



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

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(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 1.00pm)

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

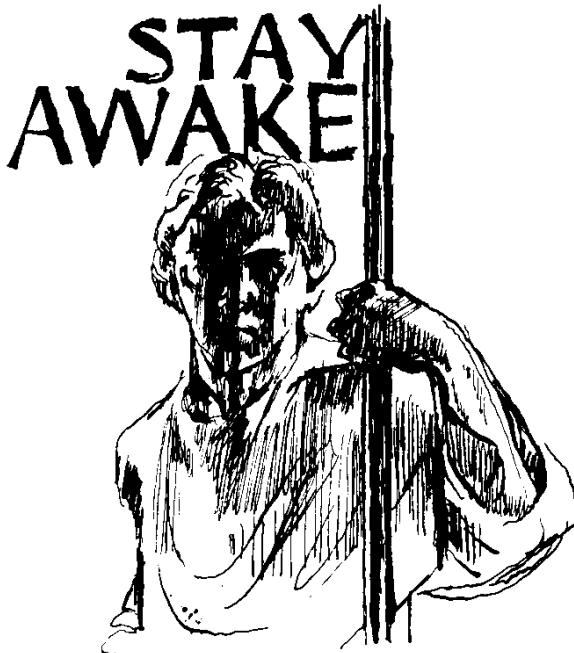
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT- Year C (St Luke)



### **'COME, LORD JESUS, COME!'**

For sure He is coming! He came hidden in poverty and obscurity, recognised only by some poor shepherds, some wandering wise ones and some doubtful apostles.

He comes today, now, also hidden in the poverty of bread and wine, in the frailty of our brothers and sisters in hurting humanity, in the gentleness of a friend's touch.

He will come no longer hidden, but with glory blazoned across all creation (the truth hidden behind words like 'riding on the clouds of heaven'). How will he come because creation is fulfilled and finally fully evolved into the wonder of Christ Omega. He will come because we have worked to transform our world into a place of justice, of goodness, of truth, of humanity - and therefore a place of the Divine, the Kingdom. May our lives serve the ancient cry of the Christian's heart - Come Lord Jesus!

**SUNDAY** PARISH MASS & Rite of Adult Catechumen at 10.00 (*live streamed: Parish Website*)

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

**TUESDAY:** Feast of St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland  
Requiem Mass for Brenda Milka Mbugua RIP at 2.00pm (*live streamed: Parish Website*)  
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Feast of St Alexander Bryant, and St Charles de Foucauld, priests & martyrs  
Prayer and Reflection at 10.00am (*live-streamed on Face Book*)  
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (*live streamed: Parish Website*)

**THURSDAY:** Requiem Mass for Norma Charles RIP at 12.30pm (*live streamed: Parish Website*)

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**FRIDAY:** *Feast of St Francis Xavier, Jesuit Missionary to the East (1506-1551)*  
*Adoration* at 8.30am                      *Mass* at 9.00am

**SATURDAY:** *Feast of St Osmund, Bishop of Old Sarum (Salisbury) (died 1099)*  
*Adoration* at 11.30am                      *Mass* at 12.00 noon  
*Adoration & Evening Prayer* at 5.30pm  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation:* after mass and 4.00pm

**TODAY** [1] We begin once more the Church's Liturgical Year, with the **First Sunday of Advent, Year C (The Year of Luke's Gospel)**. We celebrate that Jesus will come again in the Glory of the Universe transformed in Love, all creation gathered into the Body of Christ. The Church's mission is to bring the 'Cosmic Love of Christ' (Pope Francis - 'Laudato si') to the world and all our fellow creatures, to all systems that shape (or deform) our beautiful 'Common Home'. We are to be alert to every opportunity to change our world and build a new future, towards the Final Coming of Christ in our Glorious Cosmos!

[2] On this day of 'New Beginnings and New Future', we have the joy of **welcoming two new adult Catechumens**, Neil and Joanna.

[3] Today is **Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees** around the world. There are globally 68 million refugees and displaced people who have fled their homes because of war, oppression, poverty or Climate Change. God says repeatedly in the Bible - welcome and care for the 'Stranger among you', whereas our government and most of Europe are adopting a policy of 'Hostile Environment' seeking to deter them coming. How can we change hearts and break down walls & barbed wire fences in order to obey God's Word - 'Welcome them!'

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] On the **First Sunday of Advent** we celebrate that the Day of Christ, when we and all creation are transfigured in the Glory of Divine Love, will most surely come. Our Mission is to bring that Divine Love into our world and its systems, eradicate oppression, inequality and injustice, and so truly witness to the Good News and hasten the Day of Christ, the Day of Creation's fulfilment in Christ.

[2] The Churches in UK celebrate '**Bible Sunday**', delighting in the rich food of the 'Bread of the Word' we find in our Christian Scriptures. The Bible is our first and greatest prayer book, source of wisdom, God's long love song to His People, to all the People of the World. Let us savour with delight this richest of food!

[3] The **Mass will be Signed for our Catholic Deaf Community** at 10.00am

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** Today the Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Sacred Heart, Tisbury, with All Saints Chapel, Wardour, served by Fr Robert Miller, Deacon Michael Hughes and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** Pray God's Blessing for the **Ethiopian Orthodox Community**, which pre-Covid worshipped in the Assisi Centre. We rejoice as a parish in the many varied cultural, ethnic and national groups and seek to support them. We pray for the Church and People of Ethiopia and Tigray at this time of great civil conflict wounding the nation.

**WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT - YEAR C**

<b>Sunday</b>	Jeremiah 33: 14-16 / Psalm 24 / 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4: 2 / Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36
<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 2: 1-5 / Psalm 121 / Matthew 8: 5-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Romans 10: 9-18 / Psalm 18 / Matthew 4: 18-22
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 25: 6-10 / Psalm 22 / Matthew 15: 29-37
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 26: 1-6 / Psalm 117 / Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 29: 17-24 / Psalm 26 / Matthew 9: 27-31
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26 / Psalm 146 / Matthew 9: 35-10: 1, 6-8

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**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Env £106.00 + Loose £247.80 + PayPal ? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £464.85 - thanks  
CAFOD £ 22.00 LBGTQ+ Mass £21.20

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

28th Nov **First Sunday of Advent- Year of Luke begins**  
 4th Nov Altar Servers training at 10.30-11.30am (church)  
 1st Dec LBGTQ+ Ministry Team meet on Zoom 7.30-8.30pm  
 2nd Dec Brenda Mbugua RIP - Requiem Mass at 2.00pm  
 6th Dec Norma Charles RIP Funeral at 12.30pm  
 8th Dec **Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 6.30pm**  
 8th Dec Parish Pastoral Council at 7.15pm - Assisi Centre  
 9th Dec Bernice Pascal RIP Funeral at 11.00am  
 9th Dec Meeting for Parents of children for First Eucharist 2022 6pm (Assisi Centre)  
 16th Dec End of Term School Advent Mass at 9.30am (hopefully in church)  
 16th Dec Borderlands Trustees meet  
 18th Dec Christians@Bristol Pride Carol Service at 4.30pm Wesley Chapel (New Rooms - Broadmead)

**2022**

9th Jan **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday**  
 19th Jan Ashley Churches Together Serving meet at 12.30pm  
 19th Jan Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm  
 20th Jan First Eucharist Preparation Programme begins 4.00pm in the Assisi Centre.

**PLEASE NOTE: WHEN EMAILING RICHARD PLEASE USE FROM NOW ON USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL: [richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com) AND NO LONGER THE 'BLUEYONDER' EMAIL ADDRESS WHICH NO LONGER FUNCTIONS.**

**THE YEAR OF LUKE** With a new Liturgical Year (Sundays Year C) nearly all the Sunday Gospel will be taken from Luke's Gospel. Luke, a disciple of St Paul, expresses especially the Gospel as Paul preached it to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world: a Gospel that was Good News to the Poor, a Gospel of Mercy and Forgiveness, a Gospel filled with the Holy Spirit and Hope, a Gospel of Joy, a Gospel of equality for women - a Gospel for our Age!

**ADVENT - THE VISION OF MISSION** Advent is a time for 'people with far-seeing eyes' - awakened to the reality of our world, ready to listen and to gaze: in order to recognise where, when and how Jesus comes in the 21st century (in the poverty, among the oppressed, disguised as an addict or as homeless, crying out for acceptance and freedom in the asylum-seeker, yearning for peace among the women and children who are the greatest victims of our wars). But you have to have courage to see and to hear - and more courage to speak and to act! The Spirit of God unfolds a vision of Mission - to transform the deserts and wastelands of our world into places of hope, rich and fertile in humanity and justice, healing and freedom. Our Mission is world-challenging and world-changing. Let our worship empower our mission, as we gaze upon bread from the fields and wine from the hills being transformed utterly in Christ by the Spirit and the Word through the ministry of the Church!

**POPE FRANCIS CALLS US ALL TO THE TWO YEAR GLOBAL 'SYNOD'** This is one of the most important moments in the history of the Modern Church, as Pope Francis challenges us all to take part in the Two Year Global Synod to serve the renewal and the reform of the church in our time. For the first time since the early Church, all God's People are called to speak their voice and help shape decisions that will affect the whole Church and its future development. That this process began on the Feast of St  
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**John Henry Newman is significant, for with prophetic vision and open mind and heart he wrote famously 'On Consulting the Laity on Matters of Doctrine'. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE INVOLVED AND HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEAK OUR VOICES. Please use often the Parish Synod Prayer which is on our parish website.**

**UPDATE ON THE SYNOD IN OUR PARISH** Our Parish Pastoral Council met this week to lay plans for our participation in this hugely important process of listening and discerning '**what the Spirit is saying to the Church today**'. A number of people representative of our diverse communities are being approached to gather groups together to listen to one another, speak their voices, journey together. There will be an information session with these group facilitators to guide them in this. The 'voices' from all the groups will be gathered together by the end of January and there will be a 'Full Parish Assembly' to explore this and formulate our parish contribution to the Diocese and the Global Church. ***I cannot emphasise too much how important this process is for the future of our parish, our diocese and the whole Church. PLEASE PLEASE take part generously.*** Further information soon.

**RECRUITING NEW ALTAR SERVERS** We have begun training new Altar Servers and also a refresher course for those who have not served during Covid period. We next meet on **Saturday 4th December at 10.30am (prompt)**. The training will last one hour. Still time for others to join us, so parents, please let myself or Mary know your child wishes to train as a server and can come to the next meeting.

**PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST 2022** All Parents of children aged 7 years or above by June 2022 are invited to enrol their children in the First Eucharist Programme and come to a meeting for Parents on **Thursday 9th December at 6.00-7.00pm** in the Assisi Centre. Enrolment Forms available today and be returned by 6th December at the latest. The programme will begin on 20th January 2022 at 4.00pm in the Assisi Centre. **First Eucharist Sunday will be on 10th July 2022.**

**SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP - CHANGE OF DAY** We meet on **Fridays at 5.30-6.30pm**: 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](mailto:j.flannery@btinternet.com)) for the Zoom link.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH** **2021/2022 Journey of Faith** meets each Friday at 6.00pm in the Assisi Centre. This is for all who want to discover more about the Catholic Faith we share, or who may be thinking of becoming Catholic Christians. Suitable for those who want to renew their faith or have been away from Mass for a long period, and for **Catholic adults who have never been Confirmed**. Who will you encourage to come and discover more about Christ Jesus and the joy and beauty of Faith?

**BISHOPS STATEMENT ON RETURNING TO SUNDAY MASS** The Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement reminding us all that we need to come together as a community of love around the Table of the Word and the Table of the Eucharist in our churches. While watching live-streamed Mass helps us when we are truly unable to come to mass (because of essential work or caring for the sick or our vulnerability to illness or because of age and frailty), **it must not become an easy alternative to coming together and sharing together as a community of Mission the Living Word and the Body and Blood of Christ in the Mass.** Now is the time to return to Mass in church unless serious issues prevent us.

**CHRISTIAN PRIDE CAROL SERVICE** All are welcome to share in this inclusive Carol Service held at John Wesley's New Room Chapel (in Broadmead) BS1 3JE on Saturday 18th December at 4.30pm. Free Tickets from Eventbrite - or contact John Flannery

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