



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

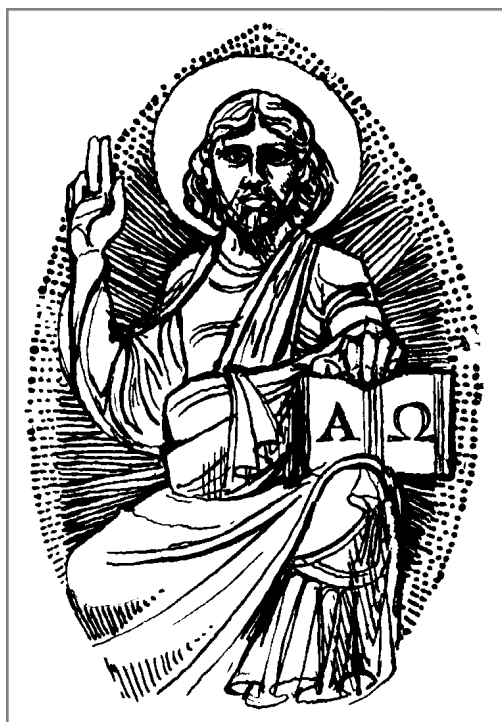
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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: Margaret Ulloa and Team (0117-909-0419)

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



WORD MADE FLESH - IN JESUS AND IN ME!

Words are cheap in our world - tweeted and texted with little thought, spoken endlessly, written in oceans, ringing in our ears on phones and streamed songs! How many of our words create and heal and how many wound and abuse? How many build up and affirm - how many pull down and diminish?

Yet when God speaks, God gives us everything: our lives, our planet, our Universe - all flow from the Creative Word of Love that God speaks: so creative that in Jesus the Word is made Flesh and pitches tent among us. In Jesus, God's Word always creates and heals, always builds up and affirms - even and perhaps especially God's challenging Word. We are reborn to a New Life in this Word made Flesh, so we are called to be creative and healing, affirming and building a new world - the New Heaven and the new Earth. Will we speak Liberating Truth in love this 2021? Will we allow the Word to be made Flesh in us? Will we use the Divine Gift of speech to create communion, solidarity, peace?

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

MONDAY: Feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus ('God is among us saving His People')
Adoration at 9.30pm Mass at 10.00am

TUESDAY: 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: FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ('Holy Day of Obligation')
School Mass at 9.30am (in school)
Mass at St Brendan's Sixth Form College at 12.15pm
Adoration at 6.30pm Mass at 7.00pm (*live steamed: Parish Website*)

A BLESSED AND HOPE-FILLED NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR WORLD!

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 8.30am **Mass at 9.00am**

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
 Epiphany-tide Adoration & Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (live-streamed on Face Book)
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: after mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY [1] With the **Second Sunday of Christmas** we celebrate the Creative Word of God, the loving Wisdom of God made flesh in the evolving Cosmos - Love and Wisdom is the Divine Word that in Christ Jesus is the 'Alpha and Omega' - the origin of all creation and the goal of all the Universe's history. This Divine Word redeems us, call and chooses us to continue God's creative and redeeming work- we are to make the Word flesh in our lives!

[2] The 10am Mass is signed for our deaf and hearing impaired sisters and brothers.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] We celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord** - emerging from the 'hidden years of listening with heart and mind to humanity, to the poor, Jesus hears the call of His Father to abandon Himself to God's will and serve God's Kingdom - the call of the 'Beloved Son in whom God is well-pleased' - and the call of all the baptised!

[2] With joy we celebrate child baptism at the 10.00am Mass - please pray for the family.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

A FEAST OF GLORY MANIFESTED!

Seekers after wisdom have travelled far, and bring with them the hopes of the Nations, the gifts of the Peoples, the riches of Learning - and lay them before this vulnerable little child trapped in poverty and soon to be a refugee! These strong men of intellect who gaze upon the stars and research the wisdom of ages in their books: now they bend low, humbled and humbling in the generosity of their spirits and the humility of their minds - bending the knee to the child and His young mother and labourer father.

And in the poverty of the Bethlehem home they touch the quiet and hidden glory of Love made Flesh, of God in human skin, of the intertwining of the Divine and Human stories forever - literally for all eternity. They have found Wisdom - or rather Wisdom made Flesh has found them! Let us be drawn like them to the strange Glory of this God-touched Humanity. Forever we will walk a different Way as wise seekers and lovers! Then the Glory can be quietly and gently manifest in us! These strangers from distant lands bring us gifts - the gifts of their faith, their love, their searching, their courage. Then and now!

DIOCESAN PRAYER Today the Diocese prays for all the '**Communities of Religious Sisters and Brothers**' throughout our diocesan family - asking God's blessing upon the many diverse ways the serve the Body of Christ in Clifton Diocese.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for **our Parish Hospitality Teams** - who welcome people at the door (currently ensuring Covid good practice compliance), as well as catering for the tea and coffee in the school hall after Mass - in normal non-Covid times. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Ministry of Welcome and care on Sundays - please contact Margaret through the Parish Office.

WORD OF GOD FOR FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Sunday	Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12 / Psalm 147 / Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18 / John 1: 1-18
Monday	1 John 2: 29-3: 6 / Psalm 97 / John 1: 29-34
Tuesday	1 John 3: 7-10 / Psalm 97 / John 1: 35-42
Wednesday	1 John 3: 11-21 / Psalm 99 / John 1: 43-51
Thursday	Isaiah 60: 1-6 / Psalm 71 / Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 / Matthew 2: 1-12
Friday	1 John 3: 2- 4: 6 / Psalm 2 / Matthew 4: 12, 23-25
Saturday	1 John 4: 7-10 / Psalm 71 / Mark 6: 34-44

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COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK - CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Env £436.00 + Loose £508.0 + PayPal ? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £1055.05 - thanks

Crib Offerings £21.00 **Caritas** £20.00 - thank you!

Many thanks indeed for your generosity in the Christmas Offerings which contributes to the annual 'stipend' for your parish priest. *Also many thanks for your cards, greetings and gifts over the Christmas period - I am very grateful and never take your kindness and support to me for granted - it is a privilege to share your Pilgrim Journey here at St Nicks. Richard .*

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2022

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
15th Jan	Open Group Synod first meeting at 10.00am (Assisi Centre)
18th Jan	First Reconciliation Parents meeting at 7.00pm (Assisi Centre)
19th Jan	Ashley Churches Together Serving meet at 12.30pm
19th Jan	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7.15pm (Assisi Centre)
20th 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
27th Feb	Baptismal Sunday
2nd 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.

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.

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

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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

CALLING ALL SYNOD GROUP FACILITATORS Please report back plans, progress, difficulties etc to Richard or Margaret/Eustace (by email) by Saturday 8th January. **IT IS URGENT TO MAKE PROGRESS NOW AS WE HAVE A DEADLINE LOOMING!**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES

[1] **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).

[2] **THE FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME** begins with a Parents only meeting on Tuesday 18th January at 7.00pm in the Assisi Centre (after Mass at 6.00pm). It is very important that all children who have celebrated their First Eucharist in the last two years (or earlier) are now prepared for First Reconciliation. Enrolment Forms are now available - please see Mary Hopper. The First meeting for the children will be on **Friday 4th February at 4.00pm in the Assisi Centre.**

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.

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.

NEW YEAR - A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS Not a time for New Year Resolutions that are soon forgotten, but rather the time for Renewed Commitment as Christians to follow Jesus and serve Him more deeply. If you have been 'attending' Mass on-line during Covid, the now is the time to return and rebuild our Parish Community. On-line mass is very helpful when attending Mass is not possible - but it must never be a substitute for coming to the Community and welcoming Christ in the Eucharist. In addition to Sunday Mass, please try to come to a weekday Mass each week - this is the praying bedrock of our parish's mission. Also, is God calling you to be more actively involved in the Mission of the Parish - food-bank, Parish office, Borderlands or the many acts of service that are needed.

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