



## 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 Mgebeoduru

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Jennine Oldis (0117-915-0486)

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

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF YEAR B - Racial Justice & Holocaust Memorial Sunday



#### ***With authority? Or Authoritarian? A challenge to the Church!***

It is a crucial question for a Church that claims authority to teach and to guide - what is the nature and origin of Jesus' 'authority'? His only power - only authority - was the infinite love in His Heart, the utter Truth in His Word, the complete integrity of Action and Word in His Life. Never a shade of dominance or coercion. Truth and Love ever united, hand in hand. No silencing of those who speak troublesome truths!

He, the Lord of Lords, King of Kings, God in humanity, He lived, loved, spoke and acted as a friend among friends, a brother among sisters and brothers, offering Life. That is Jesus' power and authority - the Church must no more or less!

**SUNDAY:** PARISH MASS for Racial Justice & Holocaust Memorial Day at 10am (*streamed*)

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy*

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

**WEDNESDAY:** *Feast of St John Bosco, Priest, Educationalist, Salesian Founder (1815-1888)*  
*Adoration* at 6.00pm      Mass at 6.30pm

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

**FRIDAY:** ***Feast of The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)***

*Adoration* at 6.00pm      **Mass at 6.30pm (NB Change of time)**

**SATURDAY:** ***Feast of St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr (dies 316)***

*Adoration* at 11.30am      **Mass with Blessing of Throats at 12.00 noon**

***Sacrament of Reconciliation:***      after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**TODAY:** [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 both **Racial Justice Sunday and 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). As a diverse community we need to witness to the joy of 'difference' and diversity and witness our revulsion at all forms of discrimination and anti-semitism. With all our ethnicities and beliefs, we are One Human Race, One Family!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] On the **Fifth Sunday of Year B** we celebrate Jesus who heals human woundedness, challenges evil that dehumanises us and seeks God in solitude and prayer. We are called as a parish to do the same in power of His Spirit that is lavished on us!

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

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Immaculate Conception, Stroud with Brownhill, Our Lady & St Therese, Painswick and More Hall served by Fr Gary Brassington VF, Deacon Stephen Bentley, Parish Administrator Marilynne Morgan, and all their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for our **Ministry of the Journey of Faith**. We are called to share our faith not only with each other but with all who might come to us searching for new meaning, a new wisdom - the Gospel and the love of Christ. That is the purpose of our Journey of Faith group. It also serves Catholics who wish to explore about their faith more deeply and seek a renewal in Christ and his Spirit. Adult Catholics who have not yet been Confirmed in the Holy Spirit - this group is also for you in your journey towards completing your 'Initiation into Christ'. The group is animated by Richard, Mary Hopper and Margaret Ulloa - interested in joining? please contact us.

### **COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A.Env £55.00 + Loose £307.33 + Card Reader £? + S/O £165.88 = £528.21

**CAFOD** £55.00 **Donation (Zimbabwean Community)** £61.48

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024**

1st Feb	Parish Finance Committee meets on Zoom 7.30pm
7th Feb	St Edmund of Abingdon Pastoral Area Clergy meeting
7th Feb	Ashley Church Together Serving meeting at 12.30pm
8th Feb	Human Resources Training
11th Feb	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick, Mass of Anointing 10am
13th Feb	Parish pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)

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14th Feb	<b>Ash-Wednesday - Lent begins</b>
21st Feb	Safeguarding Training for Clergy
7th March	Pastoral Area Service of Reconciliation with Bp Declan - Holy Family Patchway at 7.00pm
14th March	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
22nd March	Celebrating St Oscar Romero' witness to Justice and peace - Mass at 7.00pm
23rd March	Service of Reconciliation including First Reconciliation at 2.30pm
24th March	<b>PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS</b>

**JOINT MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, FINANCE COMMITTEE & LEGACY GROUP** The This meeting of the three key committees serving the parish met yesterday to further discussion on the future development of the parish with a servant-leadership team ('Community Elders') working with a non-resident priest (Fr Richard after September). A full 'Foundation Document' was agreed and has been posted on our parish website. A shortened form will be distributed to everyone in the next couple of weeks. Groups are being set up to explain and discuss in the context of prayerful synodal conversations throughout Lent and will be major part of our Lenten journey to which all of us are asked to participate. There will also be a strong call to prayer during Lent - all part of our whole community sharing in the discernment and decision-making in these 8 months of transition to a 'New Way of Being Church'. It is expected that the Community Elders will be in place by the Feast of Pentecost at the end of May. We ask you to discuss and pray about this Parish Strategy, sharing the discernment.

**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](mailto: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 Sun-

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day **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!***

**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 is on Saturdays at 5.00pm - 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!"

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