



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

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(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 1.00pm)

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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)

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - Sea Sunday



Faith in the storms & turmoil

Faith is wonderful, beautiful - the days of calm and peace, when the sun shines and creation glows. But then the storms come - a bereavement, unemployment, fleeing from terror to a land that does not want you... Perhaps suffering for your faith or values, or your ethnicity, gender or orientation. And can God seem strangely silent, distant, disappearing in the dark clouds of pain and the heavy rain of disillusion and depression.

But Faith deepens as it confronts doubt; Faith is enlarged as it battles against the waves; Faith becomes more luminous as you walk the dark valley of tears. Maybe you feel you are sinking beneath the waves: but like Peter, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and stretch out your hand - and he will be there even though you do not see or feel Him. That is real Faith - faith to walk on troubled waters and through the storm - Faith that gives Life! Faith that makes life worth living!

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

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

TUESDAY: FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY (Holy Day of Obligation)
Adoration at 6.30pm Mass at 7.00pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Service of Word & Communion at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30pm Mass at 12noon

FRIDAY: Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

The storm rages over the sea! and Jesus comes walking in the midst of the storm and calls out to Peter and to us, 'Courage! It is I! Come to me through the storms'

SATURDAY: *Adoration* 11.30am **Mass at 12noon**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: After Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] On the **Nineteenth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate Jesus our brother who comes walking alongside us in the midst of every storm and crisis in our own lives and the life of the Church. We need to fix our gaze upon him, trust his love for us and for His Church, and 'listen to the voice of the Lord'.

[2] We will mark '**Sea Sunday**', when we pray for and support financially the Church's Mission among those who serve (in very hard and often exploitative conditions) in the shipping transport, holiday cruises and fishing industries. **There will be a Retiring Collection - please be as generous as you can - thank you.**

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] With the **Twentieth Sunday of the Year** we celebrate Jesus who is sent by the Father to gather all humanity into the orbit of God's love. A foreign woman, a Canaanite, helps him discover that He is not simply the Jewish Messiah, but has a Universal Mission. He is the Sacrament, the Living Icon, of God's Universal Love. Are we truly His Body, the Church? Do we share His Universal Love where all really are welcome, all really do belong?

[2] As an expression of God's universal Love, we celebrate **Mass with the LBGTQ+ community**, families and friends at 3.00pm - and all we are welcome!

THOUGHT FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Who is this Woman clothed in the Sun?

'All generations will call me blessed, because the Almighty has done great things for me, his lowly handmaid'. Who is this woman in glory, shining like the sun, a vision of light beyond measure?

She is Mary of Nazareth - she is the poor girl of a poor community whom God has raised up to confound the rich, the powerful and the intellectuals! She is the homeless mother to confound the self-satisfied and proud! She is the unmarried mother to confound the moralisers! She is the asylum-seeker and refugee to confound the selfish nationalists! She is the distraught mother of a convicted and then executed criminal to confound the self-righteous!

She is our sister and mother, our fellow disciple. She is a sign of all the Church is called to be: if we are to be 'Light of the World' then we too must be prophets that disturb the rich, pull down the powerful - and raise up the poor!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chippenham and St Patrick, Corsham, served by Fr Michael Fountaine, Parish Administrator Teresa Gosling, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Ministry of our Parish Cleaning Team**. Each Friday at about 10.00pm, one or two people faithfully clean the Church and the Parish Hall. Will you come and help? Just come and serve our community and all who use our church buildings.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A. Env £10 + Loose £198.74 + Card Reader £40.30 + S/O £165.88 = £414.92
CAFOD £25.00 - **many thanks**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

15th Aug **Feast of the Assumption of Mary - HolyDay of Obligation**
29th Aug Parish Finance Committee meets (via Zoom) at 7.30pm

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30th Aug	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm
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
3rd Sept	Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm
5th Sept	Borderlands Trustees meet
8th Sept	Beginning of School Year Mass at 9.30am
10th Sept	Nominations for enlarged Parish Pastoral Council members close
24th Sept	Election of 6 new members for the Parish Pastoral Council
5th Oct	Enlarged Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.15pm (Assisi Centre)
7th Oct	Gathering of the Diocese at St Brendans Sixth Form College

UPDATING SAFEGUARDING AND DBS CHECKS There are a number of new volunteers in roles that need a DBS check as part of Safeguarding Procedures; there are also a number of us who need to renew our DBS checks. Illness has hampered this process, but David Oliva Arbues of the Diocesan Safeguarding Office will be here on Sunday 20th August after Mass (12noon to 2.00pm) to process the checks. For all concerned please bring one photo ID (passport or photo driving licence) and two address ID's (eg utility bills, bank statements etc). All applying for a diocesan DBS check for the first time will need to bring two referee names and addresses.

REPAIRS TO ROOFING, GUTTERING AND WALLS OF THE CHURCH

Long overdue work to make our buildings weather-proof will begin shortly - work that will be funded by the Legacy Management Group rather than normal parish funds. Scaffolding will be erected all around the church and parish hall. As soon as I have a definite date for this I will publish it. There is bound to be some inconvenience but the work is essential. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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, this act of service to God and the whole community. Thank you!

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

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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 our parish.

BORDERLANDS NEWS Borderlands was established by the parish as an independent Christian Charity in 2011, with Richard as its founding Chair. The time has come for him to step back from this role and so he has resigned as Chair and as a Trustee, but of course will continue to support and champion the excellent work of our refugee and asylum charity. He is delighted that a former parishioner, Kimberlee Carstensen, has been elected the new Chair of Borderlands. He is very confident that with her leadership and a gifted Board of Trustees, the Charity will go from strength to strength and develop greatly its life-giving work.

CAROLINE PRICE TO MAKE VOWS For some years Caroline was an Anglican Nun until she became a Roman Catholic. Since then she has sought to continue to live this vocation to the 'Religious Life' as a lay woman. Bishop Declan has agreed to receive her private Religious Vows at Mass in St James's Priory on August 26th at 2.00pm. All are welcome to share her joy that day by participating in the Mass.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE [1] It was decided at last week's meeting that we needed to enlarge our PPC, as in this period of transition towards Richard's 'semi-retirement' the work and responsibility increases while some members capacity has lessened. So we seek nominations for 6 new Parish Pastoral Councillors no later than Sept 10th with Elections on Sept 24th.

[2] The PPC wants to embed a 'synodal' pattern of making decisions in the parish as well as re-building our community (post-Covid), and so will be contacting past conveners of 'synodal' groups (last January, February) to gather groups together once more.

POPE FRANCIS SENDS BLESSING TO THE WORK OF QUEST UK Our Diocesan Ministry among the LGBTQ+ community is linked with QUEST SW. Quest celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year and Pope Francis sent a message thanking Quest for its service of the LGBTQ+ community stressing that 'all are welcome' and valued in the Church. He also sent his blessing upon Quest's work and witness. Thank God for Pope Francis and Quest!

Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a six-week course for the formation of catechists.

The six sessions cover:

1. Introduction to catechesis – 21 September
2. Proclaiming the Good News: Jesus Christ at the heart of catechesis – 28 September
3. The Faith of the Church: Introduction to the Catechism – 5 October
4. Scriptural catechesis: introduction to the Bible – 12 October
5. Methods and Resources – 19 October
6. Preparing a Catechetical Session – 26 October

This training is for seasoned or new catechists working with children, young people or adults, for everyone involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word, and for anyone interested in passing on the faith.

To sign up for the series please contact:

Sarah Adams adult.education@cliftondiocese.com

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