



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

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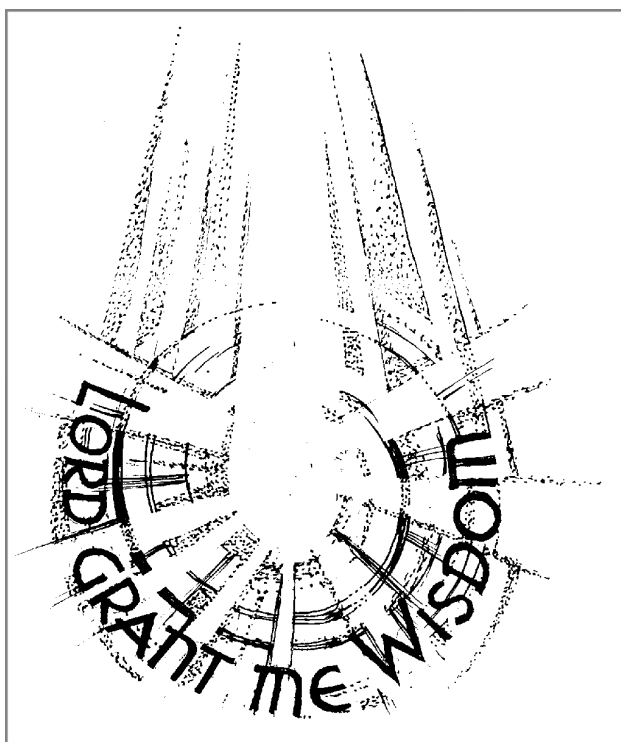
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaking of our buildings: Eddie Mgbeoduru

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



Jesus' Wisdom - our true treasure!

What is our real treasure? What is our true wealth? Solomon replied by praying for Divine Wisdom so as to lead well his People in the Ways of the God of the Covenant. Jesus tells us that true treasure is the Kingdom of God hidden in the field of the world and our own hearts.

The wisdom of Jesus led Him to give everything away (even life itself) so as to capture the pearl of great price - that is you and me and with us all creation! He gives everything - to the last drop of His blood poured out from the Cross and continually poured out for us in the Eucharist.

This same sacrificial love is our true wisdom which seems so foolish to a self-seeking, wealth and power obsessed world. But for us it is the true treasure of our lives - the foolish wisdom of Jesus - sacrificial love!

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

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

TUESDAY: *Feast of Ss Ignatius Loyola, Priest, & Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop, Founders*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30pm Mass at 12noon

FRIDAY: *Feast of St Jean-Marie Vianney, Priest, Patron of Parish Clergy (1786-1859)*
Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

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SATURDAY: *Feast of Dedication of Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome ('Our Lady of the Snows')*
Adoration 9.00-9.30am (Joint Committees Meeting 9.30am) Mass at 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: After Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [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 two children.

[3] We are also marking the **Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for Grandparents and the Elderly**, which has been instituted by Pope Francis. Grandparents play a very important role in family life, often providing at this time much-needed childcare as both parents are working and often with difficult shifts. The bonds between children and their grandparents is often very close and influential. And we honour our elderly who bring us life's experience and wisdom and who have passed on the faith to later generations. They are an immensely valued and fruitful part of the Body of Christ whom we are to support and care for.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**. We like the three apostles glimpse the glory of God-touched humanity; we too are overshadowed by the cloud of the Spirit's embrace; we also hear Abba Father say to us 'This is my Son the Beloved - Listen to Him'. This the Feast not only of the Glory of God in Jesus, but is also the Feast of the Glory of God in each one of us! Alleluia!

[2] It is also the anniversary of the **dropping of the first Atomic Bomb** on the city of Hiroshima - a crime of immense proportions that has ever since made our world a more dangerous and less human place! We must work for total Nuclear disarmament, and the end of all war and the injustices that often lie at the root cause of war.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Patrick, Brockworth and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown (Gloucestershire), served by Fr Christopher Hickey and Fr Paul Brandon, Deacons Brendan Vaughan-Spruce, Barry Taylor, Parish Administrators Mrs Marianne Roberts and Lilly Vujakovic and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Ministry of our Altar Servers**. Every week they faithfully serve and enhance our Parish Liturgy adding so much to the richness and prayerfulness of our worship. They are a great example of a team working together without any trace of rivalry and always ready to help each other, especially the less experienced servers. We are very proud of the team of our Altar Servers. We will be training new altar servers in the Autumn after the schools return. Contact Richard or Mary to volunteer.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A. Env £40 + Loose £242.93 + Card Reader £ + S/O £165.88 = £418.86 **many thanks**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

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 & Hiroshima Day: Prayer for disarmament
15th Aug	Feast of the Assumption of Mary - HolyDay of Obligation
29th Aug	Parish Finance Committee meets (via Zoom) at 7.30pm
1st Sept	Journey of Faith 2023/2024 begins at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

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3rd Sept	Celebration of Parish Feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino at 10.00am
5th Sept	Borderlands Trustees meet
7th Sept	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm
8th Sept	Beginning of School Year Mass at 9.30am

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)

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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."*

NEW LECTIONARY INTRODUCED IN ADVENT It has just been confirmed that a new translation of the Lectionary Readings will come into use on the first Sunday of Advent. The 'English Standard Version - Catholic Edition' (already used in India) will replace the Jerusalem Bible that we have been using for over 50 years. The translation of the psalms will be 'Abbey' rather than the Grail version we are so used to hearing, reading and singing. It will take time to get used to the new translations.

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!'**

POPE FRANCIS ON NUCLER WEAPONS Pope Francis stated the following last November: ***'Now is the time to affirm not only the immorality of the use of nuclear weapons, but the immorality of their possession... genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian effects of any employment of nuclear devices and the risk of accidental detonation as a result of any kind of error, the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. They exist in the service of a mentality of fear.'***

NEED FOR WELCOMERS It is so important that when people come to Mass on Sundays (especially if they are visitors or have not been to Church for a long time) that they are warmly welcomed. We need more volunteers for our Welcoming Ministry It makes such a difference when people are greeted at the door. People need to arrive no later than 9.30am for this Ministry, ready to hand out the bulletin and any Liturgy sheets.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL: Can I remind everyone that when a Catholic goes into hospital, the patient or their family MUST request a visit from the Catholic Chaplain - data protection and confidentiality rules in hospitals prohibit the passing on of information to chaplaincies otherwise. The Chaplain will not know of your presence in hospital and cannot visit a patient without the patient's prior request and permission.

SCHOOL CAR PARK OF LIMITS! Because of essential building works taking place in our parish school over the summer holidays, we cannot park our cars in the school car park. Many apologies for any inconvenience. This does not affect the Parish Car park area.

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