



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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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR A 'Laetare' Rejoicing Sunday



JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We journey to the Pool of Baptism throughout Lent - journey to cleansing waters, to healing waters, to life-giving waters, to waters that bring us 'enlightenment'. Many of the Churches of Eastern Tradition still call Baptism 'the Enlightenment'. That is why the baptised person is given a baptismal candle lit from the Easter Candle of the Resurrection Light! For by living deeply our Baptism ('living deeply our new life') we are bearers of Jesus' light into a world darkened by inhumanity, brutality, war and poverty.

Lent is a journey into the Light of Easter: and this Light of the Gospel Light of the Spirit, Light of Christ will challenge all the dark places that lurk in our hearts. To be 'enlightened' is to be challenged to change, to be honest, to allow self-reality to dawn: for only the 'truth sets us free'. Light will always convert us not only into more self-awareness and self-honesty, the only path to holiness, but also will convert us into more 'otherness': our lives will become a gift to others, a light that will guide another to the Waters of New Life and Hope of Freedom. Let us too go to the Pool this Easter.

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

Stations of the Cross for all who experience Abuse or rejection by the Church at 12.45pm

Signed Mass with the Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm (all welcome)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

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

WEDNESDAY: Parish Area Mass at Jacob & Jane's home at 7.00pm (*53 Maskelyne Ave, Manor Farm, Bristol BS10 5DA*)

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

FRIDAY: *Adoration at 8.30am* **Mass at 9.00am**

Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World!' He put a mud paste upon the eyes of the man born blind and said 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam'. And he could see!

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION with children's First Reconciliation at 2.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass, 2.30pm and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] With the **Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A (or Laetare - Rejoicing - Sunday)** we celebrate Jesus the Light of the World who brings us into the Light of freedom and hope, new life and love through the waters of Baptism. Like the man born blind, let us witness to others the healing and hope, the joy of New Life we have found in Jesus Christ!

[2] Today is '**Mothering Sunday**' and also World Health Organisation sponsored **International Women's Day** with the theme '**Invest in women - accelerate progress**'. We give thanks for our mothers, living and deceased; we pray for all whose yearnings for a child have not been realised or who have lost a child. And we rejoice in the increasing role and ministry of women in society and the Church, praying for genuine equality soon!

[3] We welcome the families of the children to be baptised at Easter with the **Rite of Child Catechumen**. Please pray for parents and children in the journey to baptism.

[4] **Stations of the Cross** at 12.45pm - **praying for all who have been hurt by the Church, who feel rejected or marginalised especially victims/survivors of abuse and members of the LGBTQ+ community**. Please come and walk with Jesus and all who suffer the Way of the Cross.

[5] **Signed Mass with the Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all very welcome!

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A** we celebrate Jesus who is Life and brings us Life in all fullness. He is the Resurrection and the Life as he calls Lazarus back from the dead and entrusts him to his disciples to 'unbind and set free'. To be disciples of Jesus we need to be always 'life-givers' in a world addicted to death! - the death of poverty and injustice, of war and knife crime violence. How can we 'unbind and set free'?

[2] **Our Parish Forum on the future of our parish** takes place after Mass 12.30-2.00pm with snacks and creche provided. ***Please come - this is really important!***

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

[4] There will be a **Retiring Collection for LEPROA**, a Catholic Charity working for sufferers of Leprosy in different parts of the world. Please be generous - it is Lent!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of St John the Baptist, Trowbridge, St Bernadette's, Westbury, St Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon served by Canon Tom Finnegan, and all their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Live-streaming Team**, co-ordinated by Reagan d'Mello. Started during Covid when no-one could come to Mass, it has been continued to enable those unable to attend for whatever reason to participate from a distance, be nourished by prayer, praise, the Word of God and Spiritual Communion. We have friends from different part of UK as well as New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Cameroon, Caribbean, USA and Canada that join us. And often weddings and funerals are live-streamed. This is a ministry of Evangelisation through the Internet. We are always looking for volunteers to be trained to live-stream and join the rota for Sundays and if possible be available for the occasional weekday. Please contact Reagan.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £20.00 + Loose £203.51 + Card Reader £54.08 + S/O £165.88 = £442.80 **Thanks!**

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day £69.07 **Caritas** £4.00 - **Donation:** £60.00 **many thanks!**

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

14th March Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)

Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World!' He put a mud paste upon the eyes of the man born blind and said 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam'. And he could see!

16th March	Service of Reconciliation including First Reconciliation at 2.30pm
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
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 16th March** we will share on the theme of '**Communication Serving Communion and building Community**'. Please come, help one another grow in prayer and prepare for the future of our parish community & mission.

LENTEN AREA HOUSE MASSES This Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm there is an **Area House Mass** for all parishioners in the **Horfield, Southmead, Henleaze, Filton area etc**). Thank you to Jacob and Jane Gitahi for hosting this Mass at their home - 53 Maskelyne Ave, Manor Farm, Bristol BS10 5DA, 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.

PRE-EASTER SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Lent is a journey we take together as a community - a journey of Repentance, of turning back to the Lord, a journey of renewal in the Holy Spirit of God's love and mercy. The Church encourages us to express this journey by celebrating the Sacrament of God's Mercy - the Sacrament of Reconciliation (see below), so that our hearts are truly prepared for our recommitment as disciples of the Risen Christ this Easter ('Renewal of Baptismal Promises'). **So we are holding a Parish Service of Reconciliation on Saturday 16th March at 2.30pm. This will include our children celebrating their First Reconciliation - but is for the whole parish community. There will be at least one other priest to help with individual confessions.**

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 **Second Preparation session** is **Friday 22nd March at 6.30pm** (Assisi Centre). For information please contact Richard or Eustace.

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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. 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. 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.***

'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE' It is our privilege to host here at St Nicks the Diocesan Ministry among the LBGQTQ+ community. It would be a great sign of welcome, valuing 'Gay' Catholics, if more parishioners would come sometimes to our 3rd Sunday a month Mass with our LBGQTQ+ friends. Do try to come occasionally and share with us.

SUPPORT CAFOD THIS LENT Lent is a time to give sacrificially to end poverty. Please use the Lenten CAFOD envelopes (in the porch) to give weekly now and in the future. This way you are working for justice by helping the poorest of our world. Think of Gaza!

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