



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

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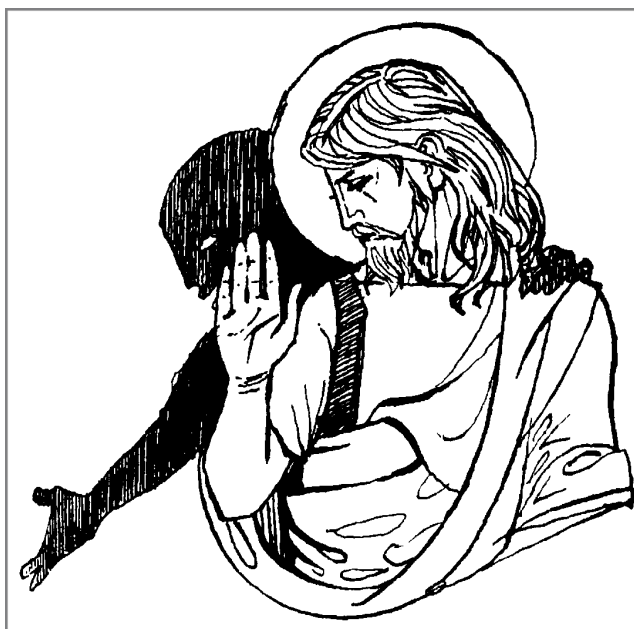
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



### ***JESUS - TEMPTED LIKE US!***

Trouble is, we just find it hard to believe in the Incarnation - that God became really and totally human in Jesus! We always think of Him as Son of God in a way that obliterates his humanity! But Jesus is 'like us in all things but sin' - so he was tempted just like us - the difference being that the sinless One never gave in!

He goes into the wilderness we have made of the world by our sin, to challenge the 'Father of Lies', the false 'Angel of Light', the 'Destroyer'. Just as he was to 'descend into Hell' to liberate the captives - fallen humanity - so He goes into the wilderness to confront the darkness that is part of each of us, to conquer the dark powers of ambition and the abuse of power, to defeat the lust for popularity that too often overwhelms the desire for truth.

**SUNDAY:** PARISH MASS with Liturgy of Enrolment for First Reconciliation at 10am  
*Stations of the Cross (from Peace in Ukraine)* at 12.45pm - all welcome

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy today*

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St Gregory of Narek, Armenian Abbot & Theologian*  
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm (*live-streamed Parish Website*)

**WEDNESDAY:** *Feast of St David, Bishop & Celtic Monk, Patron of Wales (died 601)*  
Adoration at 6.30pm Mass at 7.00pm

**THURSDAY:** Adoration at 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12 noon

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

***Jesus in the desert answered the Tempter with: "Human Persons do not live on bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God".***

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

**TODAY:** [1] Having begun our Journey of Lent, we enter into the 'desert' of 40 days on this **First Sunday of Lent**. We celebrate Jesus who in His humanity overcomes every temptation to use His God-given power for himself rather than for the coming of the Kingdom. His only concern is to serve the Father's will - is that our only concern too?

[2] With joy we welcome our children and families who are preparing for First Reconciliation before Easter, as we celebrate with them **the Liturgy of Enrolment for First Reconciliation** Please prayer for children and families as they take this important step in their lives.

[3] **Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm (after tea/coffee in the hall)

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] On the **Second Sunday of Lent** we celebrate Jesus who transfigures humanity in glory through his death and resurrection. At prayer on the Mountain of the Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, they glimpse His glory - a glory he wants to share with each of us. The Father is also preparing him for His journey through the darkness of the Cross into Easter Glory. We too make the same journey and we too glimpse the Glory that is both within us and awaiting us!

[2] We have the joy of celebrating the Rite of Catechumen with Alifa, a member of our Journey of Faith group, preparing for Baptism. Please pray for her.

[3] Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome!

[4] **Retiring Collection for the Annual CAFOD Lenten Fast Day** - an essential part of our Lenten Fast and Charity - seeking justice for the poorest of the world. Huge needs!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for all Religious Communities (of Brothers, Sisters, Priests belonging to religious Orders) living and serving in our diocesan family. Some are contemplative (eg the monks at Prinknash Abbey and the Bernadine Sisters at Brownhill), others are 'Apostolic' with active ministries among the people of our diocese (eg the Salvatorian sisters in Redfield and the Daughters of the Holy Spirit in Lawrence Weston). Please pray for them and for vocations to their Orders. Thank you.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry of Catechists**. This is a core ministry of the parish, primarily working with the faith formation of our children and young people with special reference to Sacramental Preparation. It also includes work with parents whose children are preparing for Sacraments, including Baptism. **It is vitally important that we recruit more volunteers prepared to accept this Ministry into the future. Support and training (apprenticeship-style!) will be given. Please see Mary Hopper ... and soon? Thank you**

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A. Env £75.00 + Loose £209.60 + Card Reader £29.49 + S/O £165.88 = £482.97 - thanks!  
**CAFOD (Earthquake Disaster Appeal)** £542.10 - thank you!

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023**

26th Feb Liturgy of Enrolment of First Reconciliation children & families at 10am Mass  
 28th Feb Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.15pm (Assisi Centre)  
 9th March Liturgy Planning Group at 6.30-8.30pm (Assisi Centre)  
 9th March Liturgy of Reconciliation with Bp Declan, Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym 6pm  
 14th March Borderlands Annual Open Meeting at 1.30pm (Church)  
 15th March Ashley Churches Together Serving meet at 12.30pm  
 15th March Borderlands Trustees meet at 1.30pm  
 18th March Proposed Music Ministry Day of Refection 9.30am-3.30pm  
 22nd March Mass with National Quest Community (via Zoom) at 7.00pm

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23rd March	Parish Pastoral Council Meets at 7.00pm (Assisi Centre)
24th March	Anniversary Mass of St Oscar Romero's Martyrdom at 7.00pm
24th March	Parents Course for Child Baptisms Session One at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
25th March	Reconciliation Service including First Reconciliation at 10.30am
26th March	Rite of Child Catechumen at 10.00am Mass
31st March	Parents Course for Child Baptisms Session Two at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
2nd April	<b>PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS</b>
9th April	<b>EASTER SUNDAY - THE LORD IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!</b>
25th April	Parish Finance Committee at 7.15pm (via Zoom)
29th April	Joint Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee and Legacy Group 9.30am-1.30pm (Assisi Centre)
11th May	Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council with Bishop Declan at 7.00pm (Assisi Ctr)
4th June	Feast of the Holy Trinity - Baptismal Sunday
11th June	Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday

**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY** The 'Catholic Fund for Overseas Development' is the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and is greatly respected throughout the Relief and Development agencies in UK. Working closely with partner organisations in the developing world and using the local knowledge and expertise because of the global presence of the Catholic Church, CAFOD is your and my outreach into the world of the poorest communities in the world and is an expression of the Church as 'God's Field Hospital' in those areas in crisis because of poverty and/or natural disasters. It is the Church being a Prophet of Justice and Healing, and deserves our strong support and generous giving especially during this time of Lent. **Please support the annual CAFOD Lenten Fast Day on March 2nd and perhaps every Friday in Lent. Use the CAFOD envelopes or the Digital Card Readers by the Church entrance to give to CAFOD regularly. Thank you!**

**PARENTS PREPARATION FOR CHILD BAPTISMS AT EASTER** Parents seeking the baptism of their children this Easter are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptism course and celebration:

**BAPTISMAL SUNDAY EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9th** at 10am Mass

**Preparation Sessions:** Friday 24th & 31st March at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

**Rite of Child Catechumen** Sunday 26th March at 10am Mass

**CALLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONFIRMATION IN THE HOLY SPIRIT** We have a group of about 10 young people interested in exploring whether they are ready to be confirmed in the Holy Spirit. The minimum age for Confirmation is 13 years. While parents are asked to encourage their children, the decision to be confirmed **MUST REMAIN THE DECISION OF THEIR YOUNG PERSON THEMSELVES**. The Confirmation Course will begin on Friday 21st April at 5.30pm. If there are other young people apart from those who met last Sunday, please contact Richard or Mary Hopper as soon as possible.

**WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?** The Sacrament of Confirmation is the final step in 'Initiation' into the Body of Christ - the Holy Spirit coming to empower the Christian for ministry in the Body of Christ and mission to the world in the name of Christ. It is an essential part of our growing into Christ. Because of this the Western Church has separated Confirmation from Baptism for those baptised as children, celebrating it as part of our growing maturity in Christ and shouldering a more adult responsibility for the life and mission of the Church - serving the growth of the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit comes with charisms and gifts to equip us as co-workers with Jesus Christ in the immense and fulfilling task to building up God's Church in love, proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News, bringing healing and hope to the broken and oppressed, and ultimately 'renewing the face of the earth'!

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**PARISH LITURGY PLANNING GROUP BEING FORMED** As part of our preparation for the time when we will no longer have a resident priest (Autumn 2024), Richard has invited those who play an important role in the Liturgy to come together to firstly explore the purpose and shape of our Catholic Liturgy more deeply and secondly to learn how to plan our Liturgy, especially our Sunday Mass. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday 9th March 6.30-8.30pm in the Assisi Centre.**

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST NICKS**



[1] **Foodbank Manager** 22.5 hrs a week Salary: £25000-28,000 p/a (35 hours fte ) pro rata Pension: Clifton Diocese Pension Scheme with Royal London  
2 Year Fixed Term Contract (with prospect of becoming permanent)

[2] **Parish Office Co-ordinator** 14hrs a week Salary: starting salary £20,950 (35 hours fte ) pro rata Pension: Clifton Diocese Pension Scheme with Royal London 2 Year Fixed Term Contract (with prospect of becoming permanent)  
For a suitable candidate the two posts could be combined to make a full-time job.  
Person skills and support of the Parish's Mission to the Disadvantaged essential.

Email [bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com) to express interest.

**JOINT MEETING OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL, PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE AND LEGACY MANAGEMENT GROUP**

As part of our planning for the future development of the parish and our mission, there will be a joint meeting of these three decision-making bodies in the parish to work of strategy for the future with its personnel and financial implications. This special meeting will take place **Saturday 29th April 9.30am to 1.30pm** and will help us to prepare for the meeting with Bishop Declan at the Parish Pastoral Council on Thursday 11th May.

**LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?**

Lent is a vital time of Renewal in our lives, these 40 days of preparation for our annual recommitment as disciples and followers of Christ at Easter. As the Ash-Wednesday Gospel tells us, it is a time:

- \* to fast in communion with the poorest and to challenge our addictions;
- \* to pray more often and profoundly, open ourselves to God's Word in Scripture and silence;
- \* to give of our time, energy and money to the service of the poor, the focus of our mission;  
AND SO ...
- \* in the busy-ness of our lives to make space for God to speak to our heart and to our community;
- \* **to put the Eucharist at the centre of our lives** by not missing Sunday Mass during Lent (unless work or sickness demands we do); let us commit ourselves also to participating in at least one weekday Mass each week of Lent;
- \* why not join the Scripture sharing group on Thursdays at 5.30pm;
- \* Make sacrificial giving to CAFOD and/or the Parish Caritas Fund or another charity;
- \* Pray urgently for peace and justice in Ukraine, Cameroon, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

**THE TRUE FAST - ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS**

*"Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen."*

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