



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 CHRISTMAS



WORD MADE FLESH - IN JESUS AND IN ME!

Words are cheap in our world - tweeted and texted with little thought, spoken endlessly, written in oceans, ringing in our ears on phones and streamed songs! How many of our words create and heal and how many wound and abuse? How many build up and affirm - how many pull down and diminish?

Yet when God speaks, God gives us everything: our lives, our planet, our Universe - all flow from the Creative Word of Love that God speaks: so creative that in Jesus the Word is made Flesh and pitches tent among us. In Jesus, God's Word always creates and heals, always builds up and affirms - even and perhaps especially God's challenging Word. We are reborn to a New Life in this Word made Flesh, so we are called to be creative and healing, affirming and building a new world - the New Heaven and the new Earth. Will we speak Liberating Truth in love this 2021? Will we allow the Word to be made Flesh in us? Will we use the Divine Gift of speech to create communion, solidarity, peace?

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<u>SUNDAY:</u>	PARISH MASS at 10.00am (live-steamed: <u>Parish Website</u>)
<u>MONDAY:</u>	<i>Adoration</i> at 6.00pm Service of Word and Communion at 6.30pm
<u>TUESDAY:</u>	<i>Adoration</i> at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	<u>FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</u> <i>Prayer and Reflection</i> at 10.30am (<i>live-streamed on Face Book</i>) <i>Adoration</i> at 5.45-6.20pm Mass at 6.30pm (live-steamed: <u>Parish Website</u>)
<u>THURSDAY:</u>	<i>Adoration</i> at 9.00am Mass at 9.30am
<u>FRIDAY:</u>	<i>Adoration</i> at 6.30pm NEW YEAR HEALING MASS at 7.00pm (live-steamed: <u>Parish Website</u>)
<u>SATURDAY:</u>	<i>Adoration</i> at 11.00am Mass at 12.00 noon <i>Evening Prayer & Adoration</i> at 6.00pm (<i>live-streamed only - Parish Face Book</i>) <u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u> after Mass & 4.30-5.00pm

TODAY [1] With this **Second Sunday of Christmas** we continue our joyful celebration of the Word made Flesh in Jesus Christ - He who is the Wisdom of God 'pitching tent among us'. God is a tent-dweller, journeys with humanity, accompanies us on our Pilgrim Journey, guiding like the star that led the Wise Ones to discover Wisdom in the infant of Bethlehem. This is our Emmanuel, our God with us, walking our journey, suffering our wounds, guiding our steps, enlarging our hearts! That Divine Wisdom is the foolishness of unlimited Love!

WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY - EPIPHANY! A FEAST OF GLORY MANIFESTED!

Seekers after wisdom have travelled far, and bring with them the hopes of the Nations, the gifts of the Peoples, the riches of Learning - and lay them before this vulnerable little child trapped in poverty and soon to be a refugee! These strong men of intellect who gaze upon the stars and research the wisdom of ages in their books: now they bend low, humbled and humbling in the generosity of their spirits and the humility of their minds - bending the knee to the child and His young mother and labourer father.

And in the poverty of the Bethlehem home they touch the quiet and hidden glory of Love made Flesh, of God in human skin, of the inter-twinning of the Divine and Human stories forever - for all eternity. They have found Wisdom - or rather Wisdom made Flesh has found them! drawing them to the strange Glory of this God-touched Humanity. Forever we will walk as wise seekers and lovers! Then the Glory can be quietly and gently manifest in us!

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The Christmas Season draws to a close with the celebration of **The Baptism of the Lord** - the emergence of Jesus from his hidden life of growing, maturing, working as a labourer with Joseph - a life of listening and share the lives, hopes, agonies of the poor and dispossessed of our world. And now, summoned by the Father, He brings Himself as an offering of Service to our world, to discover He is the Beloved Son in whom the Father is well pleased - filled with the Holy Spirit - ready to be the Saviour-Servant to all.

[2] We have the joy of **celebrating Baptism** on this Feast of all our baptisms!

HAPPY NEW YEAR A New Year is a time for reflection upon the past, and commitment to the future. Our Faith is a faith in the future - the future God and ourselves will forge together for our own lives and for the world. Our Faith is a faith in God's New Beginnings, who always redeems and heals the mistakes and tragedies of the past and launches us confidently upon the paths of the future. Our Faith is faith in a God who walks with us through dark threatening valleys and light-filled joyous mountain tops - and helps us see the creativi-

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ty and beauty of both! I wish you every blessing this new Year - let us together make it a Year of Mission, a Year of Contemplation, a Year of Friendship with our Emmanuel, our God who walks always at our side in our hearts. .

COVID REGULATIONS FOR CHURCHES IN TIER 3 (VERY HIGH ALERT)

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 today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath and St Joseph, Peasedown St John, served by Fr Malcolm Smeaton, Parish Administrator Sara Samson and both communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing and Guidance in the Holy Spirit for the **work of our Charity, Borderlands ('from exclusion to BELONGING')**. We pray for staff, volunteers and Trustees - but most all for all our members who bring their stories and journeys, their pain and hope to us. Borderlands is an essential part of our Mission to be Good News to the Poor, to be a tent of welcome and safety on their journey to freedom and new life. We thank God that he has entrusted our parish with this mission of hope and healing - where the 'stranger' isn't stranger no longer!

WORD OF GOD FOR SECOND WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday	Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12/ Psalm 147 / Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-128 / John 1: 1-18
Monday	1 John 3:7-10 / Psalm 97 / John 1: 35-42
Tuesday	1 John 3: 11-21 / Psalm 99 / John 1: 43-51
Wednesday	Isaiah 60: 1-6 / Psalm 71 / Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 / Matthew 2: 1-12
Thursday	1 John 3: 22-4: 6 / Ps 2 / Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25
Friday	1 John 4: 7-10 / Psalm 71 / Mark 6: 34-44
Saturday	1 John 4: 11-18 / Psalm 71 / Mark 6: 45-52

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

25/12/2020 Env £12.50 + Loose £423.50 + PayPal £??? = TOTAL: £436.00 thanks!

27/12/2020 Env £00 + Loose £130.00 + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £241.05 thanks!

Food Bank donation £2130.00 Christmas Vouchers £220.00 - many thanks!

Thank you to all who were able to give your Christmas Offering, contributing to Fr Richard's 'stipend' - with no special envelopes, please place your gift in envelope 'Christmas Offering' *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. Special thanks to all who contributed to giving Christmas Vouchers to the poorest families through our Food Bank - St Patrick's and the Anglican St Nicks helped greatly -m we gave £3600 worth of vouchers over Christmas and New Year!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

6th Jan	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation Mass at 6.30pm
7th Jan	Meeting with Mayor Marvin on Asylum Destitution (on Zoom)
8th Jan	New Year Healing Mass at 7.00pm
8th Jan	Parents pre-Baptismal Preparation Session 2 at 6.00pm (on Zoom)
10th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday

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17th Jan	Mass with LBTQ community at 3.00pm - all welcome
19th Jan	Parish Finance Committee at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
21st Jan	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.00pm (on Zoom)
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)
14th Feb	Baptismal Sunday
17th Feb	ASH-WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS
21st Feb	Mass with LBTQ community at 3.00pm - all welcome

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.

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:

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.

EMERGENCY CARE ASSISTANT WITH THE AMBULANCE SERVICE - VACANCIES

Members of the congregation who are caring, calm under pressure, like variety and enjoy working with people, should consider working as an Emergency Care Assistant for South Western Ambulance Service. Working in the ambulance service is a job like no other. You will be attending cases of accident and sudden illness as well as mental health and social needs, no shift is ever the same. You will be trained to drive on blue lights and to assist the paramedic delivering high quality clinical care. You will be part of a great team of caring professionals. Salary is NHS band 3; £19,737 plus unsocial hours making it around 23-26K per year. After 2 years ECA's can apply to train as paramedics completing after 3 years on NHS band 6.

Entry requirements are 4 GCSE's A-C or a functional skills certificate, and a full driving licence including category C1 (which is included on older licenses or requires a short driving course to obtain). Previous experience in a clinical or caring role is desirable but not essential. If you already work in a care like a care worker or healthcare assistant, or if you want a job that helps others and is exciting and rewarding this could be a great job for you. To know more google ambulance eca. They are seeking to recruit people of more ethnic diversity (BAME) into the service. For more info contact Richard who can put you in touch with the husband of a parishioner who works in the service.

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