



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 - 1.00pm)

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 0117-904-0479

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) 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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ('Laetare' or Rejoicing Sunday)



JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We journey to the Pool of Baptism throughout Lent - journey to cleansing waters, to healing waters, to life-giving waters, to waters that bring us 'enlightenment'. Many of the Churches of Eastern Tradition still call Baptism 'the Enlightenment'. That is why the baptised person is given a baptismal candle lit from the Easter Candle of the Resurrection Light! For by living deeply our Baptism ('living deeply our new life') we are bearers of Jesus' light into a world darkened by inhumanity, brutality, war and poverty.

Lent is a journey into the Light of Easter: and this Light of the Gospel Light of the Spirit, Light of Christ will challenge all the dark places that lurk in our hearts. To be 'enlightened' is to be challenged to change, to be honest, to allow self-reality to dawn: for only the 'truth sets us free'. Light will always convert us not only into more self-awareness and self-honesty, the only path to holiness, but also will convert us into more 'otherness': our lives will become a gift to others, a light that will guide another to the Waters of New Life and Hope of Freedom. Let us also go to the Pool this

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

Mass with LGBTQ+ friends & families at 3.00pm - all welcome (live on Parish Website)

MONDAY: Adoration at 5.30pm

Service of Word and Communion at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass for Quest at 7.00pm (*live streamed on Zoom*)

Jesus said: 'As long as the day lasts, I must carry out the work of the One Who sent Me ... I am the Light of the World' - will we be His Light & Mission?

THURSDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30pm **Mass at 12 noon**

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 6.00pm **Mass at 9.00am**

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

TODAY [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] It is **Mothering Sunday** when we give thanks for our mothers who have given us life and love. We also remember all women who are unintentionally childless as well as children who have not experienced a mother's love.

[4] During Mass, we participate in Pope Francis's **Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, a cry for Peace in Ukraine and a halt the brutality of war there. Pope Francis has asked all Catholic communities to engage with this Consecration to Peace. As we do so, we hold in our hearts the many mothers in Ukraine and Russia who are mourning their sons or husbands who have been killed or are separated from them because of fleeing from the violence and bombardments.

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

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] The **Fifth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life who raises his friend Lazarus from the tomb - a prophecy in action, a glimpse of the destruction of death achieved through the Cross transformed into the Tree of Life. As we confront death, our mortality, may our faith grow, like Martha's, in our eternal destiny in the heart of God forever. 'Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ', the Resurrection and Life!

[2] We celebrate the **Rite of Child Catechumen** with the children and families preparing for Easter Baptism - please pray for them and for our elected adult Catechumen, Neil, preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

[3] We pray the **Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm - once more for Peace.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of our Cathedral Church of Ss Peter and Paul Clifton, Bristol, served by Canon Bosco McDonald, Fr Cavan McElligott, Deacons Kevin Moloney, Patrick James, Paul Brandon, Parish Administrator Mary Manners, all Cathedral staff and all their community. We give thanks and pray for this parish's service to the whole diocese as the 'mother church' of our diocesan family.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for **Ministry of 'Proclaimers of the Word', our readers.** To be a Lay Reader is not simply about being reading well, but about a sacred ministry of Proclamation of the Life-Giving Word that is Jesus Christ - nourishing with the Living Word of God our sisters and brothers so that we can allow the Word that is Jesus to grow in our own lives and witness. This Ministry is co-ordinated by Reagan and Brice. If you feel called to this Ministry of the Word, training will be provided.

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

Sunday	Samuel 16: 6-7, 10-13 / Psalm 22 / Ephesians 5: 8-14 / John 9:1-41
Monday	Isaiah 65: 17-21 / Psalms 29 / John 4: 43-54
Tuesday	Ezekiel 49: 1-9, 12 / Psalm 45 / John 5: 1-3, 5-16
Wednesday	Isaiah 49: 8-15 / Psalm 144/ John 5: 17-30
Thursday	Exodus 32: 7-14 / Psalm 105 / John 5: 31-47
Friday	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22 / Psalm 33 / John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	Jeremiah 11: 18-20/ Psalm 7 / John 7: 40-52

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Env £90.00 + Loose £423.74 + PayPal £? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £624.79 - thanks!
Caritas £328.13 - thank you! **Collection for Ukraine** £646.13 (still open)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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
10th April	Gather in the school field at 10.00am for Procession with Palms as Mass begins
13th April	Mass of the Chrism at Clifton Cathedral at 11.00am - all welcome
14th April	Holy Thursday - Mass of the Last Supper at 7.00pm
15th April	Good Friday - Walk of Witness at 11.30am from St Nicks to St Mark's Rd Baptist church
15th April	Good Friday - Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm
16th April	Holy Saturday - Waiting at the Tomb - Triduum Prayer at 9.30am
16th April	Holy Saturday - THE GREAT VIGIL MASS OF EASTER at 9.00pm
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.*

HUGE 'THANK YOU' FROM RICHARD I have received so many cards, gifts and messages, all carrying much love and prayer ... I am speechless (really!!) I want simply to thank everyone for making my celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination as a priest so loving and caring, so encouraging and affirming. You have all held me with such love and affection and I cannot thank you enough - I cannot thank God enough for the privi-

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lege of sharing the Gospel and the Mission with you all in this parish. Thank you also for your generous gift enabling me to fulfil a long-held desire to go in pilgrimage to North Africa (where St Charles de Foucauld witnessed to Christ's love among his beloved Moslem tribes). **And an added word of thanks to all who worked so hard behind the scenes to make Friday evening's Mass and Sunday's Mass (with the receptions afterwards) such joyful moments. In thanksgiving for you all, I will be offering Mass**

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 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 \(@CliftonEvangelist\) / Twitter](#)) as well.

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.

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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