



St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE

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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)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



No-one will touch me - except Jesus!

The Leper is the archetype of those we reject and shun because of our fears. Their disease misunderstood to do this day, in Jesus time they had to be separated even from their families. The ultimate outcast they could not approach anyone but another leper - and were cursed and separated from God and, Temple and Synagogue!

But of course the Word made flesh wants to touch poor diseased flesh of humanity to heal and liberate. Of course the Son of God, who came as our brother to gather us all in unity into the Father's heart, wants to end the crippling isolation of this son of God, this brother, and bring him back into community, so ending his days of being 'cast out'.

So much so that Jesus takes his place and becomes the ultimate outcast - both in the desert and on the Cross!

SUNDAY: MASS with Baptisms at 10am (live-steamed: Parish Website)

MONDAY: Adoration at 5.30pm Service of Word & Communion at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

WEDNESDAY: ASH-WEDNESDAY - DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Prayer and Reflection at 11.30am (live-streamed on Face Book)

**Adoration at 6.00pm Mass with Distribution of Ashes at 6.30pm
(live-steamed: Parish Website)**

**'If you want to, you can cure me', said the man with leprosy.
'Of course I want to!' said Jesus - and reached out and touched him!**

THURSDAY: *Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm*

FRIDAY: *Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am (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 **Sixth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate Jesus who liberates us for human wholeness, for He is our redeemer, our healer, our reconciler. It is not only physical sickness that paralyses us! The paralysed man in today's Gospel represents also the deeper paralysis of sinfulness - wrong priorities, self-centredness, the pursuit of pleasure over the call to service and care! The structures of injustice, inequality and discrimination also paralyse our society more effectively than any Covid pandemic. Jesus forgives to the depth of our being and liberates us to move in the direction of the Kingdom of Justice, love and peace! Jesus heals the whole person, body, mind and spirit - as His Church, have we the love and faith to do the same? In the power of His Spirit, do we 'redeem, heal and reconcile'?

[2] We celebrate the **Sacrament of our Liberation into a New Life - Baptism**. Let us pray for the families whose children are being baptised, that they and their children may experience the love of God bringing them to 'new birth' each day of their lives.

[3] This is a **Day of Prayer for the Unemployed** whose number are tragically increasing at an alarming rate, because of the economic effects of Covid and profound changes in the way we shop (on-line shopping leading to the closure of major retail chains). We need also to pray and campaign against the denial of the right to work for our asylum-seeking sisters and brothers - an inhuman rule that denies them dignity and keeps them in extreme poverty!

NEXT SUNDAY [1] We begin our Journey of Renewal and Repentance on Ash-Wednesday so we celebrate the **First Sunday of Lent**. We join Jesus in that wilderness period of preparation and struggle with the human temptation to use power (even sacred power) for self rather than for others. Unlike the First Adam, Jesus the Second Adam is victorious over these temptations, no matter how strong they were. Let us be encouraged in our struggles with temptation and addiction by the example of Jesus being tempted like us all in things, but winning the struggle to overcome them and remain faithful to the God who gifts Him.

[2] **Mass with the LGBT+ community and friends at 3.00pm (live-streamed on Parish Website)** - all are very welcome.

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 St Bonaventure, Bishopston, served by Fr Tom Smith, Parish Administrator Mrs Joan Apperley, and all the community.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for the **Ministry of Choir and Music**. Led by Caroline Price, our choir in normal times comes together on each Saturday evening about 4.30pm in order to practice for Mass

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and sometimes for other events. They sing in different languages most Sundays, expressing our parish's cultural diversity in our Liturgy and worship. Drumming and the use of other cultural instruments are encouraged. Although unable at this time to sing together at Mass, we want to re-launch the Choir as soon as singing is permitted. How can we prepare for this? We also really want to recruit more members of the choir - we have so many good singers and musicians in our congregation. Do contact Caroline or Richard to volunteer.

WORD OF GOD FOR SIXTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday	Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46 / Psalm 31 / 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1 / Mark 1: 40-45
Monday	Genesis 4: 1-15, 25 / Psalm 49 / Mark 8: 11-13
Tuesday	Genesis 6: 5-8, 7: 1-5, 10 / Psalm 28 / Mark 8: 14-21
Wednesday	Joel 2: 12-18 / Psalm 50 / 2 Corinthians 5: 20-6: 2 / Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 / Ps 1 / Luke 9: 22-25
Friday	Isaiah 58: 1-9 / Psalm 50 / Matthew 9: 14-125
Saturday	Isaiah 58: 9-14 / Psalm 85 / Luke 5: 27-32

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £387.06 + Loose £50.26 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £548.37 thanks!

CAFOD £0 Caritas £7.68 *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

11th Feb	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick (Healing Mass)
14th Feb	Baptismal Sunday
16th Feb	Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (via Zoom)
17th Feb	ASH-WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS
21st Feb	Mass with LBTQ community at 3.00pm - all welcome
25th Feb	Borderlands Trustees meeting (via Zoom)
3rd March	Diocesan Safeguarding meeting 1.00pm (via Teams)
4th March	Parish Pastoral Council - Vision Meeting (via Zoom)
14th March	Mothering Sunday
17th March	Ashley Churches Together Serving (ACTS) meeting (via Zoom)
24th March	Feast of St Oscar Romero
25th March	Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord
28th March	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS
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.

TALKING AND LISTENING GROUP - the group runs every Tuesday from 2pm to 3.30pm and offers a safe place for people to come and talk about the issues which are effecting them and listen to others. The group supports those with low mood, lack of self-esteem and anxiety as well as those struggling with, for example, bereavement, isolation, guilt, serious illness and relationship issues. One to one sessions over the phone or social media are available. Confidentiality is assured. For more information contact Robert on 07767 706 163 or robertvh@hotmail.co.uk. Or, just come along.

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POST-PANDEMIC CHALLENGES It is clear that so many are struggling with physical and emotional exhaustion because of the Lockdown and especially those 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?

FORCED ABORTION FOR UYGHUR MUSLIM WOMEN IN CHINA - PROTEST!

Ask your MP to support an amendment to help stop forced abortion in Xinjiang, China
There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions. Lord Alton is currently championing an amendment to the Trade Bill which would give British courts a role in determining whether a country is committing genocide. This would help with putting international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forcing abortions on the Uyghur Muslim community along with the wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against this community. If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website which can be accessed by visiting the link below:
<https://genocideresponse.org/>

PREPARING FOR LENT DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC In many ways it has felt like one long Lent since Ash-Wednesday 2020 - we have been deprived of so much - social contact, parties, shopping, holidays, often attending Mass. We have needed to adjust to all sorts of new measures and our world has become small. It has been a desert or wilderness time for our whole world. Many have had no work and others (like Health workers and carers and other key workers) have been overworked! Perhaps this Lent is a call to reflect upon the meaning of this past year, to embrace lovingly and caringly the deprivations of the past 12 months and the future unspecified months. Lent is a call to serve the common good of our nation and all nations; to care for our Common Home, the Earth and all its people and creatures. This Lent we may have little to give up as so much has been taken away - but perhaps we have many things to do positively to build a new kind of (and ‘*kinder*’) world.

WHY LENT? We enter this privileged time of personal and community renewal which we call Lent. We join with Christ Jesus’ 40 Days in the desert to journey with Him through the desert of silence and prayer, of deprivation and hunger, of thirst and yearning. Why? To grow to become more like Jesus in generosity of spirit, openness of heart, deeper communion with God, a readiness to give of ourselves to the Mission of the Gospel. These 40 Days express our communion with all catechumens of the Church journeying to the great moment of Baptism (or reception into Full Communion with the Church); these 40 Days are our journey to the renewal of our Baptism at Easter when we say again our ‘YES’ to being plunged into the Mystery of Christ and become truly Christ People, filled with His Spirit and knowing ourselves to be ‘Beloved of the Father’. Let us embrace these most precious days of renewal.

THE TRUE FAST - ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS

“Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen.”

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