



## 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

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

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SON OF MARY, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD



### *Christmas Season Begins*

**SUNDAY:** *Christmas Eve*

**MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST** at 10.30pm

**MONDAY:** *CHRISTMAS DAY*

**SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS** at 10.00am

**TUESDAY:** *Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr and Deacon (Bank Holiday)*

***Adoration*** at 9.30am **MASS** at 10.00am

**WEDNESDAY:** *Feast of St John the Evangelist, Apostle*

***Adoration*** at 6.00pm **Mass** at 6.30pm

The Word is made flesh and pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

**THURSDAY:** **Feast of the Holy Innocents (Day of prayer for all child victims)**  
**Adoration** at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon

**FRIDAY:** **Feast of St Thomas Becket, Martyred Archbishop of Canterbury**  
**(1118-1170)**

**Adoration** at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am

**SATURDAY:** **Adoration** at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)** none today

**SUNDAY:** **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**PARISH MASS OF SUNDAY** at 10.00am

**WATCHNIGHT MASS for NEW YEAR'S EVE** at 10.30pm

**MONDAY:** **FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**PARISH MASS FOR PEACE** at 10.00am

*Fr Richard and the Parish Team*

*Want to assure you all of our Special Prayer for you and yours this Christmas.*

*May your Joy know no bounds and your Hope enlarged*

*We wish you and those you love every Joy and Happiness this most Blessed Christmas.*

*You are especially remembered at the Eucharist.*

*A Special Word of Welcome to all Visitors to our Parish this Christmas.*

*In particular to any friends who are not Roman Catholics ...*

*We value your presence with us as we worship together Our Saviour Jesus Christ*

*On this Feast of Endless Love!*

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** With amazing joy we celebrate this wondrous day of Mystery - the **Mystery of Love made Flesh**, God stooping down in the Divine Littleness of the tiny Child who carries all creation in His infant Heart. Men and women everywhere! Know your sublime dignity, that now our humanity carries the Divine, is capable of infinite love and endless life. How can we ever fear this God who comes in the vulnerable poverty of Bethlehem's Christ Child? Or ever diminish another human person whom we know is filled with Divine Presence? Forever the world at its very heart, in its utter depths, is changed! ALLELUIA!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**. We contemplate God's immense trust in us, in our human family, in entrusting the human development of His Son to a family like our own! No idyllic world for the Word made Flesh - but born to an unmarried mother, a displaced family, soon to be come a refugee family fleeing the oppressive terror of a corrupt and violent ruler. Then growing to maturity in a village of great poverty. From this world of poverty and suffering the Word of God is shaped!

[2] **Come and pray the New Year in with our Watchnight Mass New Year's Eve Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30pm. Bring food to share after the Mass - thank you! Please note this is not a Sunday Mass and does not fulfil our Sunday responsibility to share Word and Eucharist on the Lord's Day of Resurrection - this Feast of the Holy Family.**

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**NEW YEAR'S DAY:** [1] We celebrate on **New Year's Day**, the **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. The Council of Ephesus, 431AD, made the first solemn pronouncement of the Church's doctrine in regard to Mary - giving her the title 'Theotokos' - bearer of God. It did so less to honour Mary and more to preserve and proclaim the fundamental doctrine that Jesus was truly God and truly Human. Mary is the model disciple, God's teacher to God's People on how to be true and loving disciples of Jesus. Let 2024 be a Year of growth in Missionary Discipleship!

[2] Held by most of the Church as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**, Mass will be offered for the Peace of the World - that the terror, conflict and brutal wars of 2023, especially in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and elsewhere might give way to an era of Peace and Reconciliation: courage is making Peace rather War!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Thomas More, Marlborough with Holy Family, Pewsey, served by Fr John Blacker and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** This week, pray God's Blessing upon our **Hospitality Ministry**, providing our community Sunday by Sunday the opportunity to grow in friendship and community in the Parish hall over tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes (and often more!!). I hope more of us, especially those new to our community, will make time to come into the Hall after Sunday Mass and enjoy getting to know better the sisters and brothers of our worshipping community. We also ask more people to come forward to offer this Ministry in Hospitality teams. Please contact Margaret Ulloa to volunteer.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

G.A.Env £45.00 + Loose £221.10 + Card Reader £?. + S/O £165.88 = £431.98 thanks!

**Caritas Fund** £534.00 **FOODBANK** £400.00 **Zimbabwean Mass** £103.15 many thanks!

*I wish to thank all who give large or small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and every giver is equally valued and these gifts are used to serve the growth of the Kingdom of God. Thank you!*

**Our Caritas Fund is supporting so many people as those unemployed, homeless or suffering from the cost of living crisis, food and fuel poverty are increasing.**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS** For those not using Offertory envelopes, there are some 'Christmas Offering' envelopes available today for the Christmas Offerings. The Collections at Christmas and Easter are your personal offering of financial support for your parish priest, and makes up a major part of his annual 'wage'. Thank you for your generosity.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** These are gifts that support the work of our outstanding **Diocesan Children's Society**. With their offices in Pennywell Road, they are indeed a part of our parish! Please pray for their work, give generously, and pray for more adoptive parents to come forward - **could you be such an adoptive family? Contact tel: 0845-122-0077.**

**COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!** As for the past few years, there will be a **New Year 'Watch Night Mass' at 10.30pm on 31st December**, praying the New Year in. During this Year of Covid and so much grief and weariness - we need to pray for fearful world, our war-torn world, for our polluted Earth, for our refugee and asylum-seeking sisters and brothers - and for our own families and parish family! Much to pray about as we enter a New Year - to fill it with a New Hope and a deeper Love!

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

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

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**2024**

1st Jan	<b>Feast of Mary, Mother of God - Mass for Peace</b> at 10.00am
5th Jan	First Parents Baptismal Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
7th Jan	<b>Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord with Rite of Child Catechumen</b>
12th Jan	Second Parents Baptismal Session at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)
14th Jan	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday</b>
17th Jan	St Nick's School Governors meet
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)
19th Jan	First Reconciliation Programme begins at 4pm (Assisi Centre) also Parents session
20th Jan	Open Parish Synodal Group 10-11.30am (Assisi Centre) - all welcome
21st Jan	United Service for Christian unity Week at Parkway Methodist Church 4.00pm
26th Jan	Holocaust memorial Day - Civic Event in City Hall 12noon
27th Jan	Meeting of Joint Committees (PPC, PFC, Legacy Group) 9.30am-12noon
1st Feb	Parish Finance Committee meets on Zoom 7.30pm
7th Feb	St Edmund of Abingdon Pastoral Area Clergy meeting
11th Feb	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - World Day of the Sick - Mass of Anointing
13th Feb	Parish pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
14th Feb	<b>Ash-Wednesday - Lent begins</b>
21st Feb	Safeguarding Training for Clergy

**Christmas Thanks**

- + *to all who have worked so hard throughout the year preparing the Church*
- + *to all who clean and decorate with flowers the Church each week*
- + *to all working in the sacristy, preparing the Crib etc*
- + *to all who help celebrate the Liturgy - choir, musicians, altar servers, Readers, Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, Welcomers and liturgy planners*
- + *to all who give time to pray and who serve our community all year round*
- + *to all who serve the many Ministries and Missions of our parish family*
- + *to all who serve in or support the Parish Food Bank ('St Nicholas Bread')*
- + *to all who support the mission of our 'Borderlands' Charity*
- + *to all who enable the parish office to do so much pastoral care*
- + *to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ in this wonderful community!*

*In gratitude, I have bought you all as a Christmas Gift, CAFOD World Gifts.*

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES** The **First Eucharist Programme** begins on **Thursday 18th January at 4.00-5.00pm** in the Assisi Centre. There will also be a parents meeting at the same time, also in the Assisi Centre. The **First Reconciliation Programme** begins on **Friday 19th January at 4.00-5.00pm** (Assisi Centre). There will also be a parents meeting at the same time, also in the Assisi Centre.

**HEALING MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11th**

Come to this special **Healing Mass for the World Day of the Sick** here at St Nicks on Sunday **11th February at 10.00am**. The **Sacrament of Anointing the Sick for Healing** will be offered to all who wish to receive the Healing Jesus and His Spirit in this way. A very special experience, Jesus touches us with healing love through the prayer of the Church gathered together. Jesus' Word of Healing is an event of transformation as we pray with and care for the sick and housebound, the troubled and anguished. Come yourself and bring others to Jesus.

**OPEN PARISH MEETING EMBEDDING SYNOD INTO OUR PARISH** As part of building to the future and wanting to listen to each other in a parish where all 'voices' are valued and contribute to decision-making, Marta Bolognani and Mary Hopper will guide this Open Meeting for all who wish to help shape the future of our parish. **January 20th 10-11.30am in the Assisi Centre**. We are planning other 'synodal meetings' for various groups of our parish.

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