



## 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)

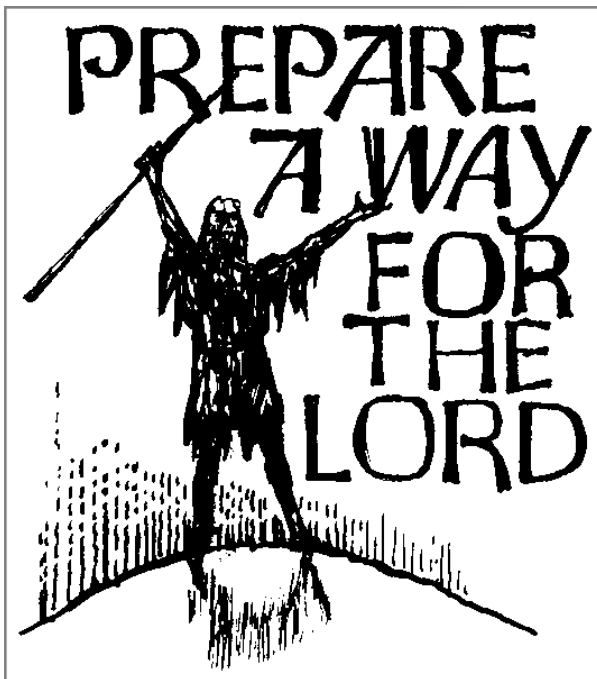
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT- Year C (Bible Sunday)



### *John the Baptist, Orthodox & Subversive!*

Out in the wilderness, like the Hebrews in their earliest days; hearing the Word of God, as the Hebrews did at Sinai; preparing for a new age, a promise being fulfilled, as the Hebrews did journeying to the Promised Land.

And yet he was challenging corruption in the religious and political state of Israel. Calling them to repentance so that the winding ways of our shallow hearts and devious minds would be straightened that the Lord might enter the human heart and the Kingdom might come.

True orthodoxy is truly radical, truly reforming and renewing. Authentic 'traditionalism' is ever-changing to be faithful to the Word of God in our time - never a mindless preservation of a nostalgic past! This Wild Man of God who ushers in a radically new era is the true Orthodox, is the authentic Tradition! Are we?

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

**MONDAY:** *Feast of St Nicholas of Myra, Bishop [origin of 'Santa Claus']*  
Adoration at 5.30pm Service of Word & Communion at 6.00pm

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (339-397), Minor Patron of Diocese*  
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY:** *FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY*  
Prayer and Reflection at 10.00am (*live-streamed on Face Book*)  
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (*live steamed: Parish Website*)

**THURSDAY:** Requiem Mass for Bernice Pascal RIP at 11.00am (*live steamed: Parish Website*)

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**FRIDAY:** ***Feast of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (1474-1548), visionary of Guadeloupe***  
**Adoration** at 8.30am                      **Mass** at 9.00am

**SATURDAY:** **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] On the **Second Sunday of Advent** we celebrate that Christ Jesus, the One Who comes and asks us like God asked John the Baptist, to 'prepare the way of the Lord' to prepare our world for His Final Coming by building Justice into the systems of our world, by bringing healing to our abused planet, by securing hope and welcome for all our refugees, by bringing war and poverty to an end. Then we will have 'prepared the Way of the Lord'

[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

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Third Sunday of Advent** is also known as '**Gaudete**' ('**Re-joicing**') **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.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** Today the Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St John the Baptist, Trowbridge and St Bernadette, Westbury, served by Fr Tom Finnegan, and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** Pray God's Blessing for the **SVP Conference of the Parish**, a group of men and women, who inspired by the Gospel and the charism of Str Vincent de Paul, seek to serve the poor and lonely of our city with practical care and sensitive love. Could you spare a couple of hours each week and join them in this quiet gentle ministry of reaching out in the name of Christ to the disadvantaged in our locality. They meet alternative Mondays at 7.00pm in the Assisi Centre. Contact Peter Sorhaindo for more information.

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

**Sunday** Baruch 5: 1-9 / Psalm 125 / Philipians 1: 3-6, 8-11 / Luke 3: 1-6  
**Monday** Isaiah 35: 1-10 / Psalm 84 / Luke 5: 17-26  
**Tuesday** Isaiah 40: 1-11 / Psalm 95 / Matthew 18: 12-14  
**Wednesday** Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 / Psalm 97 / Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12 / Luke 1: 26-38  
**Thursday** Isaiah 41: 13-20 / Psalm 144 / Matthew 11: 11-15  
**Friday** Isaiah 48: 17-19 / Psalm 1 / Matthew 11: 16-19  
**Saturday** Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-4, 9-11 / Psalm 79 / Matthew 17: 10-13

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Env £50.00 + Loose £212.90 + PayPal ? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £373.95 - thanks  
**Brenda's Requiem Mass (for Foodbank & Caritas Fund)** £341.46

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

8th Dec **Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass** at 6.30pm  
8th Dec Parish Pastoral Council at 7.15pm - Assisi Centre

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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
24th Dec	<b>Christmas Midnight Mass at 10.30pm</b> - Broadmead)
25th Dec	<b>Solemn Day Mass of Christmas at 10.00am</b>
31st Dec	<b>Watchnight Mass into New Year at 10.30am</b>
<b><u>2022</u></b>	
1st Jan	<b>New Year - Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God at 10.00am</b>
6th Jan	<b>Feast of the Epiphany - Mass (with School) at 9.30am &amp; Mass at 7.00pm</b>
9th Jan	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday</b>
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	<b>Baptismal Sunday</b>

**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 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

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**'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.

**TRAINING NEW ALTAR SERVERS** There will be a pre-Christmas practice for **ALL ALTAR SERVERS** 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.

**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.**

**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

**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](http://www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk)

**VOLUNTEERS NEED 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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