



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: 07718598188

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)

Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaker: Volunteers needed

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Margaret Ulloa (0117-915-0486)

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SON OF MARY, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD



Christmas Season Begins

THURSDAY:

Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST at 10.30pm

FRIDAY:

CHRISTMAS DAY

SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 10.00am

SATURDAY:

Feast of St Stephen, Deacon, First Christian Martyr

Adoration at 9.15am *Morning Prayer* at 9.45am **Mass** at 10.00am

SUNDAY:

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PARISH MASS with Baptism at 10.00am

The Word is made flesh and pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

- MONDAY:** **Feast of the Holy Innocents (Day of prayer for all child victims)**
Adoration at 8.30am **Service of Word and Communion** at 9.00am
- TUESDAY:** **Feast of St Thomas Becket, Martyred Archbishop of Canterbury**
Adoration at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm
- WEDNESDAY:** **Adoration** at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm
- THURSDAY:** **Adoration** at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am
WATCHNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm
- FRIDAY:** **FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEAR'S DAY**
Adoration at 9.30am **MASS FOR PEACE** at 10.00am
- SATURDAY:** **Feast of Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop Theologians (4th C)**
Adoration at 11.00am **Mass** at 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) after Mass and 4.30-5.00pm

Fr Richard, and Deacon Jack and Joan, and Parish Team

Want to assure you all of our Special Prayer for you and yours this Christmas.

Although we cannot celebrate the Birth of Jesus as we have done previously because of the Covid Pandemic, may your Joy be undimmed and your Hope enlarged. We wish you and those you love every Joy and Happiness this most Blessed Christmas. You are especially remembered at the Eucharist.

A Special Word of Welcome to all Visitors to our Parish this Christmas.

In particular to any friends who are not Roman Catholics ...

*We value your presence with us as we worship together Our Saviour Jesus Christ
On this Feast of Endless Love!*

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Peter and Paul, served by Fr Bill McLoughlin OSM, the Chaplaincy and community of Bath university and both communities.

CHRISTMAS DAY: [1] With amazing joy we celebrate this wondrous day of Mystery - the **Mystery of Love made Flesh**, God stooping down in the Divine Littleness of the tiny Child who carries all creation in His infant Heart. Men and women everywhere! Know your sublime dignity, that now our humanity carries the Divine, is capable of infinite love and endless life. How can we ever fear this God who comes in the vulnerable poverty of Bethlehem's Christ Child? Or ever diminish another human person whom we know is filled with Divine Presence? Forever the world at its very heart, in its utter depths, is changed! ALLELUIA!

[2] *Come and pray the New Year in with our Watchnight Mass New Year's Eve Thursday 31st December at 10.30pm.*

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**, as we contemplate God's immense trust in us, in our human family, in entrusting the human development of His Son to a family like our own! No idyllic world for the Word made Flesh - but born to an unmarried mother, a displaced family, soon to become a refugee family fleeing the oppressive terror of a corrupt and violent ruler. Then growing to maturity in a village of great poverty. From this world of poverty and suffering the Word of God is shaped!

The Word is made Flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

NEW YEAR'S DAY: [1] We celebrate on **New Year's Day**, the **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. The Council of Ephesus, 431AD, made the first solemn pronouncement of the Church's doctrine in regard to Mary - giving her the title 'Theotokos' - bearer of God. It did so less to honour Mary and more to preserve and proclaim the fundamental doctrine that Jesus was truly God and truly Human. Mary is the model disciple, God's teacher to God's People on how to be true and loving disciples of Jesus. Let 2018 be a Year of growth in Missionary Discipleship!

[2] Held by most of the Church as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**, Mass will be offered for the Peace of the World - that the terror, conflict and brutal wars of 2020 might give way to an era of Peace and Reconciliation: courage is making Peace rather War!

PRAY EACH WEEK FOR A DIFFERENT MINISTRY OR MISSION OF THE PARISH

This week, pray God's Blessing upon the mission of the **Wild Goose Café and the Spring of Hope Women's Hostel** - both part of the **Crisis Centre Ministries**. Serving the homeless and 'street poor' with hot meals most days of the week, and in Spring of Hope sheltering homeless women who are most vulnerable, one or two of our community volunteer with them and there is great co-operation between the Wild Goose and our Food Bank. This is so much part of 'God's option for the Poor' and our care for the vulnerable. Volunteers always welcome - see Richard

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £165.00 + Loose £190.00 + PayPal £249.83. + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £715.88 thanks!

Food Bank donation £520.00 **Caritas Fund** £260.00 **CAFOD** £330.00 - 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.

WORD OF GOD FOR OCTAVE AND DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Thursday	Midnight Mass	Isaiah 9: 1-7 / Ps 95 / Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2:1-14
Friday	Dawn Mass	Isaiah 62: 11-12 / Ps 96 / Titus 3: 4-7 / Luke 2: 15-20
	Day Mass	Isaiah 52: 7-10 / Ps 97 / Hebrews 1: 1-6 / John 1: 1-18
Saturday		Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59 / Ps 30 / Matthew 10: 17-22
Sunday		Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 / Psalm127 / Colossians 3: 12-21 / Luke 2: 22-40
Monday		1 John 1: 5-2: 2 / Psalm 123 / Matthew 2: 13-18
Tuesday		Colossians 1: 24-29 / Ps 22 / Luke 22: 24-30
Wednesday		1 John 2: 12-17 / Psalm 95 / Luke 2: 36-40
Thursday		1 John 2: 18-21 / Psalm 95 / John 1: 1-18
Friday		Numbers 6: 22-27 / Ps 66 / Galatians 4: 4-7 / Luke 2: 16-21
Saturday		1 John 2: 22-28 / Ps 97 / John 1: 19-28

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS For those not using Offertory envelopes, there are some 'Christmas Offering' envelopes available today for the Christmas Offerings. The Collections at Christmas and Easter are your personal offering of financial support for your parish priest, and makes up a major part of his annual 'wage'. Thank you for your generosity.

CRIB OFFERINGS As always, these are gifts that support the work of our outstanding **Diocesan Children's Society**. With their offices in Pennywell Road, they are indeed a part of our parish! Please pray for their work, give generously, and pray for more adoptive parents to come forward - **could you be such an adoptive family? Contact tel: 0845-122-0077.**

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER! As for the past few years, there will be a **New Year 'Watch Night Mass'** at **10.00pm on 31st December**, praying the New Year in. During this Year of Covid and so much grief and weariness - we need to

The Word is made flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

pray for fearful world, our war-torn world, for our polluted Earth, for our refugee and asylum-seeking sisters and brothers - and for our own families and parish family! Much to pray about as we enter a New Year - to fill it with a New Hope and a deeper Love!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

25th Dec	FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Midnight Mass begins at 10.30pm (Christmas Eve); Morning Mass at 10.00am
27th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family - Baptismal Sunday
30th Dec	Parents pre-Baptismal Preparation Session 1 at 6.00pm (on Zoom)
31st Dec	Watchnight Mass and Greeting the New Year in Christ at 10.30pm
<u>2021</u>	
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
8th Jan	Parents pre-Baptismal Preparation Session 2 at 6.00pm (on Zoom)
10th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday
15th Jan	New Year Healing Mass at 7.00pm
19th Jan	Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
21st Jan	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.00pm
28th Jan	Borderlands Trustees Meeting

Christmas Thanks

- + *to all who have worked so hard throughout the year preparing the Church*
- + *to all who clean and decorate with flowers the Church each week*
- + *to all working in the sacristy, preparing the Crib etc*
- + *to all who help celebrate the Liturgy - choir, organists, altar servers, Readers, Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, Welcomers and liturgy planners*
- + *to all who give time to pray and who serve our community all year round*
- + *to all who serve the many Ministries and Missions of our parish family*
- + *to all who serve in or support the Parish Food Bank ('St Nicholas Bread')*
- + *to all who enable the parish office to do so much pastoral care*
- + *to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ in this wonderful community!*

To express my gratitude, I have bought you all as a Christmas Gift, a variety of CAFOD World Gifts.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES - CALLING ALL PARENTS! Because of the great uncertainty as to Government Restrictions, we are waiting to mid January before deciding how to proceed with 2021 Sacramental Programmes.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR PARENTS I am so glad we are able to celebrate Baptism once more. All those parents whose children we were not able to baptise this year, please come forward now and contact Eustace Tameh to join the preparation sessions on:

Wednesday 30th Dec 2020 at 6.00pm (via Zoom) - Session ONE and

Friday 8th Jan 2021 at 6.00pm (via Zoom) - Session TWO

These sessions are for those parents wishing to celebrate their child's baptism on either:

Baptismal Sundays: 10th January and 14th February at 10am Mass

NEW YEAR HEALING MASS - FRIDAY 8th JANUARY Start the New Year by seeking the healing of Christ for yourself and our world at this Healing Mass on Friday January 8th at 7.00pm at St Nicks. A New Year marks a New Beginning - let us allow Jesus, Word and Wisdom made Flesh, to be our Emmanuel God and Universal Brother, touching our wounds so that we do not take our or the world's pain, anger and hurt into this New Year. This year we need even more than ever to pray Healing for our world as we walk the road of recovery from the Covid Pandemic, bring a new beginning for our global human community, and pray healing for our planet.

The Word is made Flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

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.

JOURNEY OF FAITH We will next meet on **Tuesday 29th December at 4.30pm on Zoom** to explore our Catholic Christian Faith. Why not join us and deepen your faith- just contact Richard with your email address so you can be sent the Zoom Meeting 'Invitation' .

The Word is made Flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!