



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

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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

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



You Belong to Christ & His Wisdom!

What foolishness Jesus speaks! Loving enemies! Giving without hope of return! Surely real wisdom is to give as good you get!

But the 'wisdom of this world is foolishness to God'. If we belong to Christ then we live by a different rhythm, we surrender our minds as well as our hearts to the Crucified One, the Prince of Peace, the Lamb who sacrificed Himself to forgive us and all the world's atrocities. It will always seem an unfair and utterly unrealistic demand of Jesus.

But look around us ... has our retribution, our vengeance done anything other than break hearts, break people, break communities, break nations and cause wars? So where is the real wisdom and where the foolishness? Let us stand by Jesus in His foolishness which is the only true wisdom - for 'we belong to Christ'!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Liturgy of Enrolment for First Eucharist at 10.00am
Mass with LBGTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

TUESDAY: *Adoration at 6.00pm* *Mass at 6.30pm (live-streamed Parish Website)*

LENT BEGINS

WEDNESDAY: *ASH-WEDNESDAY (Day of Fast and Abstinence)*

Mass with the School at 9.30am *Ashes taken to Reception Class at 11.00am*

Mass at St Brendan's 6th Form College at 12.10pm

Adoration at 6.30pm

Mass at 7.00pm

The world says: 'Eye for eye - hate your enemy'. But Jesus says: 'Go the extra mile, always love, even and especially the enemy - the only hope for peace'.

THURSDAY: Funeral Mass for Terence Withey RIP at 11.30am

FRIDAY: Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

SATURDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12 noon
 Mass in Shona with the Zimbabwean community at 1.30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass & 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] The **Seventh Sunday of the Year** continues to celebrate Jesus the teacher of a New Law - of unlimited love! Love for our enemies! Love that never discriminates! Love that is generous and without judgement of another. This is the heart of Christian love but it is the very nature of God's universal and merciful love. Is it ours too?

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

[3] **SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY AND SYRIA, THROUGH CAFOD. Please be as generous as you can - thank you!**

[4] **Mass with LBGTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome**

NEXT SUNDAY: [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)

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton, with Milbourne Port, Castle Carey and Bruton served by Fr Francis Eyo MSP, Parish Administrator Kathleen Coulsey and all the their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Music Ministry of our parish**. Our choir and musicians have a vital ministry in our Liturgy, enabling us to worship God both joyfully and prayerfully. St Augustine said 'singing is praying twice over' and also 'sing to the Lord the song of your life'. This Ministry is in great need of those willing to commit regularly to the weekly choir practice (currently on Saturday at 1.30pm). We are shortly (in March) to have a half-day of Reflection and Prayer about this Ministry, so it is an ideal time to enlist in our choir. Please see Caroline.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A. Env £85.00 + Loose £265.33 + Card Reader £58.98 + S/O £165.88 = £575.19 - thanks!
CAFOD (Earthquake Disaster Appeal) £113.70 - Appeal still open - please be generous!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

19th Feb Liturgy of Enrolment of First Eucharist children & families at 10.00am Mass
 19th Feb Mass with LBGTQ+ Community at 3.00pm (all welcome)
 22nd Feb **ASH-WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS**
 26th Feb Liturgy of Enrolment of First Eucharist children & families at 10.00am 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)

The world says: 'Eye for eye - hate your enemy'. But Jesus says: 'Go the extra mile, always love, even and especially the enemy - the only hope for peace'.

15th March	Ashley Churches Together Serving meet at 12.30pm
15th March	Borderlands Trustees meet at 1.30pm
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
25th March	Reconciliation Service including First Reconciliation at 10.30am
2nd April	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS
9th April	EASTER SUNDAY - THE LORD IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!
25th April	Parish Finance Committee at 7.15pm (via Zoom)
4th June	Feast of the Holy Trinity - Baptismal Sunday
11th June	Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday

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'!

"I was sick, and you visited me..." (Mt 25:36) - VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS AT BRI

The Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care of the central Bristol Hospitals (University Hospitals Bristol and Weston) is looking for people to give up two hours a week each to reach out to the sick as volunteer chaplains. If you are interested in this important ministry, and would like to find out more about the recruitment and thorough training process, please contact Rob Morgan, Chaplaincy Team Leader, on 0117 3426795 Mon - Fri 9 - 4:00, or email Robert.Morgan@uhbw.nhs.uk

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 to express interest.

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A FAITH FULL JOURNEY - a series to deepen and develop our faith An evening series of online conversations (7.30 to 8.45pm) - all are welcome! The next in the series is on Tuesday 21st February on the eve of the beginning of Lent and will be led by Canon John Udris on the theme of 'The Desert of Lent'. For more information and the access to the on-line link, please contact: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com

DO YOU LOOK AFTER SOMEONE? Help from 'Carers Support Centre' More and more people are looking after someone - because of ageing, dementia, disability of one kind or another. They can feel very isolated and unsupported. If this affects you in any way, please see the posters and leaflets in the church porch from 'carers trust' - helpline: 01179652200; email carersline@carerssupportcentre.org.uk or visit their website www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk - and also let us know how we as a parish community can help.

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.**

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 out strategy for the future with its personnel and financial implications. This meeting will take place shortly after Easter, the date to be yet agreed.

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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