



## 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)

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



### *The God of Wind & Fire, Energy & Peace!*

Come Holy Spirit! Come uncontainable God!  
Come Divine energy for Mission! Come Divine  
Love that heals and builds relationships! Come  
God who is Community! Come Spirit that gifts  
each one of us! Come Spirit that empowers our  
mission! Come Spirit that drives us into the  
marketplace of the world! Come Spirit that  
seeks to use to 'renew the face of the Earth'!

Come Spirit of Fire, warm our coldness, inflame  
our apathies, purify our hearts into the pure gold  
of Your love!

Come Spirit of Mighty Wind, sweep away our  
fears, drive from us our anxieties and energise us  
for mission! Come Mighty Wind and blow us  
where you will through our world to scatter  
seeds of Gospel freedom, love and truth! Come  
gentle breeze and breath of God and refresh our  
weariness of heart!

Come Water of Life, spring up within us to  
quench our thirst for God, our thirst for Life  
and Justice!

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

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy today*

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St James the Apostle*  
*Adoration at 6.00pm*      **Mass at 6.30pm**

**WEDNESDAY:** *Feast of St Joachim and St Anne, Our Lady's Parents*  
*Adoration at 6.00pm*      **Mass at 6.30pm**

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**THURSDAY: *Feast of St Charbel Makhlouf, Lebanese Maronite Priest (1828-1898)****Adoration* at 11.30pm

Mass at 12noon

**FRIDAY:***Adoration* at 8.15am

Mass at 8.45am (NB change of time)

**SATURDAY:***Feast of Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus of Bethany*

Mass at 12noon

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

[1] On this **Sixteenth Sunday of the Year** we welcome Bishop Declan to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 10 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.

**NEXT SUNDAY:**

[1] On the **Seventeenth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate the saving love of Jesus for each of us, as he is like the merchant who gives everything to win us for the kingdom and describes each of us as 'pearls of great price'. And Jesus is our true treasure who is worth the sacrifice of everything in faithfulness to His call.

[2] We have the joy and privilege of **celebrating the baptism** of three children.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER**

The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence Weston and St Bernard's, Shirehampton, served by Fr Francis Ezennia MSP, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION**

We pray for the **Ministry of our Flower Arrangers**. Every week Minette, Mary Otoo and Adamah faithfully source and arrange the flowers that decorate our church and enhance our Liturgy. They would love more help and volunteers (no previous experience required) so please contact Minette.

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A. Env £156.00 + Loose £218.14 + Card Reader £54.86 + S/O £165.88 = £498.66

Caritas £45.00 **Donation (Zimbabwean Community) £1080.00 many thanks for support****DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023**23rd July **Bishop Declan celebrates Confirmation of our young people 10am Mass**

26th July Borderlands Trustees meet

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)

5th Aug Joint meeting of PPC, PFC and Legacy Group 9.15-12noon

6th Aug Feast of the Transfiguration &amp; Hiroshima Day: Prayer for disarmament

15th Aug **Feast of the Assumption of Mary - HolyDay of Obligation**

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

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**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!

**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 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**

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**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'!

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING IN THE FOODBANK** Our Foodbank will open 30 minutes later than usual all this week (ie at 10.30am) to enable training sessions for all volunteers. So from 9.30-10.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we will explore the ethos and values of this Christian Mission and the procedures required for us to work effectively and safely with respect for all come for help. This is a requirement for all volunteers - if you would like to help at the foodbank please contact Mike Conway on 07482425539 for more information.

**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.**

**THE CRISES OF OUR TIME - A CALL TO URGENT ACTION!** This week we have witnessed two major events that must challenge our Christian conscience! **Firstly, the Passing of an immoral and internationally illegal Immigration Act** in Parliament this week is traumatising even further so many of our refugee and asylum sisters and brothers. When there are so few legal paths for refugees to enter UK to detain and remove those who do manage to get here along dangerous journeys is contrary to all we believe as Christians. God in our Scriptures tells us to 'welcome the stranger', to treat them justly and with respect. This new Act does the opposite and needs to be opposed by all peaceful ways. **Secondly, we have witnessed the ravages of Climate Change in heatwaves and wild fires, together with drought.** When will we wake up to our responsibility to make radical changes to our life-styles and force our governments to enact policies that are faithful to pledges made to reduce Global Warming to 1.5C. Our 'common home' our 'Mother Earth' is heading for catastrophic harm unless we act NOW! **'Lord, open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our wills to act decisively and urgently!'**

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