



## 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)

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)

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



### *Seeds of the Gospel*

In our hi-tech world and our urban environment, we easily lose touch with the natural world, the rhythm of seasons, of ploughing, sowing, waiting, nurturing, growing and harvesting. Everything comes to us packaged and prepared and we just purchase and consume. Jesus and our forbears lived close to the land, knew how to live in harmony with the soil, the rivers, the trees, the fields, the sky, sun and rain. They nurtured the earth and were nurtured by the earth.

We have however sown seeds of ignorance and exploitation. We continue to destroy our rain forests, produce vast quantities of ocean-killing plastics, exhaust the land and pollute the air. However we are no longer ignorant of this reality.

What new seeds will we sow? Instead of exploitation, can we sow seeds of communion? Instead of seeds of destruction can we sow seeds of friendship and reverence for the earth and its creatures - our sisters and brothers upon our beautiful planet. These are the seeds of the Gospel the soil of the Earth needs today! Will we sow these seeds? Will we change our lives?

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

*Mass with the LBGTO+ community and friends* at 3.00pm - all welcome

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy today*

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

Mass at 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY:** *Adoration* at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm

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**THURSDAY:** *Adoration* at 11.30pm      **Mass at 12noon**

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

**SATURDAY:**    *Feast of St Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles*

*Adoration* at 11.30pm      **Mass at 12noon**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** After Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**TODAY:** [1] On the **Fifteenth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate Jesus the Word, the One who sows the seed of God's Word into the soil of the World. This Seed of the Word sown into our hearts can give life in all fulness if we open ourselves to receive it. And God nurtures this life-laden seed by the sun of His love, the rain of His Spirit, and the good soil of His constant friendship. In turn, will we be sowers of the Word Who is Life?

[2] **Mass with the LBGTO+ community and friends** at 3.00pm; all are welcome!

[3] Your are all invited to '**Sign Salina's Giant Letter**' sponsored by CAFOD.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] On this **Sixteenth Sunday of the Year** we welcome **Bishop Declan to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 11 of our young people.**

The Word of God will speak to us of the work of the Holy Spirit empowering our lives as 'missionary disciples', bearing witness to our faith in Christ by our words, our actions and the kind of lives we live. Our young people are committing themselves to be such witnesses to their generation - and to build a Church that belongs to young people as much as to the rest of us. Please pray for them.

[2] On this special occasion with our young people and our Bishop **you are invited to bring food to share** in the Parish Hall afterwards.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Gerard Majella, Knowle and Christ the King, Knowle West, served by Fr George Henwood and Fr Michael d'Mello, and both their communities. Both priests have poor health so please pray for them and their caring communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry of Welcoming and Hospitality.** Last Sunday Jesus said to us and the world 'Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened'. His Heart is ever open to welcome and His Table ever ready to feed and nourish. It is vital that we are a welcoming and accepting community and the ministry of service of those welcoming people with a smile and friendship at the door makes such an impact. Then after Mass providing refreshments in the Hall contributes to the building up of community and helping those new to our parish or visiting to sense that they belong - that we are all one local and global family. Please come forward to volunteer for either or both aspects of this Ministry of Welcome and Hospitality. Please contact Jackie or Margaret.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A. Env £65.00 + Loose £230.78 + Card Reader £37 + S/O £165.88 = £498.66

**Shalom Concert £392.85 many thanks for your support**

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

16th July Mass with LGBTQ+ community at 3.00pm - all welcome

18th July Parish Finance Committee meet (on Zoom) at 7.30pm

20th July Funeral Mass for Gulzar Wazir at 10.00am (no midday Mass)

23rd July **Bishop Declan celebrates Confirmation of our young people 10am Mass**

26th July Borderlands Trustees meet

29th July Joint meeting of PPC, PFC and Legacy Group 9.15-12noon

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30th July	Day for Grandparents and elderly (deferred from previous Sunday)
30th July	Baptismal Sunday
1st August	Parish pastoral Council meet at 7.15pm (Assisi Centre)
6th Aug	Feast of the Transfiguration & Hiroshima Day: Prayer for disarmament
15th Aug	<b>Feast of the Assumption of Mary - HolyDay of Obligation</b>
1st Sept	Journey of Faith 2023/2024 begins at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
3rd Sept	Celebration of Parish Feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino at 10.00am
7th Sept	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm

**LIVE-STEAMING WEEKDAY MASSES?** Recently we have not been able to live-stream Mass on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm, so sadly we have to suspend this service of live-steaming on Tuesdays until we can find more volunteers willing to be trained to live-stream so that we can give a consistent service to our housebound and wider 'diaspora' community. **Can I ask for volunteers to come forward who would be available on a rota to live-stream mass each Tuesday 6.30pm. If you can help, please contact Richard or Reagan - thank you! I hope we can soon restart this valuable service to those who cannot attend Mass.**

**JOURNEY OF FAITH** We have concluded this year's Journey of Faith. We will begin the 2023/2024 Journey of Faith on **Friday 1st September at 6.30pm** with the 'Come and See' meeting. We invite all who wish to consider becoming Catholics to come to this meeting (and contact Richard before then); together with those who wish to explore their faith more, Catholic adults who have not been confirmed in the Holy Spirit and all who desire a 'renewal' of faith and commitment as Disciples of Christ.

**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!

**THANKS TO ALL WHO INVOLVED IN THE 'SHALOM' (PEACE & JOY) CONCERT** Thank you for all who worked so hard at short notice to make sure that Friday's 'Shalom' Concert was such a joyful and successful community event. Thank you to Caroline who urged us to hold this event; to Margaret and Jackie who worked so hard to enable it to happen; and to Pat and Sherrie who 'compered' so beautifully the concert. Thank you to all who took part, especially our young people, our choir and our Zimbabwean and Latin American communities. And thank you to all of you who came and supported this joyous event.

**CAFOD ASKS US TO SUPPORT SMALL SCALE FARMERS OVER SEEDS**

Today and in the coming Sundays we have the opportunity to support CAFOD's campaign to challenge the World Bank's policy of depriving small scale farmers (the majority in Africa and Asia) from using and sharing their own seeds, rather being forced to buy expensive seeds from multi-national companies. The majority of the world's food is produced by these small scale farmers and they are also caring for our environment. **PLEASE SIGN 'SALINA'S GIANT LETTER' TODAY** - it will be at the door as you leave and also in the Parish Hall during refreshments.

**GOD'S CALL TO SERVE THE LIFE AND MISSION OF YOUR PARISH** It is very clear that our parish, together with all churches and voluntary organisations around the country, has not yet recovered fully from the effects of the Covid Pandemic and the restrictions placed upon our meeting together during that time. A significant

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number of our community are not coming to Mass here for a variety of reasons. It is a joy to welcome new families and individuals who have found their way to St Nicks. However there has been great difficulty in drawing members of the parish into being part of the many ministries and tasks of the parish. Whether it is the SVP, the welcoming Ministry, Church Cleaning, the Foodbank, Catechists, too few are doing too much in support of the parish's life and mission. We are all called by our baptism to serve and build the Church as a mission community. We are all called to sacrifice time and energy to build our parish community and supports the Mission of Christ entrusted to us. I realise only too well that many have heavy commitments caring for children or elderly family members and juggling work and family. They are indeed serving Christ in these ways. But I do ask everyone to reflect whether some time can be given to sustain the parish's life and mission as we move towards a lay-led parish. This will be a great challenge for all of us. Please pray about this urgent need in building the future of our unique parish.

**ST NICK'S AND COMMITMENT TO 'SYNODALITY'** We have played our part in contributing to the Church's world-wide 'Synod', as last year we gathered in different groups to listen to one another and share our thoughts and feelings about being part of the Catholic Church. The result was a 60 page report (which remains on our parish website for all to read) which we sent not only to our Bishop but also to those overseeing the Synod in the Vatican in Rome. But this is only the beginning! For the first time the 'International Synod of Bishops' in October in Rome will include 70 non-bishops (clergy, religious, lay men and lay women) with full voting rights. This is a very significant step forward - but there is a long way to go yet! **But what is equally important is that your Parish Pastoral Council is committed to finding ways of embedding 'Synodality' in the life and 'governance' of our parish community - prayerful listening to one another in order to discern what the Spirit is saying to us in our parish about the way forward into a future different from the past yet fully alive with Prayer, Community and Mission.** *The Synod's working document emphasises that those who experience being excluded from church life "are bearers of Good News that the whole community needs to hear" and that "whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God."*

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - RENEWAL FOR US ALL!** 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'!

**SAFEGUARDING AND SOCIAL MEDIA** People love taking photos and short videos and often share them on Facebook, TikTok and other social media platforms. Some of these photos/videos are taken in the church or around it after Mass. **However, Safeguarding demands that no-one's image can be so published without their permission. And this is especially important with regard to children (ie all under 18 years). Also no photos/videos can be taken during Mass, and nothing suggesting it is approved by St Nicks or placed on the Parish Facebook can be published without express permission of the Parish Priest or Parish Pastoral Council.**

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