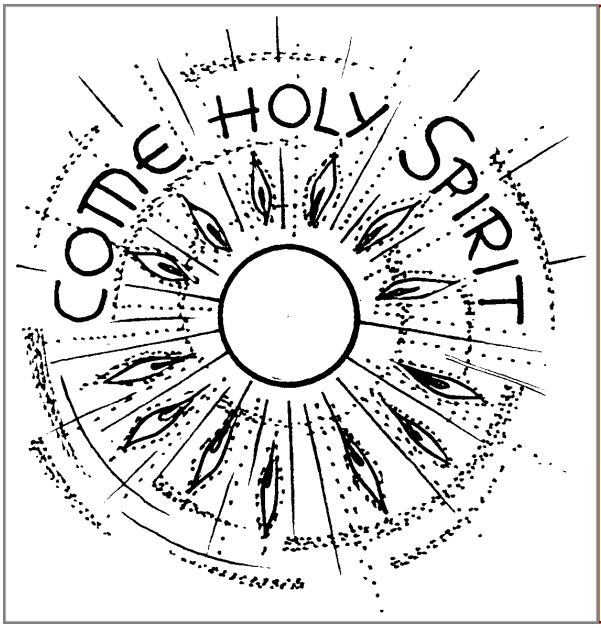
St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE

St Nicholas Presbytery, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE tel: 0117-909-8810
Parish Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE tel: 0117-909-0419
(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 1.00pm)
'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 0117-904-0479
Parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com
Fr Richard's email: richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com
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
Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Jennine Oldis (0117-915-0486)
Parish Administration & Hall/Room Bookings: Astrid Fagon and Team (0117-909-0419)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 'Communications Sunday'



The Church of the Upper Room

Some 120 or so men and women, apostles and disciples, united with Mary, Mother of the Risen and Ascended Christ, gather to be together, prayer together, wait together for...? This unknown 'power from on high'. What will it be?

'It' was the Divine Person of the Holy Spirit, not a thing but a person, alive and loving, uniting and valuing, gifting and empowering ... and for what? To form and reform, to renew and transform this infant community into a Sacrament of God's love for the world ... the Church!

Jesus, 'enthroned' at the hand of God as our Messiah, Saving, serving King, prays for us that we will remain faithful, that we will have both the wisdom and the courage to shine with Love's Light and Healing. He continues to pour out the Holy Spirit but will we receive this Gift of audacious Love that the world hungers for? Come, Spirit!

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

SUNDAY: **PARISH MASS & Rite of Child Catechumen** 10.00am *(streamed on Parish website)*
Mass with the LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - ***all are welcome***

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Rita of Cascia, wife, mother, Augustinian nun (1377-1447)*
Adoration at 6.00pm **Mass at 6.30pm** ***(live-streamed Parish Website)***

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Aldhelm, monk and bishop (675-)*
Adoration at 8.30am **Mass at 9.00am** ***(NB change of time)***

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Bede the Venerable, monk, priest, theologian, historian (673-735)*
Adoration at 11.30pm **Mass** at 12noon

All the first disciples gathered together with Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, and prayed continuously for the Coming of the Holy Spirit in love and power.

FRIDAY: ***Feast of St Philip Neri, priest, founder of Orartorians, Reformer (1515-1595)***
Adoration at 8.30pm **Mass** at 9.00am
United Pentecost Celebration at Bristol Cathedral 7.00-9.00pm - all welcome

SATURDAY: ***Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, Missionary Monk, Archbishop (died 604)***
Adoration at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am ***(NB change of time)***
Sacrament of Reconciliation: **after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm**

FEAST OF PENTECOST BEGINS
SPECIAL VIGIL MASS OF PENTECOST at 7.30pm - all invited to come and invoke the Holy Spirit upon our world, our Church, our parish and ourselves

TODAY: [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 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We celebrate the **Great Feast of Pentecost** that concludes our Easter period and marks the birth of the Church in a ferment of Renewal, Empowerment, Unity and Mission. The Holy Spirit comes upon the women and men gathered in that Upper Room ('Cenacle') of waiting, yearning, praying … and comes with overwhelming love and giftedness - symbolised by the mighty wind of disturbing energy and the affirming flames of divine love and live penetrating to the heart! **COME HOLY SPIRIT FILL OUR LIVES, OUR FAMILIES, OUR PARISH, OUR CHURCH, OUR WORLD! COME HOLY SPIRIT AND RENEW, REFORM AND HEAL GUIDE US TO A NEW VISION!**
[2] I urge everyone who can to come our **Special Pentecost Vigil Mass on Saturday at 7.30pm.** This is a critical year for our parish community as build towards a different future and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment so that we might meet the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. ***WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT - COME AND INVOKE THE SPIRIT UPON OUR PARISH, OURSELVES, THE CHURCH AND WORLD***

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!

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DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Clifton Cathedral of Ss Peter and Paul, served by Canon Bosco MacDonald, Fr Cavan McElligott, Deacons Kevin Moloney, James Patrick, Paul Brandon and Parish Administrator Mary Manners. Please pray for their special ministry of serving the whole diocesan family.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Ministry of our Parish Priest** serving the building up of lay leadership and ministries, and the development of the parish's mission to be 'Good News to the Poor' and 'Good News to Creation'. Please pray for Richard as he seeks to guide the parish community towards a future without a resident priest while continuing to grow our vision and mission in the Inner City and beyond.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A. Env £48.00 + Loose £282.60 + Card Reader £29.49 + S/O £165.88 = £525.97

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

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
26th May	United Celebration of Pentecost 7-9pm (Bristol Cathedral, College Green)
27th May	**PARISH PENTECOST VIGIL - SPECIAL MASS at 7.30pm**
28th May	**FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOLY SPIRIT AND RENEW US!**
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 - HolyDay of Obligation**

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.

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UNITED CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST - Friday 26th May 7.00-9.00pm Christians of Bristol are invited to come together to invoke the Holy Spirit upon our city and the Churches serving our city. Gather at **Bristol Cathedral, College Green,** for prayer and praise.

'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.

SEEKING GOD - A MONASTIC EXPERIENCE FOR MEN & WOMEN 18-35 years
In the beautiful and peaceful setting of the Bernadine Sisters Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard in Brownshill, Stroud, GL6 8AL from Friday 2nd June to Sunday 4th June. Contact Sr Hilda: 01453883084 or email ***brownshilbookings@bernadine.org***

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
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

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 **The Offertory Envelopes are now waiting to be collected from the porch - both those that are 'Gift-Aided' and those that not 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 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.

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 urgently 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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