



## St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE

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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

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Clifton Diocesan Website: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: [www.tolentino.org.uk](http://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 LENT



### **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!**

What on earth is He doing? No self-respecting Jewish 'holy man' or rabbi would venture into Samaritan country: they are the hated enemy and for sure God had no time for them. They had destroyed the unity of the nation, of the People of God some 600 years earlier - and we and God have long memories! They are outside the concern of God!

And it gets worse: he is speaking to a woman - in public! A Samaritan woman! Even drinking from her cup! And what a reputation she has! Just goes to show this young rabbi knows nothing and is 'beyond the pale'. Like her, he is a disgrace!

To go the excluded of the excluded - to descend into the pit of condemnation: this is Divine Love, this reveals the true nature of God. Not possessive or precious about 'ritual purity', seeming holiness, but passionate to bring love to the loveless, to gather in the most excluded and reveal them to the world as 'closest to the Father's heart'!

*'To the lost Christ shows His face; to the unloved He gives His embrace; to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place!'*

**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:** Feast of St John of God, founder of Brothers Hospitallers (1495-1550)  
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:** Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am (NB change of Mass time)

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**FRIDAY:** *Adoration* at 6.00pm      **Mass at 6.30pm**  
*Mass with St Brendan's 6th Form College at 12.15pm (Live streamed - Parish facebook)*

**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 celebrate on the **Third Sunday of Lent** Jesus the giver of the Spirit, the Spirit that is a fountain of New Life welling up and bubbling over, giving us a New Heart and a New Spirit, overflowing with love to God, to each other in the Body of Christ, to our world in its pain and hope. May this Lent be a time of renewal for each of us and for the Church, that we will grow more more as the Sacrament of God's Universal Love.

[2] Being the First Sunday of the Month, **this Mass will be Signed for our deaf community**

**NEXT SUNDAY** [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 all the Light into our inner darkness. That Light that overcomes all darkness is the source of our joy!

[2] **Mothering 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.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Mary-on-the-Quay with St James Priory, served by Fr Pat Hogan SVD, Fr Paul SVD, and Dom David Charlesworth OSB (Emeritus Abbot of Buckfast) and all the community.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** This week, pray God's Blessing for the **Ministry of our Parish Finance Committee**. Chaired by Robert our Parish Treasurer, a small group with financial and other relevant skills exercise oversight of all parish expenditure and income. Inspired and guided by our parish commitment to 'God's Option for the Poor', this group makes important financial decisions (also guided by and in collaboration with the Parish Pastoral Council), authorises expenditure and gives an account of Parish finances to the Diocesan Trustees. They are an important part of the structure of accountability both to the parish community and to the our diocesan family. If you feel you have skills to contribute to the work of this Committee, please contact Robert at the Parish Office.

**WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF LENT**

<b>Sunday</b>	EXODUS 17: 3-7 / Psalm 94 / Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 / John 2: 5-42
<b>Monday</b>	2 Kings 5: 1-15 / Psalm 41 / Luke 4: 24-30
<b>Tuesday</b>	Daniel 3: 25, 34-43 / Psalm 24 / Matthew 18: 21-35
<b>Wednesday</b>	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9 / Psalm 147 / Matthew 5: 17-19
<b>Thursday</b>	Jeremiah 7: 23-28 / Ps 94 / Luke 11: 14-23
<b>Friday</b>	Hosea 14: 2-10 / Psalm 80 / Mark 12: 28-34
<b>Saturday</b>	Hosea 5: 15-6: 6 / Psalm 50 / Luke 18: 9-14

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**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!*

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

11th March Clifton Caritas meeting (on Teams)  
 14th March Mothering Sunday  
 17th March Ashley Churches Together Serving (ACTS) meeting (via Zoom)  
 21st March Mass with the LBGTQ+ 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.

**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

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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.

**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](mailto:robertvh@hotmail.co.uk). Or, just come along.

**SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP** I 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: ideal for all of us, but especially for Lay Readers and Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, as well as Children's Liturgy leaders. This week it will be on **Wednesdays at 4.30pm until Easter**. To take part please contact John Flannery (email: [j.flannery@btinternet.com](mailto:j.flannery@btinternet.com)) or Richard (email: [stnicks.bristol@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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'*. 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 18<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm**  
**How to join? To register** please click [HERE](#) or email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto: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)***

[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](mailto:pressandmedia@cliftondiocese.com))

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**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

**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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