



## 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)

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR



### *The Kingdom of Divine Littleness!*

A King who comes humbly on a donkey! A God who is the servant who kneels at our feet to wash the dirt and pain away! Our Divine Lord who is a brother walking at our side, sharing the burden, shouldering the yoke with us! The infinite all-encompassing God whose love delights in being small and lowly in the child, poor and powerless in a scrap of bread and drop of wine!

It is indeed an 'upside-down kingdom' that Jesus brings. The poor are raised up and the powerful thrown down! The over-stuffed will be sent empty away while the hungry are fed! Those who think they are so holy with all the trappings of religion will have to plead with prostitutes, addicts and the broken to be allowed in to Heaven!

The King of Heaven and Earth calls us to learn from Him that humility of heart that delights with God in the small and lowly, and uses all our energy and love to raise the poor.

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

*Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass at Glastonbury at 3.30pm (events from 12 noon)*

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy today*

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St Benedict, Abbot and Founder of Benedictine Family (480-550)*

*Adoration at 6.00pm*

*Mass at 6.30pm*

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

*Mass at 6.30pm (resumes to this normal time)*

***Come to Me all you who labour and are overburdened and i will give you rest!  
Learn from Me for I am humble and gentle of heart and in Me you will find Peace!***

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

**FRIDAY:**      ***Feast of St Bonaventure, Franciscan Friar, Theologian & Bishop (1218-1274)***  
*Adoration* at 8.30am      **Mass at 9.00am**

**SATURDAY:**    **No Liturgy because of Pre-Confirmation Retreat**  
***Sacrament of Reconciliation:*** 4.00-4.30pm only

**TODAY:**    [1]    On this **Fourteenth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate the Jesus, Word made Flesh, Who comes among us in poverty and powerlessness to reveal the true nature of God, to be the face (the living Icon) of the Father's love and tenderness for each of us. He comes to carry our burdens and reveal to each and all that they/we are beloved children of God, embraced, loved and healed. He is the source of our peace and well-being.

[2]    The **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury**, in honour of Mary of Glastonbury and the Martyrs of Glastonbury begins at 12noon and concludes with Mass at 3.30pm - all are invited

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [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 LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all are welcome!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER**    The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Therese of Lisieux, Filton, and St Vincent de Paul, Southmead served by Fr James Finan, Deacons Tom Douglas and Ludgero Ferreira, Parish Administrator Debbie Nichols and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION**    We pray for the **Ministry and Life of our Ethiopian Orthodox community**, who this weekend celebrate their Eucharist in our church. They hold a prayer Service each Sunday in the Assisi Centre at 2.00pm. We rejoice to host our Orthodox sisters and brothers and provide a home for them among us. Please pray for the peace of Ethiopia/Tigray in the current civil conflict.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

**11/06/23** G.A. Env £26.00 + Loose £279.01 + Card Reader £? + S/O £165.88 = £470.89

**18/06/23** G.A. Env £70.00 + Loose £186.50 + Card Reader £? + S/O £165.88 = £422.38

**25/06/23** G.A. Env £20.00 + Loose £193.50 + Card Reader £? + S/O £165.88 = £379.38

**2/07/23** G.A. Env £55.00 + Loose £147.83 + Card Reader £? + S/O £165.88 = £368.71

**Donation (from John Hart's Funeral)** £141.00    **Caritas Fund** £294.54- thank you

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

9th July      The Glastonbury Pilgrimage

12th July    Ashley Churches Together meet at Salvation Army Ashley Road 12.30pm

12th July    St Nick's School Governors meet

15th July    Pre-Confirmation Retreat Day at Emmaus House 9.30am-3.30pm

15th July    Zimbabwean Mass at 1.30pm - all welcome

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

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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	<b>Bishop Declan celebrates Confirmation of our young people 10am Mass</b>
26th July	Borderlands Trustees meet
29th July	Joint meeting of PPC, PFC and Legacy Group 9.15-12noon
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-streaming 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!

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY** Today, Bishop Declan invites our whole diocesan family to join together for the annual Glastonbury Pilgrimage. Bring a picnic lunch and water (in case the weather is hot!). The Pilgrimage Mass is at 3.30pm. There is a full programme with opportunities for Adoration in the parish church, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Healing Prayer, the Rosary Procession and of course the Mass. I encourage our community to take part in this unique Diocesan Public Witness to our faith.

**NOTE ABOUT GLASTONBURY:** There are legends about Joseph of Arimathea visiting Glastonbury as well as St Paul preaching there (this latter is historically possible, though very unlikely!). From the 6th century it has been a centre of devotion to Mary, the Mother of the Lord. There was founded a Celtic monastery from very early days which developed into the great Abbey whose ruins we see now. St Dunstan was abbot there and became a renowned Archbishop of Canterbury who composed the Coronation Service for the first King of England, much of which is still used in the Coronation of King Charles III we witnessed recently. With Henry VIII's break with the Catholic Church in the 16th century and the destruction of the nation's monaster-

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ies, the Torr saw the martyrdom of the Abbot, Prior and Sub-prior of the monastery for refusing to conform to the 'new religion'. It has been a centre for Pilgrimage both Catholic and Anglican for the past one hundred years.

**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.

**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 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."*

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