



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

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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR B



Transfigured by Love - Light in our Darkness

On the stillness of the mountain, in the solitude of God, there is community - the community of the disciples overwhelmed by the experience of Love's glory; the community of the Prophets, Moses, Elijah and Jesus talking of Love's Victory over Law that will be the Cross that lies ahead; and the Community above all Communities - the Father who speaks, the Son who hears and witnesses and the Spirit who overshadows with empowering stillness.

Three interlocking communities, all with the same aim and objective: that Love should transfigure the world. Into the silence the Word of Love is spoken ('my beloved son'); into the darkness of the cloud light shines forth with Love's blazing brightness; into the loneliness of the mountainside, loving community is celebrated and glimpsed - and love breaks forever loneliness. Only Love truly transfigures, only Love will heal the world that is broken, divided, unjust and at war. Do we have the courage to love another as He loves us. Real community will bring miracles of Transfiguration to our cold, dark, loveless world!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (streamed)

Stations of the Cross for Peace, especially in Gaza and Ukraine at 12.45pm (approx)

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Gregory of Narek, Armenian monk & mystical theologian (901-1001)
Area House Mass at 7.30pm (in Knowle, South Bristol)

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

FRIDAY: Feast of St David, Bishop and patron of Wales
Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [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.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Third Sunday of Lent** we celebrate Jesus who reaches out to the most scorned and rejected and promises to give New Life, Water of Life welling up in the heart - the Holy Spirit. The Samaritan Woman, used by men and scorned by the women of her community is embraced with love by Jesus: a love that changes her life and transforms her community! Will we this Lent drink deeply of this Living Water, this Holy Spirit. Mary Hopper will 'Break the Bread of the Word' for us this Sunday.

[2] **Stations of the Cross** at 1.15pm - **praying for Bristol and our nation** for an end to knife crime and gang culture among our Young People. Please come and walk with Jesus the Way of the Cross.

[3] **There is the Retiring Collection for CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day.** Our Fasting is in solidarity with the poorest of the Earth who have no choice but to fast for most of their lives! We must share our plenty to end poverty. CAFOD is involved in trying to get aid and food into the people of Gaza during this horrifying conflict - **please be generous!**

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St George, St Theresa, Taunton and St John Fisher, Wellington, St Richard of Chichester, Wiveliscombe, served by Fr Tom Dubois, Fr Rajesh Anathil, Deacon Trevor Jones, Parish Administrator Diz Horne, and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of St Nicholas Bread Foodbank**, led and managed by Michael Conway. It is a vital ministry providing food and toiletries to families and individuals most afflicted by the cost of living crisis. The foodbank is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 12.30pm and needs supporting, not only donations of food, toiletries, nappies or money etc but also with volunteers, especially from the parish community. Please contact Michael Conway (07482425539) for more information about supporting this life-giving mission.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £40.00 + Loose £270.48 + Card Reader £9.83 + S/O £165.88 = £486.19 **Thanks!**

CAFOD £50.00 - many thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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)

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

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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 10.30am to 11.45am** 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 2nd March** we will share on the theme of 'What is our Mission at St Nicks'. Please come, help one another grow in prayer and prepare for the future of our parish community & mission.

LENTEN AREA HOUSE MASSES This Wednesday 28th Feb at 7.30pm there is an **Area House Mass** for all parishioners in the **South Bristol Area**. Thank you to Mairead and Alon Samuel 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.**

PREPARING FOR BAPTISM AT EASTER The next Baptismal Sunday is **Easter Sunday, March 31st at 10.00am Mass**. The **Rite of Catechumen (Welcome)** will be on **Sunday 10th March at 10.00am Mass**. **First Preparation session** for parents (and God Parents are also invited) will be **Friday 8th March at 6.30pm** in the Assisi Centre. The **Second Preparation session** will be **Friday 22nd March at 6.30pm** (Assisi Centre). Please contact Richard or Eustace if you wish to have your child baptised at Easter.

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

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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. 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.'

PASTORAL AREA SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION ('CONFESSION') Bishop Declan is leading a Lenten Service of Reconciliation for our Pastoral Area of St Edmund of Abingdon (our 'deanery') on **Wednesday 6th March at 7.00pm at Holy Family Church**, Southsea Road, Patchway BS34 5DP. A number of priests will be available for individual Confession and absolution. The Church encourages us all to prepare for our Easter Recommitment to our Baptismal promises, to saying 'yes' again to living as missionary disciples of Jesus, by letting God's infinite mercy and forgiveness fill our lives through celebrating this Sacrament of Repentance. Do try to come and meet Christ in this shared celebration of forgiveness.

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. We have Adoration of Christ Jesus in the Eucharist before each weekday Mass.

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.***

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