



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)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF YEAR B - WORLD DAY OF THE SICK



No-one will touch me - except Jesus!

The Leper is the archetype of the those we reject and shun because of our fears. Their disease misunderstood to do this day, in Jesus time they had to be separated even from their families. The ultimate outcast they could not approach anyone but another leper - and were cursed and separated from God and, Temple and Synagogue!

But of course the Word made flesh wants to touch poor diseased flesh of humanity to heal and liberate. Of course the Son of God, who came as our brother to gather us all in unity into the Father's heart, wants to end the crippling isolation of this son of God, this brother, and bring him back into community, so ending his days of being 'cast out'.

So much so that Jesus takes his place and becomes the ultimate outcast - both in the desert and on the Cross!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Sacrament of Anointing for Healing at 10.00am (*streamed*)
Signed Mass with Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm (all welcome)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

TUESDAY: *Shrove Tuesday - eve of Lent*
Adoration at 6.00pm *Mass at 6.30pm*

SEASON OF LENT BEGINS - A TIME OF PERSONAL AND PARISH RENEWAL

WEDNESDAY: *ASH WEDNESDAY - DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE*
Adoration at 11.00am *Mass with Ashes at 12 noon*
Adoration at 6.30pm *Mass with Ashes at 7.00pm*

A Leper approached Jesus, pleading 'If you want to you can cure me!' Jesus reached out and touched with love the 'untouchable' - 'Of course I want to heal you!'

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

FRIDAY: *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] The **Sixth Sunday of the Year** Jesus our Healer - healing us into humanity's wholeness - bringing us God's unconditional love that forgives our sin, and heals our wounds of body and mind. He is the compassion of God who reaches out to the most marginalised (such as the leper in today's Gospel). This is the Church's Mission - this is your mission and mine, each one of us in our different ways. This is the mission of our parish.

[2] Appropriately this is **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick**. This day we give thanks for all involved in Health-care professions; hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, health centres and Care in the Community. Many of our community are serving God's Healing will in these ways and we will pray specifically for you. We pray too for all the sick and housebound, valuing their gift to us helping us to be a 'Healing Community'. ***The Sacrament of Anointing for Healing will be offered during the Mass for all who wish to receive the Sacrament.*** We pray also for greater equality and justice in Health Care provision throughout the world, giving thanks for the gift of our National health Service. And we pray for all who are researching advances in health care and combatting so many illnesses and diseases. ***An important Day of Prayer and Concern for we are 'God's Field Hospital'.***

[3] **Mass with our Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] The **First Sunday in Lent** celebrates Jesus who overcomes every temptation to use and abuse His Sacred Power for His own ends, rather that lovingly serve the Father's will and bring healing and hope to the world. As we begin this journey of Lent together, let us journey towards a more outward looking approach to life and discipleship. May our lives be gift to others as Jesus was always God's sublime & loving Gift to our world

[2] **Stations of the Cross** at 1.15pm - praying our parish in this time of Transition, that we may carry the cross of other's burdens as we serve the Inner City of Bristol and beyond.

[3] **Mass with the LGBTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm - all welcome!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Holy Rood, St Peter, Swindon and Sacred Heart, Royal Wootton Bassett, served by Fr Lucas Rodrigues SFX, Fr Mark Furtado SFX, Fr Francis Colaco SFX, Deacons Jonathan Ager, Jose Estrochio, Eric Halliday, Jose Alemeida, Parish Administrators Anna Cummins, Gabriel Sexton, and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of Liturgical Music**, our choir and instrumentalists. St Augustine of Hippo said 'Singing is praying twice over' and also 'Sing a New Song to the Lord - our New Lives is the song we are to sing'. Singing in different languages is an essential part of our worship of God in our parish and so we are seeking to rebuild our choir. We invite as many as possible to come and join the choir (it meets for practice each Saturday at 1.30pm - but if more join us a different time could be arranged). We also need instrumentalists to accompany the singing: guitars, drums, and especially key-board. Please contact Margaret or Richard.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £55.00 + Loose £220.79 + Card Reader £4.92 + S/O £165.88 = £446.59 **Thank you!**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

11th Feb Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick, Mass of Anointing 10am

A Leper approached Jesus, pleading 'If you want to you can cure me!' Jesus reached out and touched with love the 'untouchable' - 'Of course I want to heal you!'

13th Feb	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
14th Feb	Ash-Wednesday - Lent begins
17th Feb	Zimbabwean Mass in Shona at 1.30pm
21st Feb	Safeguarding Training for Clergy
23rd Feb	CAFOD Lenten family Fast Day - in solidarity with the poor of the world
6th March	Pastoral Area Service of Reconciliation with Bp Declan - Holy Family Patchway at 7.00pm
9th March	Ethiopian Orthodox Mass in St Nick's Church
14th March	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
20th March	St Nick's School Governors meeting
21st March	Parish Finance Committee meeting (via Zoom) 22nd March Celebrating St at
7.30pm	Oscar Romero' witness to Justice and peace - Mass at 7.00pm
23rd March	Service of Reconciliation including First Reconciliation at 2.30pm
24th March	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS
27th March	Mass of the Chrism at Clifton Cathedral at 11.30am - all invited
28th March	Holy Thursday - Mass of the Last Supper 7.30pm Watching until midnight
29th March	Good Friday - Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm
30th March	Holy Saturday - Tenebrae Prayer at 9.30am - waiting at the Tomb
30th March	THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL at 9.00pm - welcoming the Light of Christ
31st March	EASTER MORNING - THE LORD IS RISEN ALLELUIA! 10am Mass
13th April	Jesus Youth Vigil & Mass 8.00-11.00pm at St Nicks
20th April	Joint Committees Meeting (PPC, PFC, Legacy Group) 9.30-11.45am
1st May	New Deanery Pastoral Council Inaugural meeting 7.30pm (St Nicks)

LENTEN MEETINGS 'YEAR OF PRAYER' AND THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH As prt of our 'Year of Prayer' **each Saturday in Lent 10am to 11.30am** you are invited to come together in the Assisi Centre to share where you feel you are in prayer and faith and also how we build the future of our parish, based on the 'Servant leaders' document. **Saturday 17th Feb** we will share 'Prayer, Spirituality and Sacraments'. Please come and help one another grow in prayer and prepare for the future of our parish community and mission.

LENTEN AREA HOUSE MASSES Each Wednesday in Lent at 7.00pm we hope to **arrange an Area House Mass** for all parishioners in that part of Bristol. After the Mass we will have a discussion over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, about our part in building a new and dynamic future for our parish. Please support the Area Mass in your part of Bristol. Are you prepared to host such a Mass in your home? Please contact Richard as soon as possible.

WHY LENT? We enter this privileged time of personal and community renewal which we call Lent. We join with Christ Jesus' 40 Days in the desert to journey with Him through the desert of silence and prayer, of deprivation and hunger, of thirst and yearning. Why? To grow to become more like Jesus in generosity of spirit, openness of heart, deeper communion with God, a readiness to give of ourselves to the Mission of the Gospel. These 40 Days express our communion with all catechumens of the Church journeying to the great moment of Baptism (or reception into Full Communion with the Church; these 40 Days are our journey to the renewal of our Baptism at Easter when we say again our 'YES' to being plunged into the Mystery of Christ and become truly Christ People, filled with His Spirit and knowing ourselves to be 'Beloved of the Father'. Let us embrace these most precious days of renewal.

WHAT AND WHY IS THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION? The Church encourages us to celebrate with particular depth and openness this sacrament of God's Mercy and Healing (formerly called 'Confession') during these weeks of Lent. Why? Because Lent is a time to let God's Word of Love call to recognise the ways we have wandered apart from closeness to God. And to 'come back home' to the Father's love, where we will find ourselves again and experience the joy of being true disciples of Jesus His Son, our Brother. ***A Leper approached Jesus, pleading 'If you want to you can cure me!' Jesus reached out and touched with love the 'untouchable' - 'Of course I want to heal you!'***

Lent is a time to dare to be honest with ourselves - and we can because that honesty is met with the purest love and tenderness. The Church has changed the name of this Sacrament because 'confession' focusses on our sin and what we do, but 'Reconciliation' speaks of God's loving action in Christ, reconciling us to God, to each other, to our deepest and real self. Then we are ready to renew our Baptismal commitment at Easter, and make 2024 a deeper Year of Prayer, Discipleship and Mission. If you have been away from this life-giving and healing sacrament for a long time - perhaps many years - then God says to you 'Do not be afraid - come back to me with all your heart! For Love alone awaits you.'

THE TRUE FAST - ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS

"Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen."

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.

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] '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.
- [3] '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

GOD'S CALL TO SERVE THE LIFE AND MISSION OF YOUR PARISH 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 Welcoming Ministry, Church Cleaning, the Foodbank, Catechists, Parish Office Ministry too few are doing too much in support of the parish's life and mission.** We are all called by our baptism to serve, to sacrifice time and energy to build our parish community and support the Mission of Christ entrusted to us. I well realise 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.***

A Leper approached Jesus, pleading 'If you want to you can cure me!' Jesus reached out and touched with love the 'untouchable' - 'Of course I want to heal you!'