



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF YEAR B



Broken to heal the broken!

The Divine Love comes into a beautiful world - God's creation! But that Love finds so much brokenness obscuring that beauty. And it breaks the Divine Heart!

So Jesus enters the brokenness and loves to the breaking of His own Sacred Heart, pierced by the lance of human brutality on the Cross. God embraces this world with the touch that heals and liberates - and is wounded and torn apart in the embrace that heals. He Who is the strength of God brings us that strength precisely in the vulnerable love that allows itself to be wounded, pierced by the pain of too much loving. Only in this way is healing and freedom unleashed by Divine Mercy!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (*streamed*)

MONDAY: *Feast of St Agatha, Virgin Martyr (died in Sicily c250)*
No Liturgy

TUESDAY: *Feast of SS Paul Miki and the Japanese Martyrs of Nagasaki (died c 1600)*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, Nun, Patron of enslaved & trafficked people*
Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.30pm (NB Change of time)

FRIDAY: Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

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SATURDAY: *Feast of St Scholastica, sister of St Benedict and first Benedictine Nun (died 543)*

Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [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] As announced earlier, one Sunday a month one of our Lay Preaching Team will 'break the bread of the Word' for our community. Today it is Eustace Tameh - thank you Eustace.

[3] ~~Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship~~ **CANCELLED!** Apologies.

NEXT SUNDAY: [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.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Holy Family, Swindon and St Joseph, Wroughton, served by Fr Isidore Obi, Parish Administrators Estela Carvalho, Victoria Sadler, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of Church Cleaning**. Our church building is a sacred space where the awesome act of Eucharist is celebrated and the People of God gather to worship and build together community for mission. Every week the church needs cleaning so that we can worthily offer worship to God. Tas and Iwona have been on their own fulfilling this ministry every Friday morning for too long - we really need more volunteers to share the ministry and work. There can be some flexibility about day and time for the cleaning - please contact Richard to join the team.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £55.00 + Loose £275.88 + Card Reader £49.15 + S/O £165.88 = £545.91

Caritas Fund £45.00 *Thank you!***DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024**

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)
14th Feb	Ash-Wednesday - Lent begins
17th Feb	Zimbabwean Mass in Shona at 1.30pm
21st Feb	Safeguarding Training for Clergy

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- 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)
- 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 **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**

THURSDAY'S FEAST OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA Born in Sudan, as a young girl she was captured, trafficked to Egypt and sold (and abused) as a slave. Eventually rescued by the Italian Consul and taken to Italy, she was baptised and heard the call of God to become a Canossian Nun in Venice. She lived simply, lovingly and humbly. She carried all her life the physical and emotional scars of her slavery and trafficking and during her last painful illness so often cried out - 'break these chains'. She is the patron saint of all victims of slavery and human trafficking, which is horrifyingly on the increase. There are estimated to be at least 300,000 enslaved and trafficked people in UK today! About 30% are white British, about 30% are children trapped in 'County Lines' used to move drugs around the country and sell them, or deliver them to dealers. There has been an increase in trafficking through Portishead, in Weston-super-Mare, Highbridge and many other parts of our diocese.

JOINT MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL, FINANCE COMMITTEE & LEGACY GROUP The This meeting of the three key committees serving the parish a week ago for 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 is distributed to everyone today. During Lent Groups are being set up to explain and discuss in the context of prayerful synodal conversations 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: [jubilee I Clifton Diocese](#)
- [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**

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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

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.

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 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.***

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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