



St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE

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Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: www.tolentino.org.uk

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



SHADOWS TEMPTING US INTO THE DARKNESS - EVEN FOR JESUS!

How hard it is to believe that Jesus really is our brother - really as human as we are. If He were not, then He could not redeem us! What Jesus has not shared, Jesus has not redeemed. So He shares with us our wrestling with our inner shadows, our struggles with our inner 'demons'. Being Son of God did not exempt Him from the struggles and the pain - anymore than it exempted Him from suffering and death. For He would not be human if He was exempted: and if He is not utterly human, then we are not saved.

So His struggles with the shadows of the Ego, the self-serving self (use the power to make yourself popular, powerful, wealthy!) are real, not symbolic; the demons tempting Him to avoid suffering, take the easy route are there in him until the end! But His love and truth and integrity win the victory over them, for all of us! We are redeemed - because He is Human!

SUNDAY PARISH MASS & Rites of Catechumen & Election 10am (*streamed: Parish Website*)

Stations of the Cross at 12.30pm (approx- after Coffee Morning)

Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome

MONDAY: Adoration at 5.30pm

Service of Word and Communion at 6.00pm

TUESDAY: *Feast of Ss Perpetua and Felicity, North African Martyrs (Carthage - died 203)*

Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Prayer and Talk on Parish facebook at 10.00am

Adoration at 6.00pm

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

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30am

Mass at 12 noon (*in Assisi Centre*)

Jesus challenged: 'Human persons do not live on Bread alone - but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God! Worship and serve Him alone!'

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

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12 noon**
Adoration & Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (live-streamed on Face Book)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass & 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY [1] On the **First Sunday of Lent** we join Jesus in the wilderness of temptation - recognising that the abuse of power (the nature of His temptations) is destructive and lays waste lives, communities and nations (eg Syria, Yemen, Ukraine). We are called to face and defeat the temptations that beset us so that we can journey through Lent to the Garden of Resurrection Renewal.

[2] We will celebrate the **Rite of Adult Catechumen** with Tacey-Jane Anderson and the **Rite of Election** with Neil Wilmott - please support them with your prayer and friendship.

[3] I am delighted that at last we can restart the **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped at 3.00pm each First Sunday of the Month**, beginning today. All are welcome, especially with work patterns prevented you from attending the 10.00am Mass.

[4] There will be **Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm (about 30 minutes after Mass finishes). Please do try to attend this Lenten Prayer - **especially as will pray for Peace between Russia and Ukraine and an end to the brutal aggression upon the people and culture of Ukraine.**

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Second Sunday of Advent** celebrates the Father strengthening His Beloved Son in the journey of the Cross by overshadowing Him afresh in the cloud of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus is transfigured in the Father's love, the disciples (us the Church) are told 'to listen to Him' - for He has the Words of Eternal Life!

[2] There will be **Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm (about 30 minutes after Mass finishes). Please do try to attend this Lenten Prayer - **especially as will pray for Peace between Russia and Ukraine and an end to the brutal aggression upon the people and culture of Ukraine, as well as the stricken peoples of Yemen and Afghanistan**

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St John the Evangelist, served by Canon Christopher Whitehead and Parish Administrator Janet Flinn; and St Mary, served by Mgr Jeremy Rigden, Deacon Joseph Meigh and Parish Administrator Charlotte Boyall, and all both the communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION Pray God's Blessing for **Ministry of the Food Bank**. As prices are increasing and poverty grows more acute, 'St Nicholas Bread' Foodbank makes a huge difference to so many individuals and families. Through this ministry we are Breaking Bread on the street and not just in our church. The Food bank is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am to 1.00pm and on Thursdays we receive deliveries which are sorted out. If you can help in anyway - giving food, offering your time to serve - then please contact Margaret in the Parish Office.

WORD OF GOD FOR THE SUNDAY IN LENT

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| Sunday | Deuteronomy 26: 4-10/ Psalm 90 / Romans 10: 8-13 / Luke 4:1-13 |
| Monday | Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18 / Psalm 18 / Matthew 25: 31-46 |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 55: 10-11 / Psalm 33 / Matthew 6: 7-15 |
| Wednesday | Jonah 3: 1-10 / Psalm 50 / Luke 11: 29-32 |
| Thursday | Esther 4: 17 / Psalm 137 / Matthew 7: 7-12 |
| Friday | Ezekiel 18:221-28 / Psalm 129 / Matthew 5:20-26 |
| Saturday | Deuteronomy 26: 16-19 / Psalm 118 / Matthew 5: 43-48 |

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

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21/02/2022 Env £55.00 + Loose £190.10 + PayPal ? + S/O £111.05 = TOTAL: £356.15
Caritas £110.00 - thank you! **CAFOD (for Yemen & Afghanistan)** £322.02 - thank you!
Zimbabwean Mass £53.00 - thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2022

6th March Catholic Handicapped Fellowship monthly resume Mass at 3.00pm (St Nicks)
 9th March Borderlands Board of Trustees & AGM
 10th March All Chairs cleaned in the Church - Mass at 12 noon in Assisi Centre
 16th March Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm
 18th March Mass of Thanksgiving for Richard's 50th Anniversary of Ordination at 7.00pm
 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 As you all now know, there is to be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Presbyterate (or Priesthood). This will be on Friday 18th March at 7.00pm, followed by a finger-food reception in the school hall. Bishop Declan and many friends and guests from around the diocese and beyond will be coming. **I hope very many of you, my parish community, will be able to come and welcome them and share the celebration.** In addition on Sunday 20th March we will have a Parish Celebration at the 10.00am Mass, followed by our bring and share lunch (and more?). It will also mark 25 years of ministry together since I came to St Nicks on 1st May 1997. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity (calling) that God has given me to serve the Gospel, the People of God and the growth of the Kingdom over these 50 years, with 25 of them among you, my beloved community. Please come and share my joy and thanksgiving!

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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

ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATION? - FIRST OR SECOND OR BOOSTER?

Have you received all your Covid vaccinations yet? If not, come to St Nicks on Monday March 7th (tomorrow) from 10.00am onwards to receive whatever vaccine you need. It is so important to be vaccinated in order not only to protect yourself from serious illness, but also to protect others: your family neighbours, work colleagues and community. As with the wearing of masks so with vaccination - we must think of others, the vulnerable, those with low immunity, and do all we can to protect them.

LAUNCH OF A CATHOLIC MONTHLY PAPER - 'THE CATHOLIC POST' A new free monthly Catholic National Paper has been launched and you will receive a copy today. Carbon free in its production and fully recyclable, it is eco-friendly as well as informative. If there is sufficient demand, the parish will take out a monthly subscription, so that we can all be informed of news and developments in the Church globally and in UK.

CHURCH CHAIRS PROFESSIONALLY CLEANED ON THURSDAY On Wednesday afternoon, all chairs and kneelers will be brought back into the church and cleaned on Thursday. The mass at 12noon will therefore be celebrated in the Assisi Centre

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.

We have so many opportunities for prayer and service, for involvement and sharing responsibility in our parish. Have we grown so used to some of them, that we no longer value them?

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Weekly Scripture Sharing Group; weekday Mass; Stations of the Cross; Parish Facebook Prayer and Talks; caring for and sharing with the Poor (eg CAFOD and our FoodBank/Caritas Fund; Praying for Peace in Ukraine and elsewhere (the Rosary?); the Prayer of stillness, Prayer of the Heart for 15 minutes a day.

IT IS TIME TO REDISCOVER THE VALUE OF THESE, AND DRINK AFRESH FROM THE DEEP POOLS OF PEACE, THE VIBRANT WELLSPRINGS OF THE SPIRIT. Do not let this Lent pass you by - give yourself and you will receive a full measure, brimming over! **WHAT KIND OF LENT WILL YOU HAVE IN 2022?**

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