £751.73 thanks!

Food Bank donation £175.00 - many 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	First Sunday of Advent - New Liturgical Year (Year B - St Mark)
1st Dec	Parish Finance Committee meet at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
2nd Dec	Mass for the Women Martyrs of El Salvador at 6.00pm (on 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	First Reconciliation Services - 10.30am / 12noon / 2.00pm
8th Dec	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 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	2020 First Eucharist Sunday [Now confirmed as date for First Eucharist]
25th Dec	FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
	Midnight Mass begins at 10.30pm (Christmas Eve); Morning Mass at 10.00am
31st Dec	Watchnight Mass and Greeting the New Year in Christ at 10.30pm
2021	
1st Jan	Feast of Mary the Mother of God - New Year's Day - Mass at 10am
6th Jan	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation Mass at 6.30pm
10th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday
21st Jan	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.00pm

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,

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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!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL: 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. The Chaplain will not know of your presence in hospital and cannot visit a patient without the patient's prior request and permission.

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 Rehearsal for children & parents Wednesday 9th Dec 4pm
First Eucharist Sunday on December 13th at 10.00am Mass
This completes the 2020 Sacramental programmes.

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 or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :£22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00

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'***

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - FEAST OF HUMANITY'S DIGNITY

The Feasts of Mary, the Mother of Jesus always look two ways! They reflect the wonder of Jesus, they reflect the wonder of being a disciple of the Lord! The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception teaches us that from the first moment of her existence in her mother's womb, Mary was sinless. Mary yielded to her Redemption, her Redeemer from the beginning of her life. Her whole life was focused on the Father's gift to the world through her of Jesus. We are all, like Mary, made in the image and likeness of God, carrying the Divine Spirit within us. We are created for wholeness and holiness. The fundamental truth of our human nature (as we see in this Feast of Redeemed Humanity) is that we are whole and holy, filled with God, full of Divine Promise! Sin is not our nature, but Holiness is! Believe in your holiness and joyfully yield, like Mary, to the wonder of God within us Who makes us Whole and Human!

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