



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 - 1.00pm)

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Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: www.tolentino.org.uk

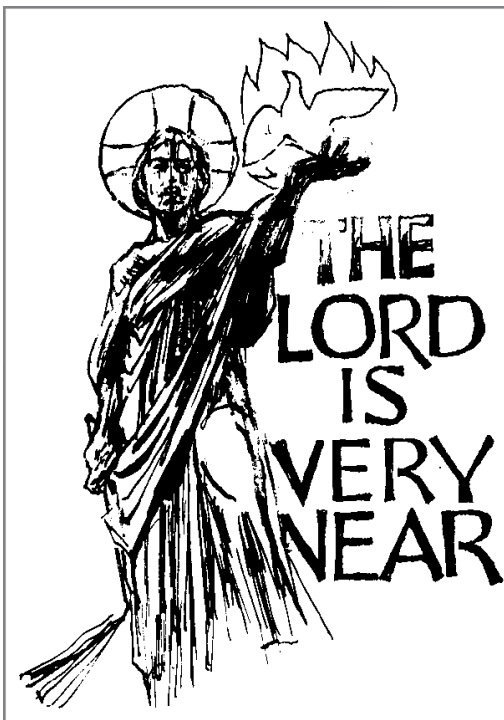
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- Year ('Gaudete' Sunday)



Dance for Joy for you are baptised in the Spirit!

Anthropologists tell us that the origin of dance is worship - dancing for joy as a sacrifice of praise to God! You can be forgiven for not recognising that looking at some western dancing!!

David danced before the Ark of the Covenant as it was brought into his capital city of Jerusalem. As we will hear on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist while still in Elizabeth's womb danced and leapt before Mary the Ark of the Covenant as the unborn prophet recognised the unborn Saviour hidden in the womb.

But our dance is nothing compared to the Divine Dance - God who dances for joy over you and me. He is the Lord of the Dance, the Dance of Divine Love and Creative Energy at the heart of Creation! So let us indeed 'Rejoice!', dance for joy with our God as the Bridegroom comes seeking us. Dance for joy that God has come to His Temple - YOU! Filling you with the Divine Dance, the Divine Love, the Holy Spirit. Indeed the Lord is very near - within us!

SUNDAY PARISH MASS at 10.00 (*live steamed: Parish Website*)

MONDAY: *Feast of St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (martyred in Syracuse, Sicily in 304)*
Adoration at 5.30pm Service of Word & Communion at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of St John of the Cross, Carmelite priest, mystic & reformer (1542-1591)*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *Prayer and Reflection at 10.00am (live-streamed on Face Book)*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (*live steamed: Parish Website*)

THURSDAY: End of Term Mass at 9.30am (in school)
Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12 noon

***Shout for joy! Exult with all your heart! The Lord God is in your midst!
And He will exult over you, renew you in His love, dance with joy over you!***

FRIDAY: **'O Wisdom' Advent Antiphon**
Adoration at 8.30am **Mass at 9.00am**

SATURDAY: **'O Lord God' Advent Antiphon**
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
Christians@Bristol Pride Inclusive Carol Service at 4.30pm (Wesley Chapel, Broadmead)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after mass only

TODAY [1] The **Third Sunday of Advent** is also known as '**Gaudete**' ('**Rejoicing**') **Sunday**. The vestments are a joyful rose colour as we celebrate to joy that Jesus brings to us and our world, celebrate the joy of truly giving ourselves to Him and His Mission in our world. Our Joy is to light the candle of hope and love for our world!

[2] **Special Collection for our Parish SVP** for their work of bringing warmth and care to the lonely and disadvantaged of our inner city.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** is that last week that prepares us more directly to 're-member' and celebrate Jesus' birth - God so loving us as to 'empty himself' by entering our human condition. We celebrate the 'Visitation', Mary carrying the Word made Flesh in her womb to meet humanity's need represented by the Prophet John the Baptist carried in Elizabeth's womb. Two women bring humanity and God together in their encounter of love, praise and mutual care. Will we carry Christ to meet humanity's and creation's needs - will we be a divine 'Visitation' to our 21st century world - hearing the cry of our Common Home (the planet) and the cry of the poor?

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

DIOCESAN PRAYER Today the Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St George, Warminster, served by Fr Martin Queenan, with Fr Raymond Hayne and Fr Malcolm Ferrier, and all their community.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for **our Parish School of St Nicholas of Tolentino**, as they seek to bring the empowerment of education to the children of the Inner City, in the context of a Christian environment. The past two years have been particularly challenging for our school, so please pray senior management, teachers and all staff and School Governors as they work together in the service of the Church's Mission in Education.

WORD OF GOD FOR THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT - YEAR C

Sunday	Zephaniah 3: 14-18 / Responsorial Isaiah 12 / Philippians 4: 4-7 / Luke 3: 10-18
Monday	Number 24: 2-7, 15-17 / Psalm 24 / Matthew 21: 23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13 / Psalm 33 / Matthew 21: 28-32
Wednesday	Isaiah 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26 / Psalm 84 / Luke 7: 19-23
Thursday	Isaiah 54: 1-10 / Psalm 29 / Luke 7: 24-30
Friday	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 / Psalm 71 / Matthew 1: 1-17
Saturday	Jeremiah 23: 5-8 / Psalm 1 / Matthew 1: 18-24

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £120 + Loose £185.00 + PayPal ? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £416.05 - thanks
Bernice's Requiem Mass (for Caritas Fund) £550.00 **CAFOD** £25.00 - thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16th Dec End of Term School Advent Mass at 9.30am (hopefully in church)
16th Dec Borderlands Trustees meet

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18th Dec	Christians@Bristol Pride Carol Service at 4.30pm Wesley Chapel (New Rooms
24th Dec	Christmas Midnight Mass at 10.30pm - Broadmead)
25th Dec	Solemn Day Mass of Christmas at 10.00am
31st Dec	Watchnight Mass into New Year at 10.30pm
2022	
1st Jan	New Year - Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God at 10.00am
6th Jan	Feast of the Epiphany - Mass (with School) at 9.30am & Mass at 7.00pm
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.
29th Jan	Baptismal Sunday

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

BISHOPS NEW GUIDANCE: WORSHIP FOR THE RENEWED COVID MEASURES

The Bishops of England and Wales have written to all parishes:

- **Practical Guidance for Churches**

With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:

[1] That people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.

[2] That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.

[3] **Face coverings must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption** or the person is leading worship or participating in a role that requires the mask to be removed for a period of time.

[4] That there is **good ventilation and air throughput in the building**; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church!

[5] There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.

[6] That a **positive message encouraging people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab** when able is delivered whenever possible (bearing in mind that the 40+ age group can apply for the booster vaccination, and that the period between 2nd dose and booster is reduced to 12 weeks).

[7] That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, **should take regular lateral flow tests** to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.

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

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whole Church and its future development. That this process began on the Feast of St 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 The Parish Pastoral Council ask all those who have agreed to be act as facilitators of the various 'Synod Groups', to gather their groups and arrange for them to meet as soon as possible. We have to submit our findings to the Diocese by mid February. We realise that the latest renewed government Covid restrictions will mean that most groups are likely to be on Zoom or some other IT platform, and while this is not the best way to conduct the Synod, we need to do all we can to make it work well. If you need assistance in setting up a Zoom meeting for your group, please contact the parish office.

TRAINING NEW ALTAR SERVERS There will be a pre-Christmas practice for **ALL ALTAR SERVERS (new and old!)** on **Saturday 18th December at 10.15am (prompt)**. The training will last approximately one hour. It is hoped that our newly trained Altar Servers will serve on Sunday 19th Dec for the first time.

JOURNEY OF FAITH Because of the renewed Covid Restrictions, the Journey of Faith Group have decided to meet on Zoom until Government Guidance changes - each Friday at 6.00pm. New members - please send Richard an email address so he can send you the 'Zoom Invite'. 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

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS Once again I encourage us all to include in your Christmas gift shopping at least some of these gifts that benefit the poorest and most disadvantaged of our world. I prefer to receive these gifts more than any others, because they express the real love we are to give to the world this Christmas. Please see: www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE PARISH OFFICE We have an urgent need to increase the size and capacity of our Parish Office Team. We need the following: Rental Car parking admin; Health and Safety officer (with basic computer skills); Welcomers in the parish office; administration (telephone and computer usage); Hall and Room bookings admin. A number of these tasks can be done from home rather than the office, but the Parish Office needs two people present Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm. If you can help, please contact Richard, Mary or Margaret as soon as possible.

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