



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

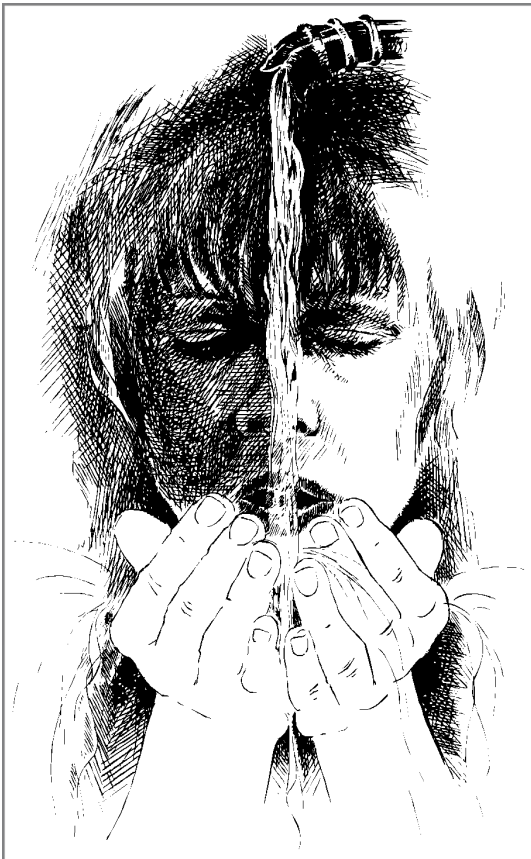
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaking of our buildings: Eddie Mgbeoduru

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Jennine Oldis (0117-915-0486)

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

What on earth is He doing? No self-respecting Jewish 'holy man' or rabbi would venture into Samaritan country: they are the hated enemy and for sure God had no time for them. They had destroyed the unity of the nation, of the People of God some 600 years earlier - and we and God have long memories! They are outside the concern of God!

And it gets worse: he is speaking to a woman - in public! A Samaritan woman! Even drinking from her cup! And what a reputation she has! Just goes to show this young rabbi knows nothing and is 'beyond the pale'. Like her, he is a disgrace!

To go the excluded of the excluded - to descend into the pit of condemnation: this is Divine Love, this reveals the true nature of God. Not possessive or precious about 'ritual purity', seeming holiness, but passionate to bring love to the loveless, to gather in the most excluded and reveal them to the world as 'closest to the Father's heart'!

'To the lost Christ shows His face; to the unloved He gives His embrace; to those who cry in pain or disgrace, Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place!'

SUNDAY PARISH MASS at 10am (*live on Parish Website*)

followed by Parish Celebration in school Hall

MONDAY: Adoration at 5.30pm

Service of Word and Communion at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm

Service of Word and Communion at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm (*live streamed: Website*)

**Peter cried out: 'Lord it is wonderful for us to be here' Let us stay in the glory!
And the Father said: 'This is My Son, the Beloved - listen to Him'**

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Oscar Romero & Bl Rutillio Grande & Martyrs of El Salvador*
 Evening Mass at 7.00pm (*live-streamed on Parish Website*),
 followed by Latin American refreshments

FRIDAY: **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
Adoration at 6.00pm **Mass** at 9.00am

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12 noon**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.00-4.30pm only

TODAY [1] With the **Third Sunday of Lent**, the Word of God switches to Year A for the great Lenten readings preparing the Church for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. With the Gospel of Jesus conversation with the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well, we celebrate the Christ who opens up the fountain of Living Water of the Holy Spirit who bring New Life overflowing into our lives, renewing us in Christ and drawing us ever deeper in the Mystery of God's unconditional love for each one of us. Let us drink deeply of the Spirit!

[2] After the Mass please all come to the School Hall to celebrate both **50 years of Richard's Ministry and 25 years at St Nicks**. Please wear national dress and bring your national food to share (as well as songs, dance etc).

[3] **Retiring Collection for the humanitarian relief of the Ukrainian people. Please be as generous as you can - thank you!**

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus the Light of the world, and our 'enlightenment' through baptism. We are drawn from the 'kingdom of darkness' (the world of manipulation of 'truth', the world of oppression and the denials of love and life and dignity) into the 'Kingdom of Light and Love - the Kingdom of God'. May our Lenten journey bring bring the Light of God's Mercy and liberating Truth into our dark shadows, purify our hearts and reform and renew our Church.

[2] It is also "**Laetare**" or "**Rejoicing**" Sunday as we rejoice in the call to deeper conversion into the holiness, humanity and love that is authentic discipleship of Jesus. The Rose coloured vestment worn today is meant to express this joy of following Christ Jesus.

[3] All are welcome to share in the **Mass with our LBGTO+ family and friends** at 3.00pm - postponed from last Sunday.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Joseph's Bridgwater, and Our Lady & English Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea, served by Fr Frank Wainright, Deacon Paul White and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for **Ministry of the 'Live-streaming Team'**. During the Covid Pandemic and its many restrictions, many people have benefitted from being able to attend mass 'on-line' when there was no possibility of attending in person. Also those of our community who have moved away have been able to keep in touch, and those who are housebound have especially valued this ministry. But we do need more volunteers to help, especially as most funeral Masses are being live-streamed. Volunteers, please contact Richard, Debo or Reagan.

WORD OF GOD FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (Cycle A)

Sunday Exodus 17: 3-7 / Psalm 94 / Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42

Monday 2 Kings 5: 1-15 / Psalms 41 & 42 / Luke 4: 24-30

Tuesday Daniel 3: 25, 34-43 / Psalm 24 / Matthew 18: 21-35

Wednesday Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9 / Psalm 147 / Matthew 5: 17-19

Thursday Jeremiah 7: 23-28 / Psalm 94 / Luke 11: 14-23

Friday Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8: 10 / Psalm 39 / Hebrews 10: 4-10 / Luke 1:26-38

Saturday Hosea 5: 15-6: 6 / Psalm 50 / Luke 18: 9-14

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COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £103.40 + Loose £103.60 + PayPal £? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £318.00 - thanks!
Caritas £60.00 - thank you! **Collection for Ukraine** £168.00 (still open)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

20th March Parish Celebration & Lunch for Richard's 50th Anniversary of Ordination at 10.00am

23rd March Ashley Churches Together meet at City Road Baptist Church at 12.30pm

24th March Feast of St Oscar Romero & Martyrs of El Salvador - Mass at 7.00pm

25th March **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord - the Incarnation begins!**

27th March Mothering Sunday

27th March Mass for LGBTQ+ families and friends - all are welcome 3.00pm

29th March Borderlands Annual Open Meeting at 2.00pm (Church) - all invited

1st April Pre-baptism Parents Session One at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

2nd April Celebration of First Reconciliation for our children

2nd April Healing Retreat Day at Holy Family Centre, Prinknash Abbey - see below

3rd April Rite of Child Catechumen at 10.00am Mass

5th April Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.15pm (Assisi Centre)

8th April Pre-baptism Parents Session Two at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

10th April **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**

17th April **FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST - EASTER!**

JOURNEY OF FAITH The Journey of Faith Group continues to meet on Zoom - each Friday at 6.00pm. New members - please send Richard an email address so he can send you the 'Zoom Invite'.

CATECHISTS AND HELPERS WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY NEEDED NOW!

We have an urgent need for people (young adults and parents?) to offer to help with our Catechetical Programmes - preparing our children for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation, our young people for Confirmation and parents for the baptism of their children. There is also a grave need for help on a rota basis with our Children's Liturgy of the Word (during Sunday Mass) that we would like to restart, but do not have enough people to do so. These ministries are a vital part of forming our children and young people to grow as People of Faith and Love - essential to the future of the Church and our parish. *If you feel you can help with these programmes please contact Mary Hopper as soon as possible.*

RICHARD'S 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION Although I am writing this before the event itself, I am already aware of all the work so many people are putting in, to make the celebrations associated with my 50th anniversary of Ordination. I am profoundly grateful and feel very privileged to be your brother and pastor in such a wonderful community as St Nicks. I have already received many greetings and generous words of encouragement from you my community and friends beyond St Nicks - thank you to you all!

PARENTS' BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE FOR EASTER Parents seeking the baptism of their children this Easter are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Christopher and Epiphania Chipato or Fr Richard as soon as possible.

BAPTISMAL SUNDAY - EASTER SUNDAY 17TH APRIL at 10am Mass
Preparation Sessions: Friday 1st and 8th April at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
Rite of Child Catechumen Sunday 3rd April at 10am Mass

LGBT+ MINISTRY **John Flannery writes:** It is clear from the parish Synod Report that the Clifton diocese LGBT+ ministry hosted by St Nick's has many friends and allies within the parish. If you would like to be kept informed about our activities, and news and

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events from the wider LGBT+ Catholic world, please consider subscribing to our monthly e-mail news and update. Simply send a message with 'subscribe' as the subject to: inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com Your data will not be shared & you can unsubscribe at any time.

THE CLIFTON EVANGELIST & 40 LENTEN REFLECTIONS - NURTURING FAITH

The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation has two great projects which can help people to dive deeper into their faith this Lent.

1. Volume II of The Clifton Evangelist is published on Friday 11 March! This is a great resource with information about upcoming events, as well as articles written by people from around the diocese. We want to encourage people to submit feedback. Find the The Clifton Evangelist on the diocesan website [Faith and Formation | Clifton Diocese](#)
2. The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation has asked 40 people in the diocese to create Lenten Reflection Videos. Each one generously offered their thoughts and prayers in the reflection and you can find all the videos on the diocesan website [Lent 2022 | Clifton Diocese](#)

We promote our projects on our Facebook page ([The Clifton Evangelist | Facebook](#)), on our Instagram ([Adult Ed and Evangelisation \(@cliftonevangelist\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)), and on our Twitter page ([CliftonEvangelist \(@CliftonEvangel\)](#) / [Twitter](#)) as well. These social media accounts are a great and easy way for people to get in touch with us to share their thoughts.

MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST OSCAR ROMERO & BL RUTILLIO GRANDE

The suffering people of El Salvador have been strengthened and encouraged by the recent Beatification of four more Martyrs for Justice. Many have fled their country because of the appalling gang violence - a terrible legacy of the years of repression and conflict that took the lives of 80,000 people in a country the size of Wales! **Come and pray for Peace built on Justice for the all oppressed peoples - in Latin America, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar, Mali ... Come and ask the intercession of St Oscar Romero, the great prophet of Justice and Freedom, for Peace wherever there is war and repression. Come and join us for Mass in Spanish and English on Thursday 24th March at 7.00pm here at St Nicks. Latin American refreshments after the Mass - all so welcome!**

WHAT IS LENT FOR? Every Lent is a 'Springtime' of growth and renewal - a time for self-awareness, for change, for growth in Christ - A PRIVILEGED TIME OF GRACE. *In communion with Pope Francis we seek to be a People of simplicity and humility, a People of the 'Joy of the Gospel'.* Seek and find more of God, open to the embrace of His love. After the challenges and deprivations of this Covid period, and in the midst of the terrible war in Eastern Europe, you and I need this Lent - to grow again our community of prayer, community of unity and healing, community of mission, community of Love! truly disciples in God's Family! ***You need the parish this Lent - and the parish needs you! SO WILL YOU EMBRACE THE DISCIPLINE OF LENT, GIVE TIME AND ENERGY TO MAKE THIS A TIME OF RENEWAL FOR YOURSELF, YOUR PARISH AND YOUR COMMUNITY?*** Let us together make this a Season filled with 'the Joy of the Gospel', drawing closer to God, especially in the Eucharist and the intimacy of prayer, drawing closer together as God's Family, and serving together the parish family and the world's poor.

BRISTOL NOISE Saturday 30th April to Monday 2nd May Bristol Noise is a Christina organisation enabling the people of the churches of Bristol to organise practical projects and free community events over this weekend. From open-air fun events to litter picking and gardening for elderly people, you can volunteer and get involved in 'showing God's love in practical ways'. To sign up as a volunteer (fee of £5 per person), go to: www.thenoise.org.uk

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