



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

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(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 1.00pm)

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

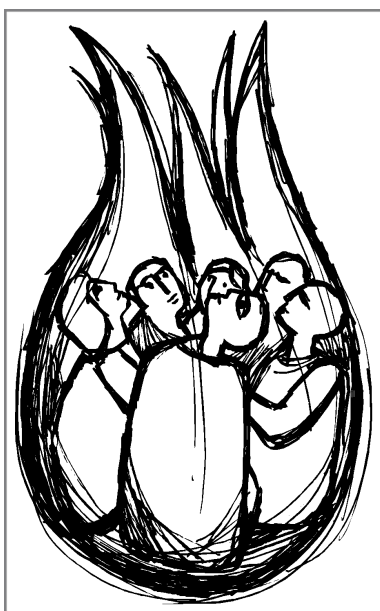
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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: Astrid Fagon and Team (0117-909-0419)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



We are not orphans, for there is another Advocate!

Sometimes it is only when someone has left that we realise how close we are to them, how they have become truly part of us. Jesus speaks of His 'leaving us' at the Ascension - but while he truly leaves, it is only so that He can be even closer - no longer at our side, but now deep in our hearts.

The Holy Spirit, the gift of Father and Son, their togetherness and loving union, is now poured into our hearts. Because of this Spirit within, we cry out from our depths 'Abba, Father'; we exult to shout to the world with a cry from the heart 'Jesus is Lord'.

The Spirit is the Advocate - speaking to the Father of His daughters and sons that we are; speaking to our hearts of the Father's immeasurable unfathomable love for you and me. The Spirit speaks for us to God, and to us for God!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (*live-streamed on Parish website*)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

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

WEDNESDAY: *Adoration* at 6.30pm **Service of Word & Communion** at 7.00pm

THURSDAY: **SOLEMN FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD** *HolyDay of Obligation*

Mass at 9.30am (with St Nick's School)

Adoration at 6.30pm **Evening Mass** at 7.00pm (*live-streamed Parish Website*)

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT BEGINS

FRIDAY: **Feast of St Dunstan of Glastonbury, Abbot & Archbishop of Canterbury (909-988)**

Adoration at 8.30pm **Mass** at 9.00am

Jesus said: 'I will not leave you orphans, but I and My Father will send the Holy Spirit to be with you for ever - the Spirit of Truth Who is in you!'

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

TODAY: [1] On the **Sixth Sunday of Easter** we celebrate Jesus who gives us His Spirit so that we will know we are not alone, but in His Holy Spirit Jesus is always with us. And He will come again in the fulness of time to gather all creation into His Body. Our Mission is to fill the world with His love, transforming all things in Christ. We are to serve the Mission of Christ given us by His Word and empowered by His Spirit.

[2] There is **Signed Mass with the Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all welcome!

[3] **Day of Prayer for Victims/Survivors of Abuse, especially by members of the Church** - it was held on Tuesday but we will observe this at Mass today - see below.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Seventh Sunday of Easter** we celebrate Jesus praying for us his disciples. Jesus is always among us, supporting us as we seek to continue His saving mission in the world. He empowers us to 'proclaim the Good News to all Creation' and be truly the Church, His Body, His Presence in our age and culture and nation. So let us open ourselves and our community to the outpouring of the Pentecost Spirit, gifting us for mission!

[2] There is a **Retiring Collection for World Communications Sunday**, supporting the extensive mission of the Gospel through Radio, TV and forms of social media.

[3] We welcome **John Ciereszko and Sally Watson from the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)**, who come to speak of the SVP's work and invite people to help rebuild our Parish's SVP Conference and support the extensive work of pastoral care needed in our community.

ASCENSION DAY REFLECTION *Who is this Who ascends into Glory?*

Ascension? Some kind of medieval throw-back - a myth that belongs to a 'flat earth' past? As if Heaven was up there somewhere! Can we believe in the Ascension in our modern world of Hubble telescopes and deep space exploration?

Yet this is our brother, our flesh, our humanity, gathered up into the Divine, carrying us and all that is human into the very inner life of God, of the Trinity. His ascension is ours, for He carries us with Him, in Him. Ascension is not some weird and divine form of space travel, but rather the wonder of our transformation into a divine humanity. This is the Feast of our human dignity, for we are being 'divinised' as the great saints, theologians and mystics have dared to say, following the teaching of St John and St Paul.

Forever our flesh is now 'seated at the right hand of the Father', sharing the throne of God, utterly caught up in infinite and eternal loving that creates the Universe! No wonder He sends us out with this Good News to tell all the world, all creation!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Joseph, Bridgwater and Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea, served by Deacon Paul White as they await the appointment of a new parish priest. Please pray for their communities in this time of transition.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Ministry of Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)**, which is co-ordinated by Mary Hopper. This ministry is the first building block of the parish's catechesis and Christian formation of our children. It is the Liturgy of the Word adapted for 4-8 year olds. We need more volunteers to support this important ministry, serving our children and families. Please contact Mary if you would like to know more about what is involved in helping with CLOW.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A. Env £20.00 + Loose £312.53 + Card Reader £?? + S/O £165.88 = £498.41

'Caritas' £10.00 CAFOD £25.00 Clergy Training Fund £39.90 (remains open) **thanks!**

Jesus said: 'I will not leave you orphans, but I and My Father will send the Holy Spirit to be with you for ever - the Spirit of Truth Who is in you!'

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

18th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation
20th May	First Parents Baptismal Preparation Session at 11.00am in the Assisi Centre
21st May	Rite of Catechumen for children to be baptised - at 10.00am Mass
21st May	Appeal for new members of the SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)
24th May	Building Inclusive communities in school and church by Dr Bruno Reina 7.00pm
30th May	Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm (via Zoom)
1st June	Borderlands Trustees meet
3rd June	Second Parents Baptismal Preparation Session at 11.00am in the Assisi Centre
4th June	Feast of the Holy Trinity - Baptismal Sunday
8th June	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.15pm
11th June	Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday
8th July	Christians at Bristol Pride Service at 10.00am (Cotham Parish Church)
12th July	Ashley Churches Together meet at Salvation Army Ashley Road Citadel 12.30pm
15th July	Pre-Confirmation Retreat Day at Emmaus House 9.30am-3.30pm
23rd July	Bishop Declan celebrates Confirmation with our young people at 10am Mass
30th July	Baptismal Sunday
6th Aug	Feast of the Transfiguration and Hiroshima Day: Prayer for peace & disarmament
15th Aug	Feast of the Assumption of Mary - Holy Day of Obligation

FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF BISHOP DECLAN WITH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The PPC met with Bishop Declan on Thursday evening for a very productive and supportive meeting, concerning the future shape of mission and ministry in the parish as Richard goes into semi-retirement in September 2024. He made clear his support for St Nicks becoming a lay-led parish served by a non-resident priest (who from late 2024-2027 will, God willing, be Richard). He recognised and discussed with us the challenges involved, including increased active involvement by more of our parish community to sustain the spirituality, ministry and mission of St Nicks. He made helpful suggestions. The PPC was greatly encouraged by his support and will share our experience of the 'New Way of being Church' with the diocese.

CALLING SISTERS AND BROTHERS WHO FEEL ALIENATED FROM THE CHURCH

There are so many who have been hurt by their experiences in the Catholic Church and many reasons for that hurt. A particularly destructive hurt has been abuse especially by priests and religious. Yet Christ calls us to be a welcoming, safe and healing community.

Here at St Nick's we seek to offer an unconditional welcome and a safe and respectful place to be and to speak your voice. We seek to echo the words of Jesus: *'Come to me all you who labour and are burdened and I will give you peace'*. So we want to welcome you, be a community where you can if you wish speak your pain, voice your hurt and anger, or just come and be.

We understand that for many it is impossible to trust the Church again, and we do not expect or deserve that trust. But we do want to earn it and so offer to share your journey and make together the safe space that is your right.

Our community currently includes those who have expressed some of their own experience of this particular hurt. They, particularly, would like you to know: "If you come to see us you won't be alone - it isn't easy but we do seek to journey together gently."

We understand it may be difficult for some to enter the Church. If you wish to make contact please tell us what might help to make things easier for you.

'COME FOLLOW ME...'

This Eastertide we continue in Clifton Diocese to pray for vocations to the priesthood for our own diocese. Please watch Fr Thomas Lawes of Holy Rood, Swindon talk about vocation and his own journey to priesthood, as well as his life and ministry as one of our newer priests: go to www.cliftondiocese.com/vocations.

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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, 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!*

PARENTS PREPARATION FOR CHILD BAPTISMS ON 4th JUNE Parents seeking the baptism of their children are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Details of the Baptism Preparation course and celebration:

BAPTISMS ON TRINITY SUNDAY SUNDAY JUNE 4th & JULY 30th at 10am Mass
First Preparation Session for parents: Saturday 20th May at 11.00am in the Assisi Centre
Second Preparation Session for parents: Saturday 3rd June at 11.00am in the Assisi Centre
Rite of Catechumen on Sunday 21st May at 10.00am Mass

'LIGHT OF TRUTH' - a five-week course on how we talk about our Catholic Faith

5. How to talk about the Church May 18

To sign up, parishioners need to click on: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/further-training-for-catechists-2023-04-20-19-30>

PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY'S SHRINE AT KNOCK, IRELAND Join other pilgrims from our diocese. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2023/2024 Apologies for the delay in distributing the Offertory Boxes, but now are ready - both those that are 'Gift-Aided' and those that not. **WOULD ALL TAX PAYERS IN THE PARISH PLEASE CONSIDER SERIOUSLY GIFT-AIDING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** as this increases our income without costing the donor anything. This coming year we are likely to incur a £10,000-20,000 deficit! We have an urgent need to increase our income at a time when the cost of living is getting worse! Please consider how you can help, either by giving or by helping with fund-raising. Thank you!

LGBTQ+ ISSUES AND PEOPLE AND THE WORLD OF EDUCATION - St Nicholas of Tolentino Church May 24th 6.00pm

Dr Bruno Reina will share his research into the experiences of LGBTQ+ people within schools and colleges. There will be personal stories and discussion about how our schools and colleges can be safe places where LGBTQ+ students and staff can thrive and be themselves. All are welcome to join us for Bruno's talk and discussion and explore these issues together. Refreshments provided and free car parking in the Church car park on Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol BS5 0TJ.



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