



## 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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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)

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



### *The Church: human institution or Divine Gift?*

500 years ago the Church was so corrupt from the Pope onwards that huge numbers of committed followers of Jesus felt they had no alternative but leave and form a new and reformed, purified church - hence the Reformation. Such was the human sinfulness in the Church that they could no longer recognise the Divine Gift.

For many in our time, the scandal of child abuse, the silencing of theologians, the stifling of protest and the reversal of so many of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, have led them also to leave the Church. We, the Church, have to take responsibility for this, and not to blame them.

Today, Pope Francis is leading us to allow the Holy Spirit once more to reform and renew the Church from within: we need to reveal again the mystery of a God who risks our sinfulness in this Incarnational Church, at once thoroughly human (and so very imperfect) and gloriously divine. Let us welcome the pruning of the vine of our corruptions and abuses, let us bear the fruit of a love that is not mere talk but the reshaping lives and communities into witnesses of Christ and so reveal the Divine Gift that is Church!

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

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

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of the English Martyrs and Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse*  
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)

**THURSDAY:** Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12 noon (*NB Local Elections Today*)

**'As the Father has loved, so I have love you': remain in My love ...  
What I command you is to love one another as I have loved you!'**

**FRIDAY:** *Adoration* at 8.30.am      **Mass at 9.00am**

**SATURDAY:** *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 **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!

[2] Mass today will be signed for the Deaf community - thank you, Sherrie.

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Sixth Sunday of Easter** is a wonderful celebration of God's immense love and our call to share that love with everyone, with all peoples and cultures in all the diversity of our human community and our world. 'God has no favourites' says Peter as he preaches Christ to the Roman Centurion, Cornelius. 'God is love' writes John in his First Letter, echoing the Gospel that brings us Jesus' only command - to love as He loves! What else is the Church for but to make God's infinite loving real and tangible for all our world to behold and experience? Let us all witness to the Risen Christ by putting love first!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** Today the Diocese prays for the parish in Communion for Mission of The English Martyrs, Chard, with Crewkerne and St Joseph's, Ilminster served by Fr Dominic Findlay-Wilson, Parish Administrator Maggie Weedon and all their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** This week, pray God's Blessing for all serving on our **Parish Pastoral Council**. Every two or three years we ask for nominations and then have a parish vote, electing 6 members - these with ex-officio members then appoint 6 others (usually from the nominations) to join the PPC in order to maintain maximum diversity in our very diverse community. Your Parish Councillors share decision-making, offer leadership and seek to engage all parishioners in the life, ministry and mission of our parish community. Through the PPC you can make your voices heard and help shape parish policy and contribute to our understanding of God's vision for our community. ***There is no more important decision-making/leadership body than your Parish Pastoral Council.***

**WORD OF GOD FOR FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER**

**Sunday** Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31 / Psalm 21 / 1 John 3: 18-24 / John 15: 1-8

**Monday** I corinthians 15: 1-8 / Psalm 18 / John 14: 6-14

**Tuesday** Acts of the Apostles 7: 55-60 / Psalm 30 / Matthew 10: 17-20

**Wednesday** Acts of the Apostles 15: 1-6 / Psalm 121 / John 15: 1-8

**Thursday** Acts of the Apostles 15: 7-21 / Ps 95 / John 15: 9-11

**Friday** Acts of the Apostles 15: 22-31 / Psalm 56 / John 15: 12-17

**Saturday** Acts of the Apostles 16: 1-10 / Psalm 99 / John 15: 18-21

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Env £133.00 + Loose £112.00 + PayPal £ + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £356.05 thanks!

**CARITAS** £10.00 *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!*

***'As the Father has loved, so I have love you': remain in My love ...  
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**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

4th May	Day of Prayer for Victims of Abuse
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	<b>ASCENSION DAY - Holy Day of Obligation</b>
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	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY - celebration of Adult baptism and Confirmation</b>
30th May	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY - child Baptism Sunday</b>
6th June	<b>Feast of Corpus Christ (Body and Blood of the Lord)</b>
29th June	<b>Feast Ss Peter and Paul (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
18th July	<b>First Eucharist Sunday</b>

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF ABUSE** The Bishops of England and Wales have nominated the Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter to be each year a special Day of Prayer for Victims/Survivors of Abuse (especially but not exclusively those who have suffered at the hands of trusted members of the Church). This year it coincides with the Feast of the English Martyrs. **Adoration and the Mass on Tuesday 4th May will be offered for this intention.** However, we will hold a special Healing Mass at a later date when hopefully more people can attend. Meanwhile please look on the Parish Website for suggested prayers and reflections to guide your prayer on Tuesday. Thank you and keep each other safe!

**FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAMME 2021 BEGINS** The Programme of Preparation has made a good start, despite the challenges of Covid restrictions. 24 children gather in the church each Thursday at 4.00pm 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 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** 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](mailto:j.flannery@btinternet.com)) or Richard (email above) for the Zoom link.

***'As the Father has loved, so I have love you': remain in My love ...  
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**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](mailto:bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com)***

**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.***

**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.

**CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY AND THE LOCAL ELECTIONS** As Christians we have a particular responsibility to use our democratic rights prayerfully and in a way that places care of the Earth and of the poor at the centre of the local and national government agenda. **Please vote on Thursday 6th May, and be 'Good News to Creation & the Poor'!**

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