



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

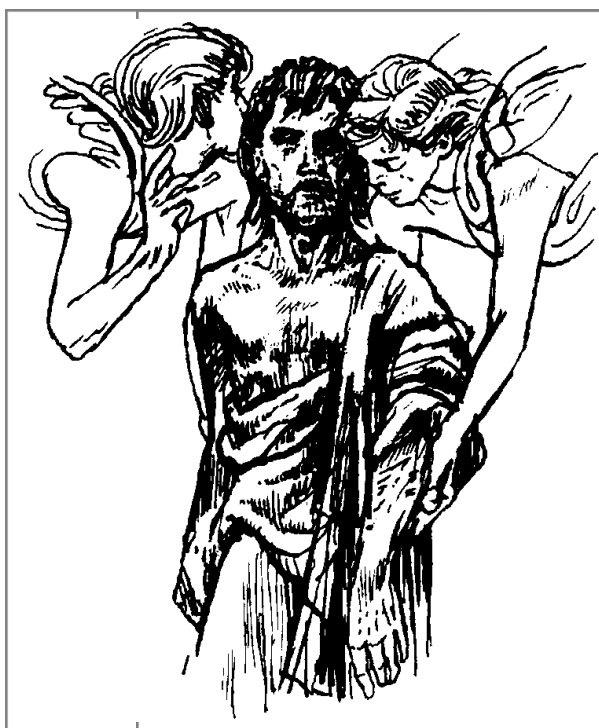
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR B



In the Wild Place Jesus challenges evil

The Spirit 'drives' Jesus into the wild places - compelled with urgency to win the victory of truth over lies, generosity over selfishness, service over domination, humility over manipulation, holiness and love over evil and death.

No escapism here! No restful solitude, just the pain and struggle of a lone battle with the inner demons of power and self-delusion. Somethings we have to battle alone no matter how many friends try to support us.

Where is our 'wild place'? The place where we encounter God in our aloneness and challenge the illusions of God that tempt us to live for self rather than in otherness. The spiritual temptations are the the most subtle and most devastating, making into God the things of God. That is the perversion of faith for it becomes unhinged from humanity, the dwelling place of God. Real faith is never an escape, but a struggle!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Rite of Election at 10.00am (*streamed*)

Stations of the Cross for 'A New Way of Bring Church' at 1.00pm (approx)

Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm (all welcome)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

TUESDAY: *Shrove Tuesday - eve of Lent*

Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *ASH WEDNESDAY - DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE*

Area House Mass at 7.00pm (Paula & Ralph's, 8 Ingmire Road BS5 6XD)

THURSDAY: *Adoration at 11.30am*

Mass at 12.00 noon

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where He overcame the temptations to use His power for Himself - then declared 'the time has come, the Kingdom is near!'

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 **First Sunday in Lent** celebrates Jesus who overcomes every temptation to use and abuse His Sacred Power for His own ends, rather than 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] We have the joy of celebrating the **Rite of Election with our two Catechumens**, Gabe and Gray, preparing for Reception into the Church with Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for them during their Lenten preparation.

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

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

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] With the **Second Sunday of Lent** we join Peter, James and John on the mountain of the Transfiguration. 'It is wonderful for us to be here!' - wonderful for us to be with Jesus Christ in His Word and in the Eucharist; wonderful for us to 'listen to Him'; wonderful for us to be strengthened by the Father's embracing love for the journey ahead. Will we 'listen to Him' and work together to transfigure the world with justice and love?

[2] **Stations of the Cross** at 1.15pm - praying for Peace where there is War, Justice where is oppression and inequality. Please come and walk with Jesus the Way of the Cross.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Mary, Swindon, served by Fr Michael McAndrew, Fr John Salter, Deacons Elias Fernandes, Terry Aspell, Paul Thompson, Parish Administrator Elias Fernandes, and all their community.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of Catechesis**, which seeks to grow understanding of our Catholic Christian Faith and form our children, young people and adults as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. Co-ordinated by Mary Hopper, catechists prepare our children for baptism, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation, our young people for Confirmation, and our parents for the baptism of their children. This is an essential ministry, the bedrock and foundations of members of our Faith Community now and into the future. **WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY TO OFFER THEMSELVES FOR THIS WORK OF FAITH FORMATION.** Training and support will be provided - please contact Mary Hopper or Richard.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £55.00 + Loose £223.13 + Card Reader £108.13 + S/O £165.88 = £552.14 **Thanks!**

Donation £27.40 - many thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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)

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where He overcame the temptations to use His power for Himself - then declared 'the time has come, the Kingdom is near!'

17th March	Important Parish Forum on the future of the Parish 12.30-2.00pm
20th March	St Nick's School Governors meeting
21st March	Parish Finance Committee meeting (via Zoom)
22nd March	Celebrating St Oscar Romero's 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 part 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 24th Feb** we will share on the theme of 'Catechesis and Faith Formation'. Please come and help one another grow in prayer and prepare for the future of our parish community and mission.

LENTEN AREA HOUSE MASSES This Wednesday 21st Feb at 7.00pm there is an **Area House Mass** for all parishioners in the **St Werburgh's, Muller Road Area**. Thank you to Paula and Ralph Murphy for hosting this Mass, after which 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.

IMPORTANT PARISH FORUM - Sunday 17th March 12.30-2.00pm There are important changes taking place in our parish community as expressed in the **'Community Elders' and the 'Servant-Leadership' documents**. It is important that we share our feelings and our thoughts as we move forward together to the 'New Way of Being Church' (words of Pope Francis). The Parish Forum is for everyone, so that all can speak their voice and share their questions and insights. Refreshments will be available after Mass and a creche will be organised for the children in the Parish hall. **PLEASE MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO ATTEND.**

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 our-

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where He overcame the temptations to use His power for Himself - then declared 'the time has come, the Kingdom is near!'

selves again and experience the joy of being true disciples of Jesus His Son, our Brother. 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.'

POPE FRANCIS ON LENTEN FASTING: "Eat whatever you want at Easter, the sacrifice is not in the stomach, but in the heart. They abstain from eating meat, but they do not talk to their siblings or family members, they do not visit their parents or care for them, they do not share their food with the needy, they forbid their children to see their father, they forbid their grandparents to see their grandchildren, criticise the lives of others, beat their wives, etc. A good roast or stew will not make you a bad person, just as a fish fillet will not make you a saint. Better to try to have a deeper relationship with God through better treatment of others. We should be less proud and more humble of heart."

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.**

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where He overcame the temptations to use His power for Himself - then declared 'the time has come, the Kingdom is near!'