



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)

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 0117-904-0479

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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) 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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - UNITY SUNDAY



No 'Solo-Flyers' in the Kingdom of God!

Hardly had he emerged from the 40 days of struggle and temptation (to abuse His power!) than Jesus gathers friends and companions to share the work. The Chosen One would not attempt to do the work of the Kingdom alone.

Divine Power is only ever love, and that means being together, working alongside. The call to come to Jesus is the call to come together with sisters and brothers; to call to serve Jesus is the call to work together in unity with other Christians, with all people of Good Will, with the world - trying to struggle for peace and a foundation of justice.

As disciples of Jesus who answer His call we never stand alone - we are always part of the community of Christ, sharing the Mission to and Service of the World with each other. If Jesus knew he had to work in friendship with others - then so should we - always!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS for Christian Unity at 10.00am (live-streamed: [Parish Website](http://www.tolentino.org.uk))

MONDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Service of Word & Communion at 6.30pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Apostle*
Prayer and Reflection at 11.30am (live-streamed on Face Book)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of Ss Timothy & Titus, first named bishops, disciples of St Paul*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Thomas Aquinas, Dominican priest & Theologian (1225-1274)*
Funeral Mass for Claudius Anthony Eugene at 11.00am (family & guests only)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (live-streamed: [Parish Website](http://www.tolentino.org.uk))

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FRIDAY: *Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Face Book)*
Mass for St Brendan's 6th Form College at 12.15pm (live-streamed on Face Book)
Adoration at 6.00pm **Mass at 6.30pm**

SATURDAY: *Adoration at 11.00am* **Mass at 12.00 noon**
Evening Prayer & Adoration at 6.00pm (live-streamed - Parish Face Book)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: *by appointment only*

TODAY [1] With the **Third Sunday of the Year** we continue to celebrate He who calls us to a life of service, to a life filled with love, both gentle and dynamic, both forgiving and challenging - a New Life building a New World. He calls us to a New Community, rooted in our love for Him and shining with Light for the World - a Church that will seek always and everywhere to be a Sacrament of God's limitless loving! What will we leave behind in order to live such a life, build such a world and form such a Church?

[2] This Sunday is part of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** and the 10am Mass will be a **Mass for the Unity of the Church in Mission to the World**.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Fourth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate Jesus, the Saviour, who challenges every form of evil; Jesus the Liberator who hears the cries of pain and sets us free! Our mission might not be to cast out evil spirits, but it certainly is to eradicate the evils of corruption, lies, 'fake news', violence, slavery, human trafficking, and so much more. We share the same anointing of the Spirit as Jesus - given the same Mission as Jesus: will we have the same courage and faith to challenge everything that enslaves and imprisons our sisters and brothers today - as Jesus did in His day?

[2] This is also **Racial Justice Sunday** - and the Black Lives Matter movement challenged us all, especially we who belong to a global, 'universal' Church, to eradicate the evil of every form of racism and discrimination (including negative tribalism). We must begin with our own hearts and minds, and then look to our own practices as a Church, otherwise our confronting of society and government has no authenticity.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THIS LOCKDOWN

Gratefully we can continue to come to Mass during this current National Lockdown: **BUT** we must observe the necessary restrictions: People are to attend Mass only in their household or support bubble groups and **must not socialise/interact with people from outside of their household/support bubble inside or outside of the church**. Please note that by current Covid Laws passed by Parliament, a 'bubble' is one household and one other individual (either to support or who is supporting with childcare etc). If we do not observe these rules then we can be closed down for public worship! Your Priest can be fined up to £15,000!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of our Cathedral Church of Ss Pater and Paul, served by Canon Bosco McDonald, Fr Cavan McElligott, Deacons Kevin Moloney, James Patrick, Paul Brandon, Parish Administrator Mary Manners, other cathedral staff and all the community. We pray for the Cathedral's particular ministry to the whole diocese and to our City of Bristol.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for the **Ministry of our wonderful Altar Servers** who week by week serve us all in the Liturgy and the worship of God. During Covid we can only have limited involvement of servers, sadly, and we have not been able to train others who wish to serve in this way. This will in time change, so we encourage our children to think about this special ministry that they can offer to God and our community. Please Richard or Mary to volunteer - training will be available as soon as Covid restrictions permit.

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WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10, / Psalm 24 / 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 / Mark 1: 14-20
Monday	Hebrews 9: 15, 24-28 / Psalm 97 / Mark 3: 22-30
Tuesday	Acts of the Apostles 22: 3-16 / Psalm 116 / Mark 16: 15-18
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1: 1-8 / Titus 1: 1-5 / Psalm 95 / Mark 3: 31-35
Thursday	Hebrews 10: 19-25 / Ps 23 / Mark 4: 21-25
Friday	Hebrews 10: 32-39 / Psalm 36 / Mark 4: 35-41
Saturday	Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19 / Responsorial Luke 1 / Mark 4: 35-41

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £62.98 + Loose £67.07 + PayPal £343.65 + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £584.75 thanks!

Pax Christi (Catholic International Peace Organisation) £60.00 - 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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

27th Jan	Diocesan Safeguarding meeting (on Teams)
28th Jan	Borderlands Trustees Meeting (on Zoom)
2nd Feb	Feast of Candlemas (Presentation of the Lord in the Temple)
3rd Feb	Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting (on Teams)
7th Feb	New Monthly Signed Mass for the Deaf live-streamed at 10am Mass
9th Feb	Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron of enslaved and trafficked people
11th Feb	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick (Healing Mass)
14th Feb	Baptismal Sunday
17th Feb	ASH-WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS
21st Feb	Mass with LGBTQ community at 3.00pm - all welcome
4th April	EASTER SUNDAY - Baptismal Sunday

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 PROGRAMMES - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE [1] **First**

Eucharist and First Reconciliation Programmes: In the light of the current Lockdown and the dangers associated with this New Variant Covid 19, it has been decided to postpone Preparation until we can safely gather the children together around the table in the Assisi Centre which hopefully might be after half-term (mid to late February). It will be too difficult to commence the programme on Zoom. If the restrictions still prohibit meeting together after February we will reconsider this decision.

[2] **Young Peoples Journey of Faith (16-19+), preparing for Baptism and/or Confirmation:** we have made a good start with this programme on Zoom last Friday and will continue to meet on Zoom each Friday at 5.00pm. If there are other young people in this age group (whether or not they have been confirmed) who would like to join in, you will be very welcome - let Richard have your email address.

[3] **Confirmation Programme for young people 13-15+** This would need to be a separate group and at the moment we have only 2 youngsters of that age. Unless significantly more young people of this age apply, we will not commence the Programme until late 2021/early 2022. To apply, please contact Richard or Mary.

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ADULT JOURNEY OF FAITH GROUP

In November we began our 2020/2021 Journey of faith group, using Zoom. We are working with some who had originally contacted St Mary-on-the-Quay who could no longer support such a group, so unusually we have not met most of our JoF group at church. But I am glad to report that the group is now progressing well and its numbers are growing. Meeting on Tuesdays 4.30-5.45pm, currently we have about ten people in the group, including two parishioners who wish to deepen their understanding of the Faith through participating in the 'course'. It is led by Richard, Mary and Margaret, is as interactive as possible and thoroughly Bible based. If anyone wishes to join us, let Richard have your email address so we can send a Zoom 'invitation'.

POPE FRANCIS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Pope Francis stated the following last November: *'Now is the time to affirm not only the immorality of the use of nuclear weapons, but the immorality of their possession... genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian effects of any employment of nuclear devices and the risk of accidental detonation as a result of any kind of error, the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. They exist in the service of a mentality of fear.'*

CHURCH CLEANING - FRIDAY MORNINGS

Thank you to those who have been serving the parish in this way each Friday morning from about 10.00am onwards. **Some have found work so we need more volunteers who can commit once or twice a month to come.** Please Contact Andrew (07519991066) who is co-ordinating this ministry.

POST-PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

It is clear that so many are struggling with physical and emotional exhaustion because of the Lockdown and especially serving the sick and vulnerable during this Public Health Crisis. Enforced isolation has worsened the mental health of so many people. How can we respond as a Healing community to this situation? how can we develop our parish as 'God's Field Hospital', creating safe spaces for people to recover their inner well-being and self-confidence? Can our parish's mental health workers advise?

CLIFTON DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

Sign-up for this useful round-up of news, views, events and other information from around our diocese. It is easy to do, just go to our website www.cliftondiocese.com, click on the newsletter icon and register your email address.

WHAT IS THE COVENANT WITH THE POOR?

In preparation for the great Millennium of year 2000 the Bishops of England and Wales asked every parish to draw up and make a 'Covenant with the Poor'. As part of our parish's Covenant we pledged to pray regularly for Justice & Peace, to serve the homeless and poor who come in increasing numbers to our extensive Food Bank and the Wild Goose Café and to encourage parishioners to volunteer time and energy to work in the Food Bank and the Wild Goose Café; and also to give non-perishable food (especially rice, pasta, tinned fruit and tomatoes, tinned fish and meat etc) and/or money (in special envelopes) to be used for the poor. This food and money goes to support our ministry among the poor of our area. During Lockdown this has greatly expanded and very many people in Bristol are supporting us, in addition to our parishioners. We also founded and developed our Borderlands Charity ('from exclusion to belonging') to serve our asylum & refugee community that has remained serving throughout the periods of Lockdown. In normal times, the Offertory Procession at Mass regularly sees gifts to be shared with the poor and vulnerable, carried to the Altar (restoring the ancient meaning of the Offertory Procession). So the Covenant with the Poor that we renew solemnly at each Patronal Feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino (early September) has continued to grow and develop and as such has shaped the life, mission and witness of our parish community. The development of the ministry of the Parish Office has enabled us to develop our 'Option for the Poor' in obedience to the Gospel. Let us praise God for such rich grace and love poured out upon our community, and through our community to many in their need.

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