



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 needed

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

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SON OF MARY, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD



Christmas Season Begins

FRIDAY: *Christmas Eve*

MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST at 10.30pm

SATURDAY: *CHRISTMAS DAY*

SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 10.00am

SUNDAY: *FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY*

PARISH MASS with Baptism at 10.00am

MONDAY: *Feast of St John the Evangelist, Apostle (Bank Holiday)*

Adoration at 9.30am **Mass** at 10.00am

The Word is made flesh and pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

TUESDAY: ***Feast of the Holy Innocents (Day of prayer for all child victims) (Bank Holiday)***
Adoration at 9.30am **Mass** at 10.00am

WEDNESDAY: *Adoration* at 6.00pm **Service of Word and Communion** at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: ***Feast of St Thomas Becket, Martyred Archbishop of Canterbury***
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass** at 12.00 noon

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am
WATCHNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm

SATURDAY: ***FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEAR'S DAY***
Adoration at 9.30am **MASS FOR PEACE** at 10.00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

Fr Richard and the Parish Team

Want to assure you all of our Special Prayer for you and yours this Christmas.

Although we cannot celebrate the Birth of Jesus as fully as previously

because of the Covid Pandemic, may your Joy be undimmed and your Hope enlarged

We wish you and those you love every Joy and Happiness this most Blessed Christmas.

You are especially remembered at the Eucharist.

A Special Word of Welcome to all Visitors to our Parish this Christmas.

In particular to any friends who are not Roman Catholics ...

We value your presence with us as we worship together Our Saviour Jesus Christ

On this Feast of Endless Love!

CHRISTMAS DAY: [1] With amazing joy we celebrate this wondrous day of Mystery - the **Mystery of Love made Flesh**, God stooping down in the Divine Littleness of the tiny Child who carries all creation in His infant Heart. Men and women everywhere! Know your sublime dignity, that now our humanity carries the Divine, is capable of infinite love and endless life. How can we ever fear this God who comes in the vulnerable poverty of Bethlehem's Christ Child? Or ever diminish another human person whom we know is filled with Divine Presence? Forever the world at its very heart, in its utter depths, is changed! ALLELUIA!

[2] ***Come and pray the New Year in with our Watchnight Mass New Year's Eve Friday 31st December at 10.30pm.***

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**, as we contemplate God's immense trust in us, in our human family, in entrusting the human development of His Son to a family like our own! No idyllic world for the Word made Flesh - but born to an unmarried mother, a displaced family, soon to become a refugee family fleeing the oppressive terror of a corrupt and violent ruler. Then growing to maturity in a village of great poverty. From this world of poverty and suffering the Word of God is shaped!

NEW YEAR'S DAY: [1] We celebrate on **New Year's Day**, the **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. The Council of Ephesus, 431AD, made the first solemn pronouncement of the Church's doctrine in regard to Mary - giving her the title 'Theotokos' - bearer of God. It did so less to honour Mary and more to preserve and proclaim the fundamental doctrine that Jesus was truly God and truly Human. Mary is the model disciple, God's teacher to God's People on how to be true and loving disciples of Jesus. Let 2021 be a Year of growth in Missionary Discipleship!

The Word is made flesh and pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

[2] Held by most of the Church as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**, Mass will be offered for the Peace of the World - that the terror, conflict and brutal wars of 2020 might give way to an era of Peace and Reconciliation: courage is making Peace rather War!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton, with St Mary the Virgin, Millbourne Port, Bruton, and Castle Carey served by (temporarily) Canon Thomas Atthill, Deacon Michael Hughes, Parish Administrator, Mrs Joanna Bentley and all their communities. We pray for this parish especially as their parish priest, Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (former organist here), died a few days ago.

PRAY EACH WEEK FOR A DIFFERENT MINISTRY OR MISSION OF THE PARISH

This week, pray God's Blessing upon the mission of **our Borderlands Charity, serving our refugee and sanctuary-seeking sisters and brothers**. Please pray for our expanded Staff Team (led by the Director Susi Revolti), our wonderful volunteers, our Trustees - but above all our members whom we serve. Borderlands Charity was set up by the parish a few years ago to expand our capacity beyond what the congregation alone could undertake. It is an essential and vital part of our parish's mission.

WORD OF GOD FOR OCTAVE AND DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Friday	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
Sunday		Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 / Psalm 127 / Colossians 3: 12-21 / Luke 2: 22-40
Monday		1 John 1: 1-4 / Psalm 96 / John 20: 2-8
Tuesday		1 John 1: 5-2: 2 / Psalm 123 / Matthew 2: 13-18
Wednesday		Colossians 1: 24-29 / Ps 22 / Luke 22: 24-30
Thursday		1 John 2: 12-17 / Psalm 95 / Luke 2: 36-40
Friday		1 John 2: 18-21 / Psalm 95 / John 1: 1-18
Saturday		Numbers 6: 22-27 / Ps 66 / Galatians 4: 4-7 / Luke 2: 16-21

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £255.00 + Loose £87.00 + PayPal £249.83. + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £715.88 thanks!

Food Bank donation £520.00 **Caritas Fund** £5.00 **CAFOD** £120.00 - many thanks!

I wish also to thank all who give great and small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and every giver is equally valued and these gifts are used to serve the growth of the Kingdom of God. Thank you!

Our Caritas Fund is supporting so many people as those unemployed or suffering from food and fuel poverty are increasing.

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.

CRIB OFFERINGS As always, these are gifts that support the work of our outstanding **Diocesan Children's Society**. With their offices in Pennywell Road, they are indeed a part of our parish! Please pray for their work, give generously, and pray for more adoptive parents to come forward - **could you be such an adoptive family? Contact tel: 0845-122-0077.**

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER! As for the past few years, there will be a **New Year 'Watch Night Mass'** at **10.30pm on 31st December**, praying the New Year in. During this Year of Covid and so much grief and weariness - we need to pray for fearful world, our war-torn world, for our polluted Earth, for our refugee and asy-

The Word is made flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

lum-seeking sisters and brothers - and for our own families and parish family! Much to pray about as we enter a New Year - to fill it with a New Hope and a deeper Love!

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
<u>2022</u>	
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
16th Jan	United Service for Christian Unity Week at Parkway methodist Church 4.30pm
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

Christmas Thanks

- + *to all who have worked so hard throughout the year preparing the Church*
- + *to all who clean and decorate with flowers the Church each week*
- + *to all working in the sacristy, preparing the Crib etc*
- + *to all who help celebrate the Liturgy - choir, musicians, altar servers, Readers, Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, Welcomers and liturgy planners*
- + *to all who give time to pray and who serve our community all year round*
- + *to all who serve the many Ministries and Missions of our parish family*
- + *to all who serve in or support the Parish Food Bank ('St Nicholas Bread')*
- + *to all who support the mission of our 'Borderlands' Charity*
- + *to all who enable the parish office to do so much pastoral care*
- + *to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ in this wonderful community!*

To express my gratitude, I have bought you all as a Christmas Gift, a variety of CAFOD World Gifts.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES The First Eucharist Programme begins on **Thursday 20th January at 4.00-5.00pm** (hopefully) in the Assisi Centre. There will also be a parents meeting at the same time, also in the Assisi Centre (again hopefully).

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.

The Word is made flesh and Pitches tent among us - His beloved people!