



## 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](http://www.tolentino.org.uk)

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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 - International Women's Day



### ***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 too go to the Pool this Easter.

**SUNDAY:** PARISH MASS at 10am (live-streamed)

*Stations of the Cross (for Refugee/asylum community) at 12.45pm - all welcome*

*Signed Mass with Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm - all welcome*

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy today*

**TUESDAY:** *Adoration at 6.00pm*

*Mass at 6.30pm (live-streamed Parish Website)*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Adoration at 6.30pm*

*Mass at 7.00pm*

**THURSDAY:** *Adoration at 11.30am*

*Mass at 12 noon*

***Jesus said to the Woman of Samaria: 'If only you knew what God is offering you ... I will give you 'Living Water', a spring of life welling up inside you!'***

**FRIDAY:** ***Feast of St Patrick, Missionary Bishop, Patron of Ireland (390-461)***  
*Adoration* at 8.30am      *Mass* at 9.00am  
**Mass celebrating 100 years of St Patrick's Parish** at 7.00pm (St Patrick's, Redfield)

**SATURDAY:** ***Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary, Patron of the Universal Church***  
*Adoration* at 11.30am      *Mass* at 12noon  
*Day of Reflection and Prayer for Parish Music Ministry* 9.30am to 3.30pm  
*Mass in Shona with Zimbabwean Community* at 1.30pm  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.00-4.30pm only**

**TODAY:** [1] With the **Third Sunday in Lent** the great Baptismal Gospels from John's Gospel are proclaimed - this week we celebrate Jesus who unseals the fountain of 'Living Water', the Holy Spirit, deep in the heart of the Samaritan woman by the Well. Jesus unseals that same 'fountain of Living Water', the Holy Spirit in us too, especially during these weeks of Lent. Will we come to drink from the Well of His love, His Spirit this Lent?  
 [2] **Stations of the Cross** at about 12.45pm, praying for the world's 90 million refugees!  
 [3] **International Women's Day** celebration after Mass - all invited  
 [4] We welcome Liz Baldwin who will introduce us to **'Eco-Christian Friends'**  
 [5] **Signed Mass with the Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all welcome!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] With the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** we continue our exploration of Baptism, celebrating Jesus the Light of the World who send the man born blind to 'wash' in the Pool of Siloam. He returns seeing and comes to believe in Jesus and witness to Him no matter what the cost to himself. He is 'enlightened', 're-born' and becomes a 'missionary disciple' after washing in the pool of God's love and New Life! Like us??  
 [2] We celebrate the **Rite of Catechumen with Rachael** (from Zimbabwe) and the **Rite of Election with Alifa** (from Indonesia).  
 [3] **Mass with the LGBTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm (all are welcome to come). The German National Synod voted 93% (including 80% of the German Bishops) in favour of full inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community into the life and mission of the Church and blessing their committed relationships. An example of 'Development of Doctrine' especially in the area of Moral and Ethical Teaching.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for all University, College and School Chaplaincies, helping our children and young people to grow as 'missionary disciples'. Chaplaincy Teams are largely lay-led, often involving students in their Teams, supported by a priest or deacon member of the Team.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry of Parish Finance Committee**. This group which includes our Parish Treasurer, Mairead Samuel has responsibility for overseeing the finances of the parish, drawing up the budget and reporting monthly on the income/expenditure of the parish account. They advise the Parish Pastoral Council and inform the PPC's decisions which involve expenditure. They are constantly to keep in mind and heart our Parish Covenant with the Poor and God's Option for the Poor and Marginalised.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A. Env £95 + Loose £184.81 + Card Reader £70.00 + S/O £165.88 = £515.69 - thanks!  
**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY - still open, please be generous**

**FOODBANK** There is a significant increase in demand for our Parish Foodbank since the cost of living crisis kicked in. Please deliver your gifts either during Mass on Sunday or to the Parish Office at the Assisi Centre. What kind of things? Long-life milk and juices,

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small jars of coffee, tins of meat, fish, vegetables, tinned tomatoes baked beans, soups, custard and fruit; packets of rice, pasta, cereals; jars of pasta sauce, ketchup, mayonaise, packet soups; toilet rolls, bars of soap, toothpaste, and other toiletries. *You are helping us to meet a vital need, making practical in these difficult times 'love of our neighbour' and 'God's Option for the Poor'. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you in the name of all whom we are serving.*

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

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
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.

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**SECURITY ISSUES AT ST NICKS** We have in recent weeks some strange 'thefts' from the Lady Chapel - a few weeks ago our small Icon of 'Our Lady of Peace' (Arabic script); a couple of weeks ago the plastic box with hosts ready for the weekday mass (twice!); and this week, two of our Holy Oils flasks (in Murano glass from Venice!). It seems we are being targeted but for some 'religious' motive? Please be aware of our need for heightened security.

**DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF OUR PARISH** A core ministry of our Parish supporting our worship and growth together as a community is our Music Ministry (singers and instrumentalists making up our choir). **On Saturday 18th March from 9.30am to 3.30pm** members of the Music Ministry are asked to spend this time reflecting prayerfully on the spiritual nature of this ministry and the commitment involved.

**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 on a 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.

### **St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School - Governor Recruitment:**

Our parish has had a school, supporting parents in raising their children in the Catholic faith, since 1852. The school is an integral part of our parish and is due to become part of the **Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust** on 1 April and so will join together with other Catholic schools in the Diocese. This is to help secure the long term future of the school for future generations of Catholic and other children. Thank you to the governors who have helped the school to reach this stage. This new development provides the opportunity for new people to come forward and join the school's governing body, to help lead the school on the next stage of its journey.

***"To be a governor of a Catholic School is to be involved in the mission of the Church because our Catholic schools are a very important part of our work for young people in the Church." (Cardinal Basil Hume)"***

If you would like to be part of the school's journey, helping to shape the lives of our children and so be involved in the Church's mission in Education, then apply to be a Foundation Governor. Please complete a nomination form <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/form-2> as soon as possible. If you have queries or want more details, contact Bill McEntee, Governance Officer at Clifton Diocese via [bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com) or on 07710094976 – he would be delighted to hear from you!

**LOVE THE CHRIST OF THE POOR - WORDS OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM** "Would you honour the Body of Christ? Do not despise His nakedness; do not honour him here in church clothed in silk vestments and then pass him by unclothed and frozen outside. Remember that He who said 'This is my Body' also said 'You saw he hungry and gave me no food'. I am insisting that nothing can take the place of care for the poor. What use is it to adorn the altar with gold cloths and deny Christ a coat for his back? He would be outraged!"

**CHURCH CLEANING - FRIDAY MORNINGS** Thank you to those who have been serving the parish in this way each Friday morning from about 10.00am onwards. **Some have found work so we need more volunteers who can commit once or twice a month to come.** Please Contact Eddie or Richard to volunteer for this ministry, act of service to God and the whole community. Thank you!

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