



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

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FEAST OF JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



King? or Servant? or Shepherd? or Prophet?

This is a King without 'subjects' for He wants no-one inferior to Him. That is why He comes as a servant, even a slave! That is why He spends His time healing and encouraging. That is why He gently guides and leads as a Good Shepherd and lays down His life for His flock - us! That is why He challenges all in authority to be servants and not dominators, serving the Divine Reign of radical justice, courageous peace and revolutionary love!

So how do we share His Reign? By being like him - feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, healing the sick and visiting the prisoner. This is a King who radically redefines Kingship! This is a King who enters the human heart and works a revolution of love in the one place that no ideology and power can ever reach - the still centre-point of our being where we are most God-like!

This King is a shepherd, a servant, a prophet: this King alone is worthy of our total allegiance - that is how we are set forever free!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Celebration of Baptism at 10.00am (*streamed on website*)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy today*

TUESDAY: *Adoration* at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *Adoration* at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Andrew, Apostle and patron saint of Scotland*
Funeral Mass for Timothy Gorman RIP at 1.00pm

FRIDAY: *Feast of St Alexander Bryant (1556-81) & St Charles de Foucauld, Martyrs*
Funeral Mass for Caroline Price RIP at 12.30pm (*at St James Priory*)

Jesus will ask us: Did you feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, welcome the stranger? If you did this to the least, you did it to Me!

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.00am **Mass at 11.30am** (Note change of time)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: none today

TODAY: [1] We celebrate the **Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**. As we conclude this Liturgical Year and prepare for Advent we celebrate the 'Cosmic Christ' who is the beginning of all creation and the the goal and fulfilment of all creation - the 'Alpha' and the 'Omega'. Christ Jesus has a truly cosmic mission and cosmic presence - the Church as the Body of Christ shares this same cosmic mission. Let us expand our minds and hearts to embrace a Christ 'bigger' than the universe! Let us care for the Creation which is His evolving work and we are part of its evolution towards Christ Omega!

[2] It is **Youth Sunday** as we value and pray for our young people, seeking with them to build a Church that belongs to them and their world as much as to ours!

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We begin our Liturgical Year B (featuring Mark's Gospel) on the **First Sunday of Advent**. We celebrate Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, who challenges us to 'stay awake', and be watchful for his coming - on 'the last day, the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ'. Advent is a season of repentance, seeking the 'Lord to come with mercy, healing and purifying forgiveness. Let us cry out with the first Christians 'Come Lord Jesus, come!'

[2] It is also the **Day of Prayer for migrants and refugees**. There are some 120 million refugees and displaced people around the world, most of whom are being sheltered from danger by the poorest countries of the world - while we rich nations accept so few by comparison. The Church must stand prophetically saying 'All are welcome here among us', for we are a Universal ('Catholic') Church witnessing that all humanity is but one family and we are all sisters and brothers.

[3] There will be a **Special Retiring Collection for the stricken people of Gaza**, the money being channelled in Relief through CAFOD. The war has and is devastating the people and community in Gaza and the needs are huge! Please be as generous as you can.

[4] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped fellowship & the Catholic Deaf Association** 3pm

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Catharine, Frome and St Dominic, Mellis, served by Canon Richard Dwyer, Deacon David Brinn, Parish Administrator Anna Pang and both their communities. Please also pray for (retired) Bishop Crispian Hollis who lives in St Dominic's parish.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **ministry of the Ethiopian Orthodox Community** that worships weekly in the Assisi Centre. It is a joy to share our premises with our ancient sister Church that traces its origin to the Acts of the Apostles. We pray too for peace in Ethiopia, with the conflict with the Tigray region.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £30.00 + Loose £210.34 + Card Reader £14.75 + S/O £165.88 = £420.97 - thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2023

26th Nov	Feast of Christ the King and Baptismal Sunday
1st Dec	Funeral Mass for Caroline Price RIP at 12.30pm at St James Priory BS1 3NZ
2nd Dec	Meeting of Lay Parish Reps in St Edmund of Abingdon Pastoral Area
3rd Dec	First Sunday of Advent
7th Dec	Parents meeting in preparation for First Eucharist Programme at 6.00pm
9th Dec	Preaching Group meets 9am-12noon (Assisi Centre)
10th Dec	Special United Advent Celebration with the LGBTQ+ community at 3.00pm
13th Dec	St Nick's First Year Nativity Play at 1.30pm (in church)
14th Dec	Funeral Mass for Marjorie Kelly at 11.00am

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14th Dec	St Nick's School Carol Concert at 2.30pm (in church)
14th Dec	First Reconciliation Parents meeting at 6.00pm (Assisi Centre)
14th Dec	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
19th Dec	Advent Reconciliation Service at Holy Family Church Patchway at 7.00pm
20th Dec	Advent Reconciliation Service at St Augustine's Church, Downend at 7.00pm
24th Dec	Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass at 10.30pm
25th Dec	Christmas Day - Solemn Day Mass of Christmas at 10.00am
31st Dec	'Watchnight' Mass to pray the New Year in at 10.30pm
<u>2024</u>	
1st Jan	Feast of Mary, Mother of God - Mass for Peace at 10.00am
7th Jan	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
14th Jan	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday
18th Jan	First Eucharist Programme begins at 4.00pm (Assisi Centre) also Parents session
18th Jan	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
21st Jan	United Service for Christian unity Week at Parkway Methodist Church 4.00pm

ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR - A CALL TO PRAYER AND HUMANITY The horror of this war between Israel and Palestine is increasing with the population of Gaza (2 million people) on the verge of starvation and only one hospital functioning at even a minimal level. **THIS MUST STOP NOW!** Thankfully there is a brief respite in the fighting - let us pray that this might develop into a full scale cease fire providing the opportunity for a peace settlement that might last! World leaders must act to bring this horror to an end. The overwhelming number of victims on both sides are women and children. Each side are conducting war crimes. **PLEASE PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE IN THE LAND WE CALL 'HOLY'!**

CALLING PARENTS OF CHILDREN TO PREPARE FOR FIRST EUCHARIST IN JUNE 2024 Parents seeking the First Eucharist for their children are asked to register their child (need to be 7 years old before May 2024) and attend a parents meeting on **Thursday 6th December at 6.00pm** in the Assisi Centre. Registration forms back by Monday 4th Dec at the latest.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023 REPORT Our parish made a very considered contribution to the Global Synod Process (and are embedding 'synodality' into our parish's discernment and decision-making). You can read/download the official Synthesis of the Assembly Report with this link: https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report_IMP.pdf

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR PARENTS Our next **Baptismal Sunday will be the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 14th January**. Parents seeking the baptism of their child on that day please contact Eustace Tameh or Richard soon as possible.

THE PARISH DATABASE **THE PPC APOLOGISES TO YOU ALL** - by error it seems that someone disposed of the registration forms - so **unfortunately we have to repeat the exercise. As way of a reminder** - The Parish Pastoral Council seeks to create a comprehensive database to include all our parish members. Today forms will be distributed asking for some essential information - names of all family members, address with postcode, telephone and email contact details etc. The purpose of this is to enable effective pastoral care, community building and effective communication. ***The information given will be used solely for internal parish and pastoral reasons and will not be divulged to any other party. Please sign the forms giving your permission for us to hold your details on our database - this is essential for compliance with GDPR (Data Protection legislation). THANK YOU!***

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO PARISH CAR PARKING AND FUND-RAISING

The company 'YourParkingSpace' has installed a car registration recognition camera at the entrance to the parish and Dunstan centre car park, together with signs giving full instruc-

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tions of how to pay digitally for daily or weekly parking. Those who are already contracted with the parish for parking are not affected, but all others who wish to park there will need to comply with the instruction panels. There will be fines issued to those who park without paying or a contract with the parish. ***IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT PARISHIONERS NOTE THE FOLLOWING: This system operates from Monday to Friday 24 hours, but does not operate on Saturdays and Sundays. Also all parishioners parking because of attending weekday Mass, parish meetings, volunteering or coming to the parish office or presbytery will be exempt from parking charges or fines - provided they register their car number plate in the church or parish office. We have no intention of charging parishioners for parking here on parish business or for worship.***

ST NICK'S SCHOOL NEWS

Reception Class September 2024

Are you looking for a place for your child in Reception class in September 2024, or know of anyone who is, then please do come along to our Reception open mornings. This is a chance for you see our caring and inclusive school in action. If you are unable to attend on the dates below, please do call the school office (01173772260) and book a convenient time - every day is an open day! Thursday 7th December 9.30am - 11.30am

STARTING SCHOOL? If you have a child born between **1 Sept 2019 & 31 August 2020**, now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2024** onwards. You must complete an application form available from the school admissions team of the Local Council (Bristol/North Glos, Banes etc). If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15 January 2024**.

PROPOSED AREA HOUSE MASSES With work schedules, distance from St Nick's church and traffic congestion in Bristol, attendance at weekday Mass has fallen considerably. Yet the Eucharist is the heart of our community and the source of energy for our Mission. It is the praying foundation supporting all we do and are as a Parish Community. As part of our Pastoral strategy for fostering community, we will hold regular House Masses (eventually one each week) to gather parishioners in that part of Bristol and so build community around the Eucharist. The database and the location 'dots' on the Map in the church will help to develop this pastoral initiative. **If you are willing to host a House Mass in your area, inviting other parishioners living locally, please let Margaret or Richard know.**

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Why not give a friend or family a gift that benefits the poorest of our world. Jesus is not honoured by lavish gifts to each other - when you give someone a CAFOD World Gift, you are giving to Jesus who identified himself with the poor who benefit from your Gift. 'Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers you do to me!' The catalogues for these CAFOD World Gifts are in the porch.

FUNERAL MASS FOR CAROLINE PRICE RIP Caroline had requested that her Funeral Mass be at **St James Priory BS1 5AE** (by the bus station) and will be at **12.30pm Friday Dec 1st**. It will be a very ecumenical celebration. Her burial will be at a place she greatly loved - Llanmadoc in the Gower, South Wales. She also requested that after the Mass at St James we share food and memories together. All are most welcome.

A SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS WITH BRISTOL'S LBGTO+ COMMUNITY

On December 10th at 3.00pm St Nick's is hosting LGBTQ+ Christians in the Bristol coming together for a Service of Advent Carols and Readings including the Sunday Eucharist, followed by refreshments. All are very welcome to share this event.

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