



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

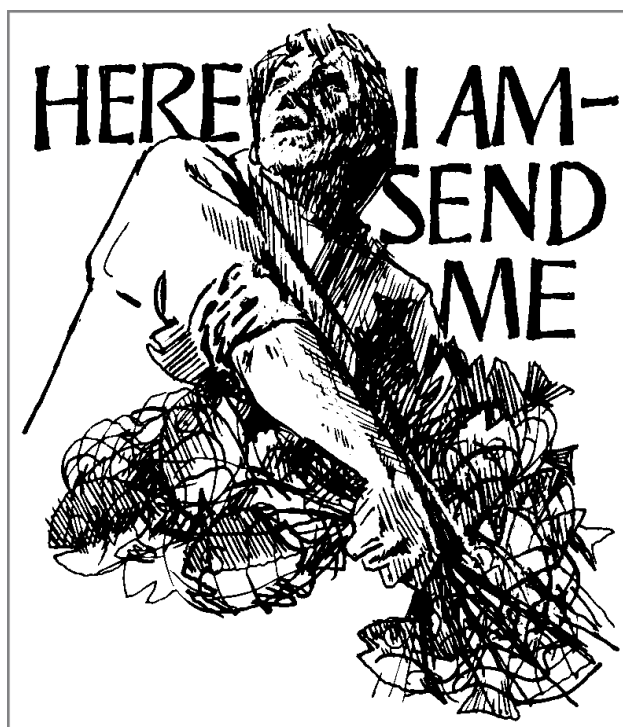
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B - World Peace Sunday



No 'Solo-Flyers' in the Kingdom of God!

Hardly had he emerged from the 40 days of struggle and temptation (to abuse His power!) than Jesus gathers friends and companions to share the work. The Chosen One would not attempt to do the work of the Kingdom alone.

Divine Power is only ever love, and that means being together, working alongside. The call to come to Jesus is the call to come together with sisters and brothers; to call to serve Jesus is the call to work together in unity with other Christians, with all people of Good Will, with the world - trying to struggle for peace and a foundation of justice.

As disciples of Jesus who answer His call we never stand alone - we are always part of the community of Christ, sharing the Mission to and Service of the World with each other. If Jesus knew he had to work in friendship with others - then so should we - always!

ORDINARY TIME SUNDAYS YEAR B and WEEKDAYS CYCLE YEAR 2

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS for Christian Unity & Peace in our World at 10am (*live-streamed*)
Mass with the LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm (*also streamed*)

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Frances de Sales, Bishop and Spiritual Guide (1567-1622)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE
Adoration at 11.30am Mass for Christian Unity at 12 noon

Jesus said: 'The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Turn in a new direction, let the Good News shape your life - and Come follow Me!'

FRIDAY: ***Feast of Ss Timothy and Titus, First named Bishops, disciples of St Paul***
Adoration at 8.30am *Mass* at 9.00am

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am *Mass* at 12.00 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] On the **Third Sunday of Year B**, we celebrate the beginning of Jesus' ministry - proclaiming the Kingdom of God and calling the first disciples to share His life and His Mission. He call us also to follow Him and serve the Kingdom's coming.

[2] Mass today is offered for **the Unity of All Christians in the service of the Peace of the World**, for we are observing the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

[3] This is also the **Sunday of the Word of God**, valuing especially the Scriptures that we share with our Jewish sisters and brothers and with all Christians. As Paul tells us, we Christians 'have been grafted onto the Olive Tree of Israel' and sent to be a Sacrament of God's Love for all humanity.

[4] **Mass with our LGBTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm

[5] All are invited to our **United Service for Christian Unity** at Parkway Methodist Church at 4.00pm - let us embrace this call to worship together with our Christian sisters and brothers of other traditions, so that there can be healing of the divisions of centuries - divisions that weakens our witness to the love of Christ and dims the light of Christ among us.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] With the **Fourth Sunday of Year B** we celebrate Jesus who challenges evil and seeks to liberate us and all humanity from the evil that dehumanises individuals, communities and our world. Not just 'evil spirits' (however we might interpret this in our modern world), but those structural evils that oppress, marginalise, discriminate against our sisters and brothers; and those evils that lead us to war instead of peace, poverty instead of a fair distribution of the world's resources; those evils that pollute our planet as well as our minds, and stop us acting urgently to heal our planet before it is too late. Will we challenge these same evils in the name and prophetic power of Jesus Christ?

[2] We will mark **Holocaust Memorial Day as well as pray for Peace in Gaza and the West Bank** during our Mass. (Remember our stained glass window of Ss Maximilian Kolbe, Edith Stein and the Holocaust Martyrs at the Lady Chapel (to the right of our entrance).

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Joseph, Stonehouse and the Annunciation, Woodchester, served by Fr Gary Brassington VF, Deacon Bogdan Wasylikiw, Parish Administrator Claire Kleiner, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of Altar Serving**. We rejoice in our excellent team of Altar Servers who enable and enhance our Sunday Liturgy. They work so well together they are an example to all our parish of great team work. We are training new altar servers (boys and girls of any age after they have celebrated their First Eucharist) at this time on a Saturday - the precise time to be confirmed. Please see Richard or Mary.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

7/01/2024 G.A.Env £30.00 + Loose £245.76 + Card Reader £68.83 + S/O £165.88 = £509.81

14/1/2024 G.A.Env £25.00 + Loose £147.07 + Card Reader £78.64 + S/O £165.88 = £416.59

Covenant with the Poor £5.00 - **Christmas Offerings** £803.11 - many thanks for your generous Christmas offerings which contribute to the annual 'wage' for your priest.

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

21st Jan United Service for Christian unity Week at Parkway Methodist Church 4.00pm

Jesus said: 'The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Turn in a new direction, let the Good News shape your life - and Come follow Me!'

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
13th Feb	Parish pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
14th Feb	Ash-Wednesday - Lent begins
21st Feb	Safeguarding Training for Clergy

POPE CALLS A YEAR OF PRAYER PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

Pope Francis invites us to hold a 'Year of Prayer' 2024, to deepen our prayer life as individuals and as the Church as we prepare for the **Jubilee Year 2025 - a Jubilee of Hope**, building towards a more Synodal Church. Pope Francis emphasises especially the Prayer of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the 'Lectio Divina', prayer reflection upon the Word of God. Let us reflect how as a parish community we might embrace this call to deeper prayer, seeking personal and communal renewal.

HERE ARE PERSONAL RESOURCES/COURSES TO HELP US GROW IN PRAYER

- [1] A resource for Faith-Sharing groups - 5 sessions on the 'Our Father' booklet available
- [2] Pilgrims of Hope - the Jubilee in Clifton Diocese and introduction to the Year of Prayer 2024 and the Jubilee of Hope 2025 - on-line session on 1st February (7.30-8.45pm)
Register on Diocesan website: [jubilee1cliftondiocese](http://jubilee1cliftondiocese.org)
- [3] 'Lord Teach us to Pray' - learn about the different traditions of prayer that enrich the Church - one Tuesday evening session each month in the Year of Prayer at St John then Evangelist Church, South Parade, Bath starting at 7.00pm.
- [4] 'Kingship of Christ' - a Cosmic Vision made practical as we 'Respond to the Cry of the Earth' - an on-line session - register on the Diocesan website

SEEKING GOD - A MONASTIC EXPERIENCE FOR MEN AND WOMEN 18-35 years

Why not join the Bernadine Cistercian Sisters at Brownhill, Stroud, GL6 8AL from **Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd March**. You can experience something of Monastic life and its gift to the Church (all of us) and so be enriched in your own prayer life. Contact Sr Hilda 01453 883084 or email: brownhillbookings@bernadine.org

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES The **First Eucharist Programme** has begun each **Thursday at 4.00-5.00pm** in the Assisi Centre. The **First Reconciliation Programme** has also begun **Friday at 4.00-5.00pm** (Assisi Centre). There will be a parents' meetings every other week 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.

THE PARISH DATABASE If you have not filled our Parish Data forms (perhaps for the second time!), please do so after Mass today. 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). THANKS!***

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ANY OFFERS FOR A VENUE AND CONVENER FOR AREA HOUSE MASSES?

We want to encourage these in the coming months as a way of bringing the Eucharist into the centre of our Christian lives and build our diverse, widespread community as one Eucharistic Community in Mission. We hope to celebrate a number of House Masses in December, January and February. Contact Richard or Margaret as soon as possible. Thank you.

RECRUITING NEW ALTAR SERVERS Training will be on Saturdays at 5.30pm - any young person who wishes to serve God and our community in this way please contact Richard or Mary as soon as possible. This is an important ministry in our community, serving God and serving our community to pray and worship God with joy and celebration.

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.

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS ON DIVERSITY OF GIFTS, CHARISMS & MINISTRIES:

"The most beautiful experience is the discovery of all the different charisms and all the gifts of his Spirit that the Father showers on his Church! This must not be seen as a reason for confusion, for discomfort: they are all gifts that God gives to the Christian community, in order that it may grow in harmony, in the faith and in his love, as one body, the Body of Christ. The same Spirit who bestows this diversity of charisms unites the Church. It is always the same Spirit. Before this multitude of charisms, our heart, therefore, must open itself to joy and we must think: "What a beautiful thing! So many different gifts, because we are all God's children, all loved in a unique way". Never must these gifts become reasons for envy, or for division, for jealousy!"

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - CIVIC EVENT You are invited to come and share in the **annual Civic Event at Bristol City Hall on College Green on Friday 26th January 11.00am to 1.00pm (Registration from 10.30am)**. We will remember the horror of the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews of Europe when 6 million Jews and 1 million others perished in the death camps and at the hands of the roving Nazi Death Squads. We will also remember the too many genocides of the past 100 years, including Armenia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia. Since the terrible war between Israel and Palestine (Gaza) there has been an alarming increase in anti-Semitism. We must never allow criticism of Israeli government policy to descend into anti-Jewish sentiments and actions. So we will remember both the Israeli hostages and the devastating casualties of the destruction of Gaza.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL FEEDBACK The PPC this week discussed at length one topic - the future development of the parish with a servant-leadership team working with a non-resident priest (Fr Richard after September), the PPC and Finance Committee and all the parish community. The plan will be addressed over the coming weeks.

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