



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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ('GOOD SHEPHERD')



Which am I? Shepherd or sheep?

Am I called to be a shepherd or a sheep? a leader or a follower? A pastor or one who is pastored? Well if we look at Jesus, 'the Great Shepherd of the sheep', he was pointed out to be 'the Lamb of God', innocent and led to the slaughter! Every shepherd must allow him or herself to be shepherded: cared for, held, gathered, guided. Every 'sheep' must be ready to hold, listen, guide, and gather to the Lord. We are all called to be both - as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows us.

We all need a guide who lead us to good pasture, to share the rich food of God's truth and love so as to be nourished. And we all have a gift to nourish another, or our community, in truth and love. In today's Church we all share the responsibility of being shepherds and we all need to be guided by listening to each other, whether we are Pope, bishop, priest, deacon or parishioner. Sadly there is a strong trend to 'protect' the priesthood by 'upping' its status and separating it off - like in the old days. This is a loss of faith in the Holy Spirit who speaks through the whole People of God as St John Henry Newman taught us so well. Only a listening Church can be a teaching church: those with authority to teach can only do so if they have the humility to learn from those they teach!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS for Vocation at 10.00am (live-steamed: Parish Website)

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

TUESDAY: 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-steamed: Parish Website)

THURSDAY: Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Dominican, Reformer, Patron of Europe (1333-80)
Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12 noon (NB Change of Mass times)

'I am the Good Shepherd and I lay down my life for my sheep ...I know my own and they know Me! They listen to my voice and I call them all to be shepherds'

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 8.30.am **Mass at 9.00am** (*NB Change of Mass times*)

SATURDAY: *Feast of St Joseph the Worker - International Labour Day / Value of Human Work*
Adoration at 11.00am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
Stations of the Resurrection at 5.30pm (*live-streamed on Parish Face Book*)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment only

TODAY [1] **The Fourth Sunday of Easter** celebrates Jesus the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life to bring us the fullness of life - the Lamb of God led to the slaughter of the Cross who is raised to Resurrection Life to become the 'Great Shepherd of the Sheep'. As disciples of the Shepherd, what do we sacrifice in order to give life to others, to be shepherds to the broken, hurting and victimised of our world?

[2] It is '**Vocations Sunday**', a day to pray not only for vocations to ordained ministry and religious life, but also and indeed primarily that each of us will listen to God's call in our lives and seek to respond to that unique call more fully. We also pray that the Church will truly listen to the Holy Spirit who calls women as well as men to leadership and ordained ministry, but these calls are not being affirmed and 'obeyed' - and the integrity of the Church and our proclamation of the Gospel is thereby harmed. We also need to pray for a 'remodelling', 'reshaping' or ordained ministry in the Church - getting away from a male clerical dominated Church. Then we shall become the Church of the 'Good Shepherd'!

NEXT SUNDAY [1] **The Fifth Sunday of Easter** calls the Church to celebrate Jesus the Vine of Whom we are the Branches. The New Testament offers us many models of the Church - many like Jesus the Vine and Branches speak of dynamic growth, constant change and fruitfulness that is ever new! They also speak of 'unbreakable bonds of love and unity' - the Holy Spirit that binds us together in Christ so that we are one Body, we are as a community, Christ given to today's world. Let us be such a Church bearing the fruit of Jesus' Love!

DIOCESAN PRAYER Today the Diocese prays for the parishes in Communion for Mission of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chippenham, and St Patrick, Corsham served by Canon Desmond Millett, Fr Michael Fountaine, Parish Administrator Mrs Maeve Opie and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for all serving our **Lay Ministers of the Eucharist**. Our sisters and brothers who serve us in this Ministry enable us to receive with dignity the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, represent all our community as they take the Word of God and Holy Communion to the sick and housebound, lead Services of Word and Communion when a priest is not available to preside at Mass. They also enable Adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Their Ministry feeds us, builds our faith community, and helps to nurture the essential prayer-life of the Eucharistic Community of Mission, which is our parish. Please support their ministry by your prayer and welcome and with them develop our shared life in Christ.

WORD OF GOD FOR FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday	Acts of the Apostles 4: 8-12 / Psalm 117 / 1 John 3: 1-2 / John 10: 11-18
Monday	Acts of the Apostles 11: 1-8 / Psalm 41 / John 10: 1-10
Tuesday	Acts of the Apostles 11: 19-26 / Psalm 86 / John 10: 22-30
Wednesday	Acts of the Apostles 12: 24-13: 5 / Psalm 66 / John 12: 44-50
Thursday	Acts of the Apostles 13: 13-25 / Ps 88 / John 13: 16-20
Friday	Acts of the Apostles 13: 26-33 / Psalm 2 / John 14: 1-6
Saturday	Acts of the Apostles 13: 44-52 / Psalm 97 / John 14: 7-14

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COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

11/4/21 Env £234.00 + Loose £96.60 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £441.65 thanks!

18/4/21 Env £104.00 + Loose £131.00 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £356.05 thanks!

CAFOD LENT £49.40 **DONATION** £120.00 **CARITAS** £470.00 *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

25th April	Good Shepherd Sunday - Day of Prayer for all Vocations
4th May	Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on Zoom)
9th May	Rite of Election for Sacraments of Initiation at 10am Mass
12th May	Borderlands Trustees at 1.30pm (on Zoom)
13th May	ASCENSION DAY - Holy Day of Obligation
15th May	Parish Forum at 5.00pm (on Zoom) - all welcome!
16th May	Mass with our LBGTQ+ friends and community at 3.00pm
22nd May	Pentecost Vigil Mass at 7.00pm - 'Come Holy Spirit'
19th May	Diocesan Safeguarding meeting (on Teams)
23rd May	PENTECOST SUNDAY - celebration of Adult baptism and Confirmation
30th May	TRINITY SUNDAY - child Baptism Sunday
6th June	Feast of Corpus Christ (Body and Blood of the Lord)
29th June	Feast Ss Peter and Paul (Holy Day of Obligation)
18th July	First Eucharist Sunday

FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAMME 2021 BEGINS The Programme of Preparation has made a good start, despite the challenges of Covid restrictions. 21 children gather in the church each Thursday at 4.00pm in the church and work together in three distinct groups - the 7-8 year olds with Mary, the older children with Andrew and the Spanish-speaking children (from Latin America) with Jackie. The flexibility our seating and the lay-out of our church is being used to the full! ***IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN DO NOT MISS ANY OF THE SESSIONS (except for ill-health of course!)***

In addition there are special sessions for the parents each fortnight:

The Spanish-speaking parents in the church on alternate Saturdays at 2.30-4.15pm

The English-speaking parents on Zoom alternate Fridays at 6.30-7.30pm.

THESE PARENTS MEETINGS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE PROGRAMME OF PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES JOURNEYING TO FIRST EUCHARIST.

TALKING AND LISTENING GROUP - the group runs every Tuesday from 4.00pm to 5.30pm 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.

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 continues to meet on **Wednesdays at 4.30pm**. Contact John Flannery (email: j.flannery@btinternet.com) or Richard (email above) for the Zoom link.

'I am the Good Shepherd and I lay down my life for my sheep ...I know my own and they know Me! They listen to my voice and I call them all to be shepherds'

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2021/2022 AVAILABLE TODAY The Offertory envelopes for the coming year are now available to be collected before or after mass of from the Parish Office, Monday to Friday 10am to 1.00pm. Please do so as soon as you can.

PARISH FORUM - LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Because of Covid restrictions it is over a year since our last Parish Forum. **What is the 'Parish Forum'?** It is a gathering open to everyone in the our parish community - **EVERYONE** is invited! You are invited to come and speak your voice, raise your questions, bring you ideas and contribute to and guide the future development of our parish community. Everyone's voice is important. We might not all agree on everything, but everyone's voice needs to be heard so that we can discern or 'distill' what the Holy Spirit is saying to our parish community - where the Spirit is leading us and how the Spirit wants to empower each of us and lead us as a community into God's future and vision for us. ***Our next Parish Forum is on Saturday 15th May at 5.00pm on Zoom (ie on-line through the internet). There will be time spent in small groups (called 'rooms' in Zoom language!) as well as all together.*** It will be led by members of our Parish pastoral Council and will help set the Agenda for the future development of the parish.

Why is the Parish Forum important? As we come out of Covid restrictions it is very important to 'gather' our community again, to help us all rebuild our community and our relationships after this more than a year of isolation and apartness. It is important to plan how we can do this effectively and to hear how we have experienced this past Pandemic year. ***So please come and be part of this meeting. I will need your email address so I can send you the 'invitation' to the meeting together with instructions how to be part of it. Please send us details to the parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com***

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - Sunday 25th April - Day of Prayer for Vocations We are asked to pray for a deepened sense of vocation in each of our lives and in our parish community. Each one of us has a unique vocation from God; each of us is called to proclaim the Good News and serve the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace; each of us is called to care for our environment and seek to heal the abuse of our good Earth so that future generations will be able to thrive on this planet. Vocations to marriage, to ordained ministries and to the religious life are necessary to the mission of God's Church. We seek especially to call members of our community to the Permanent Diaconate, preparing for a future without a resident priest. **Sunday 25th April.** Pray also for new expressions of ordained ministry!

MEN AND WOMEN EQUAL IN MINISTRY There are many charisms and ministries in the Body of Christ - each one of us, young and old, male and female, lay and clergy, and whatever our gender identity - all of us are 'beloved children of the Father', each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve, to proclaim, to build the missionary Body of the Christ and to transform the world. In our parish we are moving towards a parish community led and served by predominantly lay ministry, served and supported by the ordained ministry of deacons and a part-time (non-resident) priest. We are committed as a parish to promote, empower and train many different forms of ministry. ***The ministry of women and men are equally valued, the ministry of lay people and ordained deacons and priest are equally valued.*** All of us over 40 years old have almost certainly grown up in a church that has neglected and minimised the ministries of lay people. We are still in a clergy (and therefore male) dominated church and this has caused major problems while being unfaithful to the New Testament. Some ministries are denied to women (and not just ordained ministries) ... therefore there is an urgent need to enable voices of women to be heard, their gifts to be recognised and their ministries to be released, for the good of the whole Church and its Mission and witness. This is to correct the imbalance and injustice that has been the norm for centuries. ***Please do not interpret this as diminishing or demeaning the ministries of our brothers. We are all called to work together for the Kingdom as equal partners in the Lord's work.***

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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.

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