



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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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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 'LAETARE/REJOICING' SUNDAY



JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We journey to the Pool of Baptism throughout Lent - journey to cleansing waters, to healing waters, to life-giving waters, to waters that bring us 'enlightenment'. Many of the Churches of Eastern Tradition still call Baptism 'the Enlightenment'. That is why the baptised person is given a baptismal candle lit from the Easter Candle of the Resurrection Light! For by living deeply our Baptism ('living deeply our new life') we are bearers of Jesus' light into a world darkened by inhumanity, brutality, war and poverty.

Lent is a journey into the Light of Easter: and this Light of the Gospel Light of the Spirit, Light of Christ will challenge all the dark places that lurk in our hearts. To be 'enlightened' is to be challenged to change, to be honest, to allow self-reality to dawn: for only the 'truth sets us free'. Light will always convert us not only into more self-awareness and self-honesty, the only path to holiness, but also will convert us into more 'otherness': our lives will become a gift to others, a light that will guide another to the Waters of New Life and Hope of Freedom. Let us too go to the Pool this Easter.

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10am (live-streamed: [Parish Website](http://www.tolentino.org.uk))

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

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Patrick, bishop, Patron of Ireland (390-461)*
Prayer and Reflection at 10.30am (live-streamed on Face Book)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

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FRIDAY: **FEAST OF ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY (Year of St Joseph)**
Adoration at 6.00pm **Mass at 6.30pm (live-streamed: Parish Website)**
Mass at St Brendan's Sixth Form College at 12.15pm

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] On the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** (also called 'Laetare' or 'Rejoicing' Sunday), we celebrate Jesus the Light who enlightens his people, removing our blindness to the wonder and beauty of God and of each other. Baptism bring us into the Light so that we can begin see with God's eyes, live with God's Life and love with God's Heart that the Spirit creates in us. During Lent we seek to recognise our blindness and welcome the Light into all our inner darkness as we prepare for the Renewal of Easter commitment to live our baptism - to walk as 'Children of the Light' and bring the Light of God's loving to our world. That Light that overcomes all darkness is the source of our joy!

[2] **Mothers Sunday** is also celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This past week also saw International Women's Day - so we honour both the gift of our mothers (both living and deceased) and the struggles of women around the world for equality, freedom and justice. Some of the women of our parish family will help us celebrate both motherhood and womanhood during our Mass of this Rejoicing Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fifth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. In the calling Lazarus back into life we glimpse something of the wonder of the Christ's Resurrection. He calls our name also so that we will leave the dark tombs of sinfulness - both personal and structural - so that we, in the power of His 'indestructible life', will unbind our world from poverty and discrimination, war and violence and set free our sisters and brothers from the dehumanisation that traps them in dark tombs of oppression.

[2] We celebrate the **Rite of Child Catechumen** with children and families preparing for Baptism at Easter - please pray for them.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for our parish of St Nicks, and the our neighbours, St Joseph, Fishponds and St Patrick, Redfield, served by Fr Richard McKay and the Pastoral Team, Fr Paul Vettikattu CST, Canon Gregory Grant, Deacons Denis Deasey and Rob Easton, Parish Administrators Robert von Hawrylak (& Team), Mary Ainger, Tracy McNama, Amelia Dunford and all the communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for the **Parish Live-streaming Team**. Co-ordinated by Debo a small group enable the live-streaming of Mass, Stations and other services (including weddings and funerals) so that those not able to come physically to the church can participate in our worship. This new ministry has assumed great importance with between 400 to 1000 people join us Sunday by Sunday. I have received many messages thanking us for doing this and saying how much they value it, especially during Covid Lockdown. Also a significant number join us around the world! If you wish to help with this (more volunteers would be very helpful), please contact Debo (07949271374).

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £198.00 + Loose £74.61 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £383.66 thanks!

CAFOD £135.00 Caritas £22.39 *I wish 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!*

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WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Sunday	1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 / Psalm 22 / Ephesians 5: 8-14 / John 9: 1-41
Monday	Isaiah 65: 17-21 / Psalm 29 / John 4: 43-54
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12 / Psalm 45 / John 5: 1-3, 5-16
Wednesday	Jeremiah 1: 4-9 / Psalm 116 / Luke 10: 1-3, 5-16
Thursday	Exodus 32: 7-14 / Ps 105 / John 5: 31-47
Friday	2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16 / Psalm 88 / Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22 / Luke 2: 41-51
Saturday	Jeremiah 11: 18-20 / Psalm 7 / John 7: 40-52

DATES FOR THE DIARY

14th March	Mothering Sunday
17th March	Ashley Churches Together Serving (ACTS) meeting (via Zoom)
21st March	Mass with the LGBTQ+ community at 3.00pm - all welcome!
22nd March	Refurbishment of Assisi Centre begins
24th March	Feast of St Oscar Romero - Special Mass at 6.30pm
24th March	Borderlands Trustees meet (on Zoom)
25th March	Meeting of Parents of First Eucharist children at 4.00pm
25th March	Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord
28th March	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS
2nd April	GOOD FRIDAY (Day of Fast and Abstinence)
4th April	EASTER SUNDAY - Baptismal Sunday
6th April	Parish Finance Committee meets (on Zoom)
7th April	Diocesan Safeguarding meeting (on Teams)
8th April	Parish Pastoral Council meeting (on Zoom)
8th April	First Meeting of First Eucharist Programme for children and parents (4.30pm)

PARENTS BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSE Parents seeking the baptism of their children this Easter or on Trinity Sunday are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptism course and celebration:

BAPTISMAL SUNDAY 4th & 11 April (Easter) and 30th May (Trinity Sunday) at 10am
Preparation Sessions: Thursday 18th & Friday 26th March at 6.30pm (on Zoom)
Rite of Child Catechumen Sunday 21st March and 16th May at 10am Mass

FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAMME 2021 BEGINS Now our children have returned to teaching in school, we can begin the First Eucharist Preparation Programme for 2021. The start has been delayed because of Covid restrictions, but at last we can begin. Letters with a reply form are being distributed in the parish, the school and on the Parish Website this week. Please return the reply form to the Presbytery or the School by Monday 22nd March. There will be a first meeting for Parents who wish their child to be prepared for First Eucharist in 2021 on Thursday 25th March at 4.30pm (on Zoom), and the Programme begins for both children and parents on Thursday 8th April at 4.00pm. The First Eucharist Sunday will be on 18th July at 10am Mass.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE ASSISI CENTRE (Ground Floor) BEGINS For something like three years now we have been fund-raising and planning for the refurbishment of the ground floor of the Assisi Centre, to make it more 'fit for purpose' to help develop the expanding ministry of the Parish and our Borderlands charity. At last we can begin the work! It commences on Monday 22nd March when contractors come on site and will continue for at least 14 weeks. It will mean some disruption. The Parish office will temporarily move to the 'New Room' where normally we have the Children's liturgy of the Word (next to the main Lawfords Gate entrance); the Sacristy will move temporarily to first 'side room' off the church where the 'Reconciliation Room' (or Confessional) is sited.

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What is being done? A new entrance to the Assisi Centre (with disabled accessibility ramp) will be constructed near the Church doors; a small waiting area near the parish office and two new toilets installed; a new and larger ground floor kitchen (with the sacristy being made a little smaller); a folding dividing wall in the Romero Room to increase more flexible use for smaller groups; better IT facilities fitted (including TV screens for teaching purposes). The old doorway to the former presbytery will be blocked off.

COVID VACCINE PROPOSED AVAILABILITY AFTER MASS AT ST NICKS I have been approached by a local doctor and health centre with a view to increasing the take up of the Covid Vaccine among our BAME community. It is proposed that someone from the Health Centre will talk with us at a Sunday Mass and then arrangements will be made for a mobile vaccination Unit to come to St Nicks so that people can be vaccinated after Mass on a subsequent Sunday. I want to encourage everyone to be vaccinated both for their own (and their family's) safety and health, but also for the protection of the whole community.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH 150 years ago Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church (St Nicholas of Tolentino was regarded in this role for many centuries before). Pope Francis, to celebrate the anniversary, has appointed 2021 as **the Year of St Joseph**. Francis highlights Joseph as a role model as 'a beloved, tender father ... one who welcomes the will of God ... a creatively, courageous father, example of love ... a father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work .. a father "in the shadows" centred on Mary and Jesus ... a man of prayer.' **LET US ON FRIDAY 19TH MARCH AT 6.30PM COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH WITH MASS (also live-streamed on the Parish Website).** Highlights of Pope Francis's teaching on St Joseph (together with a prayer) can be downloaded from the parish Website (Home Page).

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.

SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP Each week the group shares reflections, questions, insights on the Scripture Readings used at Mass on the following Sunday: ideal for all of us, but especially for Lay Readers and Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, as well as Children's Liturgy leaders. The group meets on **Wednesdays at 4.30pm until Easter**. Contact John Flannery (email: j.flannery@btinternet.com) or Richard (email above) 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'. 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", to inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. 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)

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[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)

LENTEN PRAYER:

Lord God,

With all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

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