



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)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR A



RESURRECTION AND LIFE!

When Jesus called his first disciples, He said, 'Come and see' - see my life and discover new Life! Now shortly before His Passion, the people say to Jesus, 'Come and See' - not just the tomb of Lazarus, but come and see your coming death, by which we will receive your New Life!

Jesus wept at the grave, wept for the death of his friend, wept with Martha and Mary in their bereavement - and also wept for His own coming suffering and death. We need the courage to help those we love who are dying to weep, to grieve, for their own deaths. Help speak of death for that will help them come to live their death well, to welcome 'sister death' with faith and courage, knowing death is the friend who ushers us into the fulness of our life and the final liberation of our love.

Already we live the Resurrection and the Life, already we have 'died with Christ that we might rise with Him'. That is why we can live with the Holy Spirit's courage, and die with the same courage and tranquillity. Let us 'come and see' behold the Cross and the Tomb that holds the beloved and gaze into the mystery of our eternity, our Life!

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

PARISH FORUM ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ST NICKS 12.30-2.00pm

Mass with the **LBGTQ+** community and friends at 3.00pm (*all very welcome*)

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY: Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary, adoptive Father of Jesus

Adoration at 6.00pm

Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Parish Area Mass at Eva and Fanuel's home at 7.00pm (*6 The Reubins, Speedwell, Bristol BS5 7RX*)

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life; all who believe in Me will have Life in all its fulness'. And turning to the tomb He cried out, 'Lazarus, Come out into Life'

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] 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!

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We begin the 'Week of Weeks' - **Holy Week - with Palm Sunday**. We greet Jesus our Servant King, the One who washes the feet of the poor, feeds the hungry, forgives enemies and preaches and lives total love! The One who carries the Cross for us and bears the burden of our sin even unto death, death on the Cross. Let us not only lay down our palms at this feet, but rather lay down our lives for Him and all our sisters and brothers!

[2] **Mass will begin (weather permitting) at the school with the blessing of Palms and the Procession to the Church at 10.00am - PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!**

[3] There will be a **Retiring Collection for flowers** for the Church over Easter and beyond.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Sacred Heart, Tisbury with All Saints Chapel, Wardour (16th century) served by Fr Anthony Paris, Fr Jonathan Creer, Deacon Michael Hughes, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Proclaimers of the Word**, co-ordinated by Reagan d'Mello. This ministry of of life-giving importance as the Word of God is our daily 'Bread for the Journey'. Christ is truly present among us in His Word proclaimed in our Liturgical Assembly. The Word is not simply 'read' but is to be proclaimed with faith and love, with understanding passion. We also pray for our **Preaching Team** who regularly 'break the Bread of the Word' for us one Sunday a month and when I am away on a Sunday.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £40.00 + Loose £292.41 + Card Reader £39.32 + S/O £165.88 = £537.61 ***Thanks!***

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day £140.13 Foodbank £190.00 ***many thanks!***

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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 11.00am - 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**

Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life; all who believe in Me will have Life in all its fullness'. And turning to the tomb He cried out, 'Lazarus, Come out into Life'

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 22nd March** we will share on the theme of '**Caring for our church - how should we use our buildings**'. 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 Speedwell, Redfield, Barton Hill, Fishponds areas). Thank you to Eva and Fanuel for hosting this Mass at their home - 6 The Reubins, Speedwell, Bristol BS5 7RX, 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.

CELEBRATION OF ST OSCAR ROMERO AND THE MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR In a world of war, aggression and injustice, come and pray for Peace built upon the rock of Justice as we celebrate and invoke the intercession of these martyrs for Justice and Peace, St Oscar Romero, Bl Rutillio Grande and the many Martyrs of El Salvador. Let us draw inspiration from their courage and renew our commitment to the call of our baptism to be Prophets serving God's Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace. All are very welcome to share this special Mass at St Nick's on Friday 22nd March at 7.00pm - free car parking in Church car park.

PRE-EASTER CELEBRATION 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'). Please see the times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially in the early part of Holy Week. **We observe the ancient tradition of the Church by celebrating Reconciliation up to the Wednesday of Holy Week, but not after that day** - so that we are well prepared to celebrate the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night).

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.**

HOLY WEEK ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICES Saturday 23rd March at 10.00am (for Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday Masses); Friday 29th March at 10.00am (for Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion); Saturday 30th March at 10.30am (for the Great Easter Vigil).

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 **Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life; all who believe in Me will have Life in all its fullness'. And turning to the tomb He cried out, 'Lazarus, Come out into Life'**

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.'

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!

BISHOP DECLAN RETIRES - A NEW BISHOP APPOINTED It was announced this past week that Pope Francis has accepted Bishop Declan's retirement on health grounds and has appointed as our new Bishop Canon Bosco MacDonald, currently Dean (or Parish priest) of Clifton Cathedral. We give thanks for Bishop Declan's 23 years in service of our diocese and pray for a fulfilling retirement. And we pray for Bishop-Elect Bosco that the Holy Spirit will guide him as he serves our diocese in this new as Chief Pastor of the Church of Clifton.

HOLY WEEK IS NEARLY UPON US This is the whole Church's 'annual retreat' as we seek to pray the powerful and moving Holy Week Liturgies. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the **Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered after Mass.** On Wednesday we are all invited to the **Mass of Chrism in Clifton Cathedral at 11.00am** when Bishop Declan will bless the sacred oils to be used throughout the parishes of our diocese. On Holy Thursday we have the **Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30pm**; Good Friday **The Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm**; on Holy Saturday the **Great Easter Vigil Mass at 9.00pm**. Please make it a priority to carve out the time to take part in these Liturgies, renewing our faith and our love, pledging our commitment to Christ and His Mission in our parish.

Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life; all who believe in Me will have Life in all its fullness'. And turning to the tomb He cried out, 'Lazarus, Come out into Life'