



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

St Nicholas Presbytery, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-8810

Parish Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-0419

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

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 0117-904-0479

Parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com

Fr Richard's email: richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com

Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: www.tolentino.org.uk

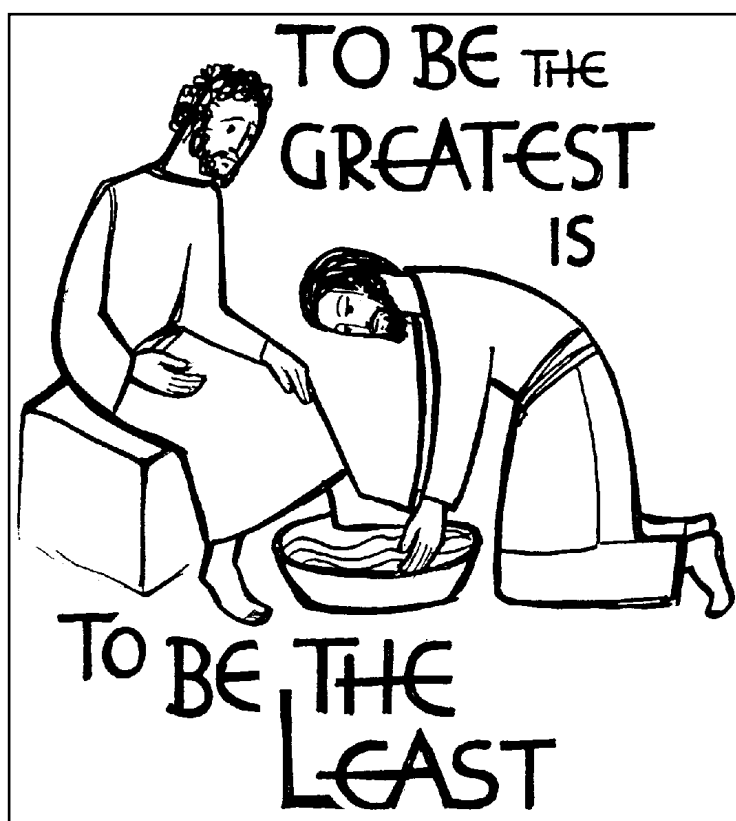
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF YEAR A



Some More Equal than Others?

Jesus is abundantly clear! In a society and faith culture where status and dignity was so important Jesus sheds his dignity - born homeless and poor in a cow shed; mixing with lepers, prostitutes and the outcasts; disrobing and wrapping himself in the towel of the slave and washing the dirty feet; and finally executed naked as a convicted criminal and slave. Always the same story - raise others up, not yourself! All are equal, sisters and brothers!

Yet we in the Church are as obsessed as ever with status. We dress our popes and bishops in imperial colours; clergy want titles like Canon or Monsignor! And it will all turn to dust, and behind our status-seeking and power games, the face of the servant Jesus who carries the Divine Dignity remains hidden from the world. When will we ever have the courage truly to live the Gospel of radical equality and love?

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

Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all very welcome

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 the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Rome's Cathedral Church)*

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

Jesus says: Beware of all hypocrisy - live what you believe. Leaders must be servants; you are all equal as children of your one Father in Heaven. Love!

FRIDAY: **Feast of St Leo the Great, Pope and Theologian (elected Pope 440, died 461)**
Adoration at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am

SATURDAY: **Feast of St Martin of Tours, Monk and Bishop (316-397)**
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon
Jesus Youth Vigil 8.00pm to conclude with Mass at 10.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] We celebrate on the **Thirty-First Sunday of Year A**, Jesus the Prophet that challenges all hypocrisy and calls us to radical equality in a radical community of love that we call ... The Church! All are equal sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ, and the growth of Synodal Governance in the Church both global and local seeks to embody that equality where all voices are to be heard, respected and contribute to communal discernment of the Way forward as a inclusive Church.

[2] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm** - all welcome!

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] With the **Thirty-Second Sunday of Year A** we begin the famous 25th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which sums up Jesus' teaching remarkably. Jesus is the Wisdom of God made flesh and He speaks of the wisdom that is being alert and awake to the 'signs of the times'. He calls us always to shine with light to the world, a light that will guide with Divine Wisdom. Let the Holy Spirit's love be the oil in the lamp of our lives & witness.

[2] **Signed Mass for the Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all very welcome!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Stanislaus, Dulverton and Sacred Heart, Minehead with Watchet, served by Fr David Savoury, Deacon Vincent Woods, Parish Administrator Lorraine Taylor and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the work of the **Children's Liturgy of the Word Team**, led by Mary Hopper. This Ministry, providing worship and the Word of God appropriate to 4-8 year olds, is one of the building blocks of faith for our 'little Church' - and helping to create community among our little ones. Parents are encouraged to join the Team, facilitating Children's Liturgy once every 4-6 weeks. Please contact Mary if you feel called to this important 'foundation' ministry.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £30.00 + Loose £215.71 + Card Reader £108.15 + S/O £165.88 = £519.74 - thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY **2023**

7th Nov	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre) 10.30am-2.00pm
8th Nov	Clergy Meeting for St Edmund of Abingdon Pastoral Area
11th Nov	Preaching Group meets 9am-12noon (Assisi Centre)
11th Nov	'Jesus Youth' Vigil at St Nicks 8.00-11.00pm (for 18+)
17th Nov	First Parents Baptismal Preparation Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
19th Nov	Rite of Child Catechumen (or Welcoming) at 10.00am Mass
22nd Nov	Meeting of St Nick's School Governors
24th Nov	Second Parents Baptismal Preparation Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
26th Nov	Feast of Christ the King and Baptismal Sunday
3rd Dec	First Sunday of Advent
9th Dec	Preaching Group meets 9am-12noon (Assisi Centre)
13th Dec	St Nick's First Year Nativity Play at 1.30pm (in church)
14th Dec	St Nick's School Carol Concert at 2.30pm (in church)

Jesus says: Beware of all hypocrisy - live what you believe. Leaders must be servants; you are all equal as children of your one Father in Heaven. Love!

THOUGHT FOR ALL SAINTS DAY***HOLINESS IS HAPPINESS!***

Holiness is not just for the heroes for whom we erect statues and paint icons! They are part of the 'great cloud of witnesses' that encourage and inspire us. But holiness is for us as well - ordinary and extraordinary mums and dads, uncles and aunts, friends and co-workers, brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

Everyone of us is called to holiness. Called to be holy is God's call to become our true selves, to be who we are - and to be me in Christ, in truth, in love, in compassion, in mercy, in the struggle for justice. Ultimately the call to holiness in Christ is no more and no less than the call to be human - thoroughly human. As St Teresa of Avila said - 'the royal road to God is through humanity'

The world needs saints - the world needs us, young people and older people - all to be saints letting love be the power and driving force of our lives. Not 'perfect' plaster saints, but real flesh and blood people - in Christ!

ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR - A CALL TO PRAYER AND HUMANITY The horror of the killings inflicted firstly by Hamas on Israel and now by Israel on the Palestinian people in Gaza (and the West Bank region), calls us to prayer for peace and to political action on world leaders to bring the horror of war to an end. The overwhelming number of victims on both sides are women and children. Both the taking of hostages, the killing of innocent civilians and the blockade of Gaza, cutting off food, water, fuel and medical supplies are war crimes. We must not be afraid the name the evil and call for such war crimes to cease immediately. **PLEASE PRAY AND ACT FOR PEACE IN THE LAND WE CALL 'HOLY'!**

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). Today the official Synthesis of the Assembly deliberations is being brought up in the Offertory of the Mass, and you can read/download the Synthesis Report with this link: https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report_IMP.pdf

JESUS YOUTH VIGIL OF PRAYER

All our young people aged 18 to 35 years are invited to share with 'Bristol Jesus Youth' in this Vigil of Prayer at St Nick's on **Saturday 11th November beginning at 8.00pm and concluding with Mass at 10.30pm**, followed by refreshments. Come and pray, reflect and discuss with other young Catholic Christians, helping each other to centre our lives on Jesus Christ.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR PARENTS

Our next **Baptismal Sunday is on the Feast of Christ the King, 26th November at 10.00am Mass**. The first Preparation Session will be on Friday 17th November at 6.30pm in the Assisi Centre, with **Rite of Child Catechumen on Sunday 19th November at 10.00am Mass**. Second Preparation Session is on Friday 24th November at 6.30pm in the Assisi Centre. Any parents seeking the Baptism of their child, please contact Eustace Tameh or Richard.

THE PARISH DATABASE

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!***

Jesus says: Beware of all hypocrisy - live what you believe. Leaders must be servants; you are all equal as children of your one Father in Heaven. Love!

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO PARISH CAR PARKING AND FUND-RAISING

On Tuesday 17th October, the company 'YourParkingSpace' is installing a car registration recognition camera at the entrance to the parish and Dunstan centre car park, together with signs giving full instructions 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 charge 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 class 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

NOVEMBER - A MONTH TO REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE DEAD We remember not only the dead of the wars that have been the scourge of past 100 years, but in this month all the Faithful Departed, all 'who have gone before marked with the sign faith' and indeed all of deceased humanity for all are precious in God's eyes. Please take a Memorial Sheet today and fill in the names of all whom you want to be prayed for and remembered at ever-Mass celebrated in the parish this November. They are with the Bulletin this week. Our prayer for them becomes part of God's loving them into the fulness of their lives! ministry, this act of service to God and the whole community. Thank you!

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. We recognise that we are a very dispersed parish community many if not most living some distance from our church. This can undermine our sense of community. So the PPC proposes that we have regular House Masses (eventually one each week in a different part of Bristol), to gather parishioners in that part of Bristol and build community and sharing around the Eucharist. The development of the database and also completing the location 'dots' on the Map in the church will help in developing 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.

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. Welcomers will need to arrive no later than 9.30am for this Ministry, ready to hand out the bulletin and any Liturgy sheets.

Jesus says: Beware of all hypocrisy - live what you believe. Leaders must be servants; you are all equal as children of your one Father in Heaven. Love!