

SATURDAY: *Feast of St Pius X, Pope, Liturgical Reformer (1894-1941)**Adoration* at 11.30am

Mass at 12 noon

Evening Prayer & Adoration at 5.30pm (*live-streamed on Parish Face Book*)**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY We celebrate the **Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven**, the great sign of humanity's redemption in Christ. Mary shares fully in the Resurrection of her Son, Jesus Christ - as each of us will also. She is a sign of God's faithfulness to His promise to bring us 'life in all its fulness': the glory of her Assumption is the pledge of the glory of our own Resurrection. This the feast of Easter Life shared with humanity.

[2] We also celebrate the **Rite of Child Catechumen**, praying for the families preparing for the baptism of their children.

[3] **Mass with the LBGTO+ community and friends** at 3.00pm - all welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Twenty-First Sunday of the Year** we conclude our celebration of Jesus, Bread of Life, in Word and Sacrament: some of his disciples are scandalised by His words and leave him; those who remain are challenged to choose whether to trust Jesus or walk away! We also face the same challenge in the face of scandals or crises - will we re-affirm our faith in Christ, in His Body in the Eucharist and especially in His Body, the Church!

[2] Appropriately, we have at the 10am Mass the joy of celebrating **First Eucharist with our Latin American families (with Spanish Translations)**; two other children will join them for particular pastoral reasons.

DIOCESAN PRAYER Today the Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Peter, Gloucester, served by Mgr Canon Liam Slattery VG, Deacons Colm Robinson, Tim Meadows, David Hebbes, Parish Administrator, Mrs Therese English, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing for our **One World Music Ministry**. Led by Caroline Price, our singers and musicians drawn from many different cultures and continents enable us to sing the praises of God in many languages. As we emerge from Covid Pandemic, we wish to rebuild this Ministry, so we look to recruit more musicians and singers. We would also like to form a young people's choir (see Caroline or Seamus). The Music Ministry is a most important Liturgical Ministry, enabling a worship worthy and beautiful for God; gathering our community together in harmony of shared life as well as shared song. The most important song to the Lord is the song of love in our hearts for God and His world.

WORD OF GOD FOR TWENTIETH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Revelations 11: 19, 12: 1-6 / Psalm 44 / 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57 / Luke 1: 39-56

Monday Judges 2: 11-19 / Psalm 105 / Matthew 19: 16-21

Tuesday Judges 6: 11-24 / Psalm 84 / Matthew 19: 23-30

Wednesday Judges 9: 6-15 / Psalm 20 / Matthew 20: 1-16

Thursday Judges 11: 29-39 / Psalm 39 / Matthew 22: 1-14

Friday Ruth 1: 1, 3-6, 14-16, 22 / Psalm 145 / Matthew 22: 34-40

Saturday Ruth 2: 1-3, 8-11, 4: 13-17 / Psalm 127 / Matthew 23: 1-12

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £95.00 + Loose £175.00 + PayPal £? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £341.05 thanks!

Foodbank £100.00 (due to publicity on Points West!) **CAFOD** £20.00 **Flowers** £10 - many thanks, especially for the contributions to the foodbank fund! *I wish to thank all who give great and small amounts to the work and mission of the parish serving the Kingdom of*

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God. However, our Offertory Collections have diminished in recent weeks with the potential for a financial crisis for our parish in the coming months. Please be as generous as you are able - thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

15th Aug	Feast of the Assumption of Mary
15th Aug	Rite of Child Catechumen at 10am Mass
15th Aug	Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome
20th Aug	Parents Baptismal Preparation Session Two at 6.30pm on Zoom
22nd Aug	First Eucharist Sunday for Spanish Speaking children at 10am Mass
28th Aug	Brice and Sonia's Church Wedding in Canada (Mass 12 noon for their blessing)
29th Aug	Baptismal Sunday at 10.00am Mass
1st Sept	Borderlands Trustees at 1.30pm
5th Sept	Patronal Feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino - celebration Mass at 10.00am
7th Sept	Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm
9th Sept	Parish Pastoral Council at 7.00pm
10-12 Sept	Root and Branch Synod in Bristol - participation encouraged.
6th Oct	Bristol City of Sanctuary AGM at 2.00pm
9th Oct	Memorial mass for Joan Brannigan RIP at St Nicks 11.00am(with family)
24th Oct	Baptismal Sunday
13th Nov	Memorial Mass for all who died during Covid Pandemic at 11.00am

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR PARENTS

If you wish your child to be baptised at St Nicks, please contact Eustace (07860876640) or Richard to enrol in the parents preparation.

21st August: Parents Baptismal Preparation Session Two at 6.30pm (on Zoom)

Rite of Child Catechumen 15th August; Baptisms 29th August - both at 10am Mass

The Next Baptismal Sunday is 24th October

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Safeguarding Team will be delivering safeguarding awareness sessions to volunteers on the following dates and times. The training will be delivered via Microsoft Teams: if you wish to attend, please contact Beci Monks on rebecca.monks@cliftondiocese.com to have a link to the training:

Saturday 25th September 9.30am – 11.00am

Many thanks and best wishes The Diocesan Safeguarding Office

SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP

Each week on **Thursdays at 5.30pm** come & share reflections, questions, insights on the Scripture Readings used at Mass on the following Sunday: ideal for all of us, but especially for Lay Readers, Ministers of the Eucharist, and Catechists. Contact John Flannery (email: j.flannery@btinternet.com) or Richard (email above) for the Zoom link.

ROOT AND BRANCH INCLUSIVE SYNOD IN BRISTOL

Inspired by Pope Francis's synodal vision, some lay Catholics from across the UK invite you to embrace and advance renewal, reform and healing in the Catholic Church. Already taking place twice-monthly on Zoom, Root and Branch Inclusive Synod will reach its conclusions on issues of equality, inclusion and governance in online workshops from 5 – 8 September 2021. The Synod will culminate with a conference on 10 – 12 September 2021, earthed in the conference centre of St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford. It will start with the presence of Rt. Revd. Vivienne Faull, Bishop of Bristol, and a recorded welcome from Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton. Speakers (like Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland and a campaigner for the reform of the Church) will encourage a process of "Heart speaks unto heart" (St John Henry Newman), with laity, religious and clergy meeting as equals. "Do not be afraid" says

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Jesus – not be afraid to speak to one another with honesty about issues affecting us deeply in our Church today. Come together, give each other the confidence to speak and listen. For further information about this Synod: how to Zoom with us and how to book for the virtual and actual Synod, please visit: <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org>

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.

RETURN GIFT AID AND STANDING ORDER FORMS PLEASE At the recent Financial Statement to the parish a number of Gift Aid forms were taken by parishioners but only two have been returned. Please complete and return them as soon as possible! Thank you!

POPE FRANCIS ON HEALING THE PLANET 'Laudato si, o' mi Signore' (Praise be to you, my Lord). In the words of this beautiful canticle, St Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us : *'Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs'*. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of all with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail'

POPE FRANCIS ON THE TWO YEAR GLOBAL 'SYNOD' "Breakthrough comes about as a gift of dialogue, when people trust each other and humbly seek the good together, and are willing to learn from each another in a mutual exchange of gifts. This is an 'overflow' of love, breaking the banks that confined our thinking and causes to pour forth answers that formerly we could not see. As Pope I want to encourage such 'overflows' by reinvigorating the ancient practice of 'Synod'. The term comes from Greek and means 'walking together' and its goal is to recognise, honour, and reconcile differences on a higher plane where the best of each can be retained: differences are expressed and polished until you reach, if not consensus, a harmony that holds all together. Therein lies its beauty: the harmony that results can be complex, rich and unexpected. In the Church the One who brings about harmony is the Holy Spirit."

URGENT APPEAL FOR BAME BLOOD DONORS The NHS has issued an urgent call for more Black people to give blood to meet increasing demand for Black African, Black Caribbean or mixed ethnicity donors. Some 16,000 new donors from these ethnic groups must be recruited this year as demand rises for life-saving transfusions for people with sickle cell disease, according to the health service. Sickle cell is the fastest growing genetic disorder in the UK, affecting 15,000 people with around 300 babies born with the blood disorder each year; the illness can cause organ failure, stroke or loss of vision, sometimes even leading to death. The disorder is more common in Black people and, as such, people from this ethnic group are more likely to have the rare blood sub-group Ro that many Black sickle cell patients need. ***The Church strongly encourages blood donation as a life-saving gift to others. PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A BLOOD DONOR - ONE PINT OF BLOOD CAN SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES! To become a blood donor today, register today and book an appointment by visiting www.blood.co.uk, downloading the GiveBloodNHS app or calling 0300 123 23 23.***

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