



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

St Nicholas Presbytery, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-8810

Parish Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-0419

(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 12 noon; Tuesday 2 - 4pm; Friday 5 - 7pm)

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 07718598188

Parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com

Fr Richard's email: richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com

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) Caretaker: Volunteers

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Margaret Ulloa (0117-915-0486)

Parish Administration & Hall/Room Bookings: Margaret Ulloa and Team (0117-909-0419)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A MEETING PREGNANT WITH SALVATION FOR THE WORLD!

Two women meet - and rejoice to share both good news and the risks they are taking. Two children growing in the womb meet and bring life to each other. In the womb of Elizabeth is carried all humanity's hopes for a better world, a world of justice, of freedom, of peace and of love. In Mary's womb God fulfils His promise, and answers the cries of humanity for a new future.

Every woman who carries a child in the womb carries humanity's hopes, carries the promise of a new future, for the child and for the world. Every woman who carries a child in the womb also carries the reality of God within her and within her child, carries God's answer of fulfilled Promise.

In every child heaven and earth are joined and hope is rekindled. In every child God comes to visit His People. They hold the secret of the Kingdom of God and we cannot understand the wonder of our Father's love unless we begin to see through the wonder filled eyes of the child. We need the heart of the child truly to welcome the Coming of Love made Flesh in Jesus our brother.

Let us be bearers of both the hopes of the world and the promise of God; may each of our lives be pregnant with hope for our world, bringing the Father's mercy to birth among all peoples.

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Blessing of Christmas Tree at 10.00am 'O Root of Jesse'
Mass with our LBG^TQ⁺ friends and families at 3.00pm - all welcome!

MONDAY: 'O Key of David' Advent Antiphon.
Adoration at 5.30pm Mass at 6.00pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at 6.45pm

Blessed is she who believed the promises made her by Lord would be fulfilled!

TUESDAY: **'O Morning Star' Advent Antiphon-**
Reception of the Body of Christine Flahive RIP at 5.00pm
Adoration- at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at 7.15pm

WEDNESDAY: **'O King of the Nations' Advent Antiphon**
Requiem Mass for Christine Flahive RIP at 10.30am
Adoration- at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at 7.15pm

THURSDAY: **O Emmanuel - 'God-is-with-us' Advent Antiphon-**
Requiem Mass for William John O'Rourke RIP at 10.30am
Adoration- at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at 7.15pm

FRIDAY: **CHRISTMAS EVE**
Adoration- at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am
 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) 10.00-11.00am & 4.00-5.00pm

Christmas Season Begins

FRIDAY: **MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR** at 10.30pm

SATURDAY: **SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS** at 10.00am

TODAY [1] [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] We **bless the Christmas Tree** during this 10am Mass - the Tree that symbolises both the tree of our Fall (the First Adam) and the Tree of our Redemption (the Second Adam - Christ). Parents - if you have a Christmas Tree in your home, why not gather your children around it and bless it on Christmas Eve?

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

NEXT WEEKEND [1] **On Saturday** We celebrate with great joy the **Feast of the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ**. The Word is made Flesh and dwells among us - God embraces our humanity, enters into the human story and becomes a Pilgrim at the heart of creation's evolving journey. We celebrate a God of radical involvement in the drama of history. Such is the infinite 'extent' of divine love! There will be two Masses to celebrate the Feast - **Midnight Mass beginning at 10.00pm on Saturday evening and the Day Mass at 10.00am Sunday morning.**

[2] **On Sunday** we celebrate the beautiful **Feast of the Holy Family**. A day to give thanks for our families, to hold each other with love, to pray for those families separated for whatever reason, but especially because of fleeing terror and war. A time to care for those who have no families. A day to rejoice that God comes into our families with tender love.

COLLECTIONS

Env £63.00 + Loose £192.01 + PayPal? + S/O's £111.05 = TOTAL: £266.06 - thank you!
Caritas Fund £8.00 **Society of St Vincent de Paul** £146.99

Blessed is she who believed the promises made her by Lord would be fulfilled!

WORD OF GOD FOR FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday	Micah 5: 1-4 / Psalm 79 / Hebrews 10: 5-10 / Luke 1: 39-44
Monday	Isaiah 7: 10-14 / Psalm 23 / Luke 1: 26-38
Tuesday	Song of Songs 2: 8-14 / Psalm 32 / Luke 1: 39-45
Wednesday	1 Samuel 1: 24-28 / Responsorial 1 Samuel 2 / Luke 1: 46-56
Thursday	Malachy 3: 1-4, 23-24 / Psalm 24 / Luke 1: 57-66
Friday	2 Samuel 7: 1-16 / Ps 88 / Luke 1: 67-79
	Midnight Mass Isaiah 9: 1-7 / Ps 95 / Titus 2: 11-14 / Luke 2:1-14
Saturday	Dawn Mass Isaiah 62: 11-12 / Ps 96 / Titus 3: 4-7 / Luke 2: 15-20
	Day Mass Isaiah 52: 7-10 / Ps 97 / Hebrews 1: 1-6 / John 1: 1-18

DATES FOR THE DIARY

24th Dec	CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm
25th Dec	CHRISTMAS SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY at 10.00am
31st Dec	New Year's Eve Watchnight Mass at 10.30pm
2022	
1st Jan	FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEARS DAY 10am Mass
6th Jan	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
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.
27th Jan	Borderlands Trustees meeting
27th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day - Civic Commemoration at 1.30pm
4th Feb	First Reconciliation Programme begins at 4.00pm (the Assisi Centre)
11th Feb	World Day of the Sick (Our Lady of Lourdes) Healing Mass at 7.00pm
12th Feb	Ministry Students from Sarum College visit St Nicks
6th March	ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS

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.

DIOCESAN PRAYER Today the Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Joseph's, Weston-super-Mare served by Canon Thomas Gunning, Deacons Stephen Munday, Michael Roberts, Thomas Moffatt, Parish Administrators Tracey Nelson, Maricis Magbanua and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for the **Ministry of the Wild Goose Café**, serving the homeless and 'street poor' with 3 hot meals 6 days a week. This ecumenical ministry serves to lessen the poverty and loneliness of some of our most marginalised and isolated sisters and brothers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact John Flannery.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS For those not using Offertory envelopes, there are some Christmas Offering envelopes available today for the Christmas Offerings. The Collections at Christmas and Easter are your personal offering of financial support for your parish priest, and makes up a major part of his annual 'wage'. Thank you for your generosity.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER! As since 1999/2000, there will be a New Year 'Watch Night Mass' at 10.30pm on 31st December, praying the New Year in. This year we are faced with the Covid Pandemic still raging; the tragedy confronting Afghanistan, the urgency of addressing Global Warming, the safety of our refugee and asylum-seeking sisters and brothers, the Global Synod seeking a new way of being the

Blessed is she who believed the promises made her by Lord would be fulfilled!

Church - and for our own families and parish family! Much to pray about as we enter a New Year - a New Hope! Let us greet the New Year in the name of Christ in prayer and Eucharist: sadly no party afterwards, but I hope many will come as our world faces so many crises.

HEALING MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11th Come to this special **Healing Mass for the World Day of the Sick in this Diocesan Year of Prayer** here at St Nicks on Friday **11th February at 7.00pm**. To offer or receive Healing Prayer is a very special experience, as Jesus touches another with healing love through you (or to you through another). Jesus' Word of Healing is an event of transformation as we pray with and care for the sick and housebound, the troubled and anguished. We become the Father's Mercy reaching into the wounds of humanity with wine of compassion & peace. Come yourself and bring others to Healing Prayer in the name of Jesus and let Him change you!

JOURNEY OF FAITH Because of the renewed Covid Restrictions, the **Journey of Faith Group will 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'. We resume after a break at Christmas on Friday 7th January. This is for all who want to discover more about the Catholic Faith, or who are thinking of becoming Catholic Christians. Also for seeking a renewal of 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?

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.

BIG PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN OF THE CHURCH Because of the funerals being held at St Nicks this week (and the need to 'fog' the church afterwards, the only possible time for cleaning the church is Wednesday at 4.00pm - can volunteers please come at this time in order to finish cleaning the church before 6.00pm (Prayer and Evening Mass) - see Andrew

ST NICK'S AND THE GLOBAL SYNOD Will all facilitators of the groups please gather your groups and be ready to hold at least three meetings between Christmas and February 5th, then submit the conversations to Richard in a digital form (email), to be collated (by Maggie Vickerman and Reagan d'Mello). The document we shall submit to the Diocese will come before the Parish Assembly later in February for approval. Prior to that it will be published on the Parish Website. We have the following groups and facilitators:

Young People - Samantha Masenyama, Rutendo Chipato, Verina Muteve

West African Communities - Eneyi Pemu, Eustace Tameh

Zimbabwean Community - Christopher and Epiphania Chipato

East African communities - Eva Achoch, Fanuel Olala

Elders & Housebound Community - Andrew Bent

Womens Group - Jeninne Oldis, Minette Semper

LBGTQ+ community - Diarmuid White, John Flannery

Journey of Faith Group - Richard McKay, Mary Hopper

Facilitators Group - Richard McKay, Mary Hopper

Open Group - Marta Bolognani, Mary Hopper (first meeting 15th January at 10am)

Thank you to all who have agreed to facilitate these Synod Groups. If other groups wish to form, please contact Richard

Blessed is she who believed the promises made her by Lord would be fulfilled!