



## 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

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

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

## FEASTS OF THE EPIPHANY and BAPTISM OF THE LORD



### ***A FEAST OF GLORY MANIFESTED!***

Seekers after wisdom have travelled far, and bring with them the hopes of the Nations, the gifts of the Peoples, the riches of Learning - and lay them before this vulnerable little child trapped in poverty and soon to be a refugee! These strong men of intellect who gaze upon the stars and research the wisdom of ages in their books: now they bend low, humbled and humbling in the generosity of their spirits and the humility of their minds - bending the knee to the child and His young mother and labourer father.

And in the poverty of the Bethlehem home they touch the quiet and hidden glory of Love made Flesh, of God in human skin, of the intertwining of the Divine and Human stories forever - literally for all eternity. They have found Wisdom - or rather Wisdom made Flesh has found them! Let us be drawn like them to the strange Glory of this God-touched Humanity. Forever we will walk a different Way as wise seekers and lovers! Then the Glory can be quietly and gently manifest in us! These strangers from distant lands bring us gifts - the gifts of their faith, their love, their searching, their courage. Then and now!

**SUNDAY:** PARISH MASS of the Epiphany, with Rite of Child catechumen at 10am (*streamed*)

### **ORDINARY TIME SUNDAYS YEAR B and WEEKDAYS CYCLE YEAR 2**

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy*

**TUESDAY:** *Adoration* at 6.00pm      Service of Word & Communion at 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY:** *Adoration* at 6.00pm      Service of Word & Communion at 6.30pm

**THURSDAY:** *Adoration* at 11.30am      Service of Word & Communion at 12 noon

**FRIDAY:** *Adoration* at 8.30am      Service of Word & Communion at 9.00am

***Falling on their knees before the Christ Child, they opened their treasures, offering Him gold for a king, frankincense for God, and myrrh for One who would die for us!***

**SATURDAY: *Feast of St Aelred of Rivaulx, Abbot (1110-1167)*****Adoration** at 11.30am      **Mass at 12.00 noon****Sacrament of Reconciliation:**      after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**7/01/2024:** [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**, one of the great 'Feasts of Mission'. The Church, the Body of Christ, is called to be Light to the Nations, to share a radical wisdom of 'love without limits'. This is what drew the Wisdom-seekers (the 'Magi') to travel far - drawn on by the promise of Light and Wisdom expressed by the Star. Are we a community whose love draws people to Christ and new Life?

[2] We joyfully celebrate the **Rite of Child Catechumen**, welcoming the children and families preparing for Baptism on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

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

**SUNDAY:** **PARISH MASS of the Baptism of the Lord, with Baptisms** at 10am (*streamed*)

**MONDAY:** *No Liturgy*

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

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Feast of St Anthony, Abbot and founder of the 'Desert Fathers' (251-356)***

*Adoration* at 6.00pm      **Mass at 6.30pm*****WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS***

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

**FRIDAY:** ***Feast of St Wulstan, last Saxon Bishop preached in Bristol against slavery (1008-95)***

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

**SATURDAY:** *Adoration* at 11.30am      **Mass at 12.00 noon**

**Mass in Shona with our Zimbabwean Community** at 1.30pm**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**      after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**13/01/2024:** [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. Jesus commits Himself to the work of bringing about our Redemption and the coming of the Kingdom of God. He, the sinless One, who will shoulder the sin of the world when he embraces the Cross, humbly accepts the sinners' baptism at the hands of John the Baptist - an act of Abandonment into the will of the Father that draws down the anointing of the Holy Spirit empowering His mission of love, healing and salvation. Will we the baptised commit ourselves like Jesus?

[2] We have the joy of celebrating the **Sacrament of Baptism** with our children.

**21/01/2024** [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] This is also the **Sunday of the Word of God**, valuing especially the Scriptures that we share with our Jewish sisters and brothers. As Paul tells us, we Christians 'have been grafted onto the Olive Tree of Israel'

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

[4] 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.

***Falling on their knees before the Christ Child, they opened their treasures, offering Him gold for a king, frankincense for God, and myrrh for One who would die for us!***

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** 7/01/2024 The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Osmund, St Gregory and English Martyrs with Sacred Heart, Tisbury with All Saints, Wardour, served by Fr Anthony Paris VF, Fr Joseph Meigh, Fr Jonothan Greer (also pastor to the Sarum Ordinariate), Deacons Stephen Godwin, John Detain, John Proctor, Parish Administrator Desiree Coups, and all their communities.

**13/01/2024** The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Dunstan, Somerton and Holy Ghost, Yeovil with St Michael, South Petherton, served by Fr Sujith Pallassery MSFS, Fr Jose Maliekal MSFS, Parish Administrator Sue Chant, and all their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** 7/01/2024 We pray for our **Ministry of Flower Arranging**, led by Minette Semper - a small team of devoted ladies who every Friday enrich our worship with colour and nature in our flowers. They would welcome helpers willing to learn about flower - please contact Minette.

**13/01/2024** We pray for the **Ministry of our Altar Servers** who serve our parish Liturgy so ably and consistently. They are role models of co-operation in service, supporting each other without rivalry. We have much to thank them for and much to learn from them about service. We are training new Altar Servers so please contact Richard or Mary to volunteer.

**COLLECTION LAST WEEK**

G.A.Env £24.00 + Loose £201.34 + Card Reader £55.00 + S/O £165.88 = £391.22 - thanks!

**Covenant with the Poor** £25.00 - **Christmas Offerings** £698.11 - many thanks for your generous Christmas offerings which contribute to the annual 'wage' for your priest.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** Our crib will be packed away for another after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - so please visit the crib at the altar and pause to reflect and pray for the children of Gaza at this tragic and dangerous time for them and their families. **ALSO please make your crib Offering - which is given to support our Catholic Clifton Children's Society.** CCS want to hear from anyone interested in adoption. They work with prospective adopters, preparing and supporting them through the adoption process and provide long term support to families after adoption as they continue their new lives together. Please contact CCS Adoption on 0845-122-0077 for an information pack or visit [www.ccsadoption.org](http://www.ccsadoption.org)

**DATES FOR THE DIARY** 2024

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)
13th Jan	First training Session for new altar at 10.30am (church) - contact Richard
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 Ctre) also Parents session
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
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

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**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.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR PARENTS** Our next Baptismal Sunday will be the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 14th January.

**Second Parents Baptismal Session Friday 12th January at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)**

**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!*

**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**.

**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 starts on Saturday 13th Jan 10.30am - 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. This will be a great challenge for all of us. Please pray about this urgent need in building our parish.

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