



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: 0117-904-0479

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) 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)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



In the Wild Place Jesus challenges evil

The Spirit 'drives' Jesus into the wild places - compelled with urgency to win the victory of truth over lies, generosity over selfishness, service over domination, humility over manipulation, holiness and love over evil and death.

No escapism here! No restful solitude, just the pain and struggle of a lone battle with the inner demons of power and self-delusion. Sometimes we have to battle alone no matter how many friends try to support us.

Where is our 'wild place'? The place where we encounter God in our aloneness and challenge the illusions of God that tempt us to live for self rather than in otherness. The spiritual temptations are the most subtle and most devastating, when we make the 'things of God' or religion into our false God. That is the perversion of faith for it becomes unhinged from humanity, the dwelling place of God. Real faith is never an escape, but a struggle!

SUNDAY: SERVICE OF WORD & COMMUNION at 10am (live-streamed: [Parish Website](http://www.tolentino.org.uk))

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

TUESDAY: *Feast of the Chair of St Peter (Day of Prayer for the mission of Pope Francis)*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Face Book)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (live-streamed: [Parish Website](http://www.tolentino.org.uk))

THURSDAY: Funeral Mass for Willie Coleman RIP at 10.00am (invited guests only)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

***'The time has come and the Kingdom of God is close at hand ...
Repent, and believe the Good News!'***

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

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.00am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm (live-streamed - [Parish Website](#))
Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment only

TODAY [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 unfortunately cancelled this month only**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Second Sunday of Lent** we celebrate the Glory of God shining through the humanity of Jesus, as the three apostles saw on the Mountain of the Transfiguration. His Transfiguration reveals the hidden glory of God that is embedded in every human person and which we are to show forth to the world by the splendour of our loving, the perseverance of our faithfulness and the determination of our hope - our gifts to the world!

[2] **Second Collection for CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY** in solidarity with the poorest of the world. Please support CAFOD's work by your prayer and giving - each week of Lent if possible. In Lent we are especially called upon to place the poor in the centre of our love, giving and attention. And that is what CAFOD, Borderlands, and our Food Bank does!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Holy Cross, Bedminster, served by Fr Rupert Allen, and all the community. Please pray for this community with all its current challenges.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for the **Ministry of our Catechists**. Co-ordinated by Mary Hopper, our catechists prepare children and their families for baptism, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation; prepare our young people for Confirmation. Some are also involved in our Journey of Faith Groups and our Scripture Sharing Group. This is an essential ministry of our parish community that (with our Children's Liturgy of the Word group) really need new volunteers to come forward to help - training and support available. Contact Mary or Richard to volunteer.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF LENT

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday | Genesis 9: 8-15 / Psalm 24 / 1 Peter 3: 18-22 / Mark 1: 12-15 |
| Monday | Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18 / Psalm 18 / Matthew 25: 31-46 |
| Tuesday | 1 Peter 5: 1-4 / Psalm 22 / Matthew 16: 13-19 |
| Wednesday | Jonah 3: 1-10 / Psalm 50 / Luke 11: 29-32 |
| Thursday | Esther 4: 17 / Ps 137 / Matthew 7: 7-12 |
| Friday | Ezekiel 18: 21-28 / Psalm 129 / Matthew 5: 20-26 |
| Saturday | Deuteronomy 26: 16-19 / Psalm 85 / Matthew 5: 43-48 |

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £90.00 + Loose £60 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £261.05 thanks!

CAFOD £0 **Caritas** £250.00 **Flowers** £5.00 *I wish also to thank all who give great and small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and 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.

***'The time has come and the Kingdom of God is close at hand ...
 Repent, and believe the Good News!'***

DATES FOR THE DIARY

| | |
|------------|--|
| 23rd Feb | Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (via Zoom) |
| 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 affecting 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.

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?

SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP I am delighted that our Scripture Sharing Group has been re-launched (on-line via Zoom) and I want to encourage many more people to take part in this group, especially during Lent, so that we can all deepen our love for and understanding of the Sacred Scriptures. Each week the group shares reflections, questions, insights on the Scripture Readings used at Mass on the following Sunday. It would be ideal for all Lay Readers and Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, as well as Children's Liturgy leaders. It is an excellent way of supporting one another and sharing together and deepening our faith, rooted in the Bible. This week it will be on Thursday at 8.00pm, exploring the Mass Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent. If you wish to take part please John Flannery (email: j.flannery@bt-internet.com) or Richard (email: stnicks.bristol@blueyonder.co.uk) for the Zoom link.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES [1] ***The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing."***

In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who

***'The time has come and the Kingdom of God is close at hand ...
Repent, and believe the Good News!'***

are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. Why not invite a friend to find out more about what we can all do to help?

When? Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

How to join? To register please click [HERE](#) or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global
Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!” (Laudato Si', 217, 180)



**GLOBAL CATHOLIC
CLIMATE MOVEMENT**

[2] Richard is offering a **Lenten Series of Talks** on the Parish Face Book Page - please see weekly bulletin for day and time.

[3] The **Diocesan Newsletter** carries a weekly video reflection on the theme **‘Dare to Dream’** - a quote from Pope Francis - please see the Diocesan Newsletter (email: pressandmedia@cliftondiocese.com)

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/>

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

***‘The time has come and the Kingdom of God is close at hand ...
Repent, and believe the Good News!’***