



## 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](http://www.tolentino.org.uk)

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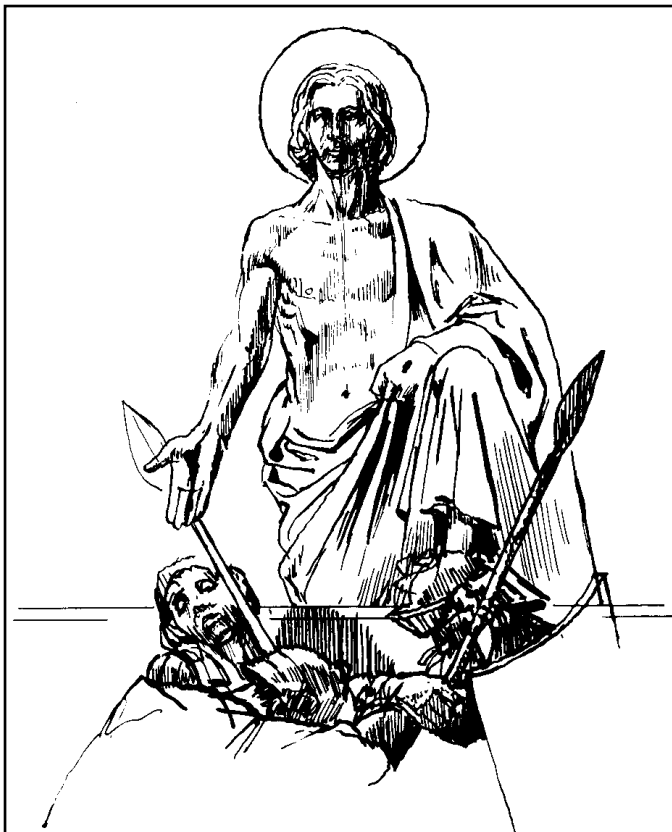
Deacon - Rev Jack Brannigan [retired] (01934-5195140)

Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaking of our buildings: Eddie Mgbeoduru

Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Paul Bradshaw-Price

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

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



### *A NEW WORLD BEGINS, ALLELUIA!*

Death is conquered - on the First Day of the week! The Day according to the Book of Genesis that God began creating the Universe. And God created a Paradise Garden where all was harmony ... UNTIL we sinned, we rebelled from our dignity as Children of God and began to destroy our world.

Now there is a New Garden - a Garden of Transformation - a Garden of Calvary death that becomes a Garden of Easter Resurrection. On the First Day of the Week! A New World has begun.

The Resurrection of Jesus is God's recreative, transformative Work, not just for His Son, the Word made Flesh, but for all the children of the earth, for all creation. Love has overcome hate, forgiveness has healed every wound, transformed humanity has overwhelmed our inhumanity, hope has replaced despair.

And we are Risen with Him - now not just after death. Already we are living the New Creation, touching our world with unconquerable love, bring true justice to the farthest islands, burning with a Light that no darkness can ever overcome!

**SUNDAY:** THE GREAT VIGIL MASS OF THE RESURRECTION (Sat at 9.00pm)  
 SOLEMN MASS OF RESURRECTION with Baptisms at 10.00am

**MONDAY:** Adoration at 9.30am Mass at 10.00am (Bank Holiday)

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

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

**THURSDAY:** Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12 noon

**JESUS CHRIST OUR KING IS RISEN! PRAISE TO OUR GOD! ALLELUIA!**

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

**SATURDAY:** *Adoration* at 11.30am      **Mass at 12noon**  
***Sacrament of Reconciliation:* after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm**

**TODAY:** [1] As we celebrate **New Life in Christ**, we pray for our catechumens, both adult and children, who were to be baptised today or next Sunday, but because of the Covid-19 restrictions this has had to be postponed. After the weeks of this extraordinary Lent, and the pain-filled journey through the Passion and Death of the Lord, we arrive at the Victory of Love over Hate, the Victory of Light over Darkness, the victory of Holiness over the Sin, the Victory of Life over Death - the Resurrection of Our Lord and Brother Jesus Christ.

[2] We rejoice to share the life of the Risen Christ with Gabe and Gray, received into Full Communion and Confirmed in the Holy Spirit at the Vigil, and our children baptised at our 10.00am Mass. Congratulations!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] **'Low Sunday'**, the Octave Day of Easter: we celebrate the wonder of this Feast of Feasts throughout the week. In the early Church this was the only other day that Baptism was celebrated - an overflow if there were too many to be baptised during the Vigil itself. The Word of God speaks to us of that **first Christian Community in Jerusalem that was so close and loving** that its life together that 'great signs and wonders were worked among them' and healing flowed from them into their city. They witnessed to the Risen Lord, the source of New Life! They were a community overflowing with healing and life empowering the witness of Peter and the other Apostles. The conversion of St Thomas from his doubt to profound faith came about because he returned to the Community of the Resurrection and discovered Jesus alive in the midst of them! Does this describe our parish, our Church?

[2] **Mass (Signed) with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship and the Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm.** All are welcome to attend this mass, of course!

**WELCOME!** It has been a very special joy to welcome many friends (old and new) to our Holy Week and Sacred Triduum Celebrations via the wonder of life streaming on the internet. It is a ministry and mission that has continued long after the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted. But it is no substitute for all who are able to come and share the Mass in person and build our community.

Fr. Richard, Mary (voluntary Lay Pastoral Assistant) and  
 our Parish Pastoral Council & Parish Office Team  
 all wish each one of you, our community and our friends,  
 the joy and the Glory of Easter.  
 May the Risen Jesus live in your hearts  
 and give you His Peace beyond all measure  
 ... He is Risen! Alleluia!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for the Parishes in Communion for Mission of Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Joseph, Weston-super-Mare, served by Canon Tom Gunning, Deacons Stephen Munday, Michael Roberts, Thomas Moffatt, Parish Administrators Tracey Nelson, Maricris Magbanua, and all their communities.

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**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the Lay **Ministry of the Eucharist**. Our Lay Ministers of the Eucharist enable us to receive the Precious Blood of the Lord each Sunday Mass and lead Services of Word and Communion when Richard is away. This nurtures the prayer and worship life of the community especially when a priest is not available. Lay Ministers of the Eucharist also ensure that all our housebound and long-term sick can receive the Healing Christ of the Eucharist in their own homes on a weekly basis. We are needing to train and commission a few more lay ministers to continue this invaluable ministry and touches the praying and sacramental heart of the parish.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

Env: £65.00 + Loose: £294.23 + Card Reader: £29.50 + S/O £165.88 = £554.61 - Thank you  
**Flowers £65.00 CAFOD 354.13**

*I wish to thank all who give great and small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and giver is equally valued and these gifts are used to serve the growth of the Kingdom of God. THANK YOU ALL!*

**EASTER OFFERINGS:** This Easter Collection is your personal contribution to the annual 'wage' of your parish priest, (together with the Christmas Offerings). This year we have run out of 'Easter Offering' envelopes but please use the Christmas Offering ones - or make a bank transfer or use the digi-card reader... thank you for your generosity.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH:** Thank you to all who have enabled us to celebrate Holy Week fully this year - and so many of you give generously of your time and energy, and your prayer, to serve God and our community throughout the whole year. I and our whole community are very grateful to you all:

- + those who give flowers, or contributed to them,  
     and to those who arrange them beautifully and lovingly;
- + those who clean and prepare the church and those doing the sacristy work;
- + our altar servers, music ministry and Parish Choir, the whole year round;
- + all our Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist, serving us so prayerfully;
- + Margaret who prepared our Paschal Candle and our Easter banners & posters;
- + Our live-streaming Team, helping to bring the Mass to those unable to come;
- + All who help with the Sacristy behind the scenes, especially Mary

*+AND TO YOU ALL, FOR CELEBRATING SO PRAYERFULLY OUR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES AS WELL AS OUR LITURGY WEEK BY WEEK, AND FOR ALL WHO SHARE WITH US THROUGH THE WONDER OF THE INTERNET. MAY JESUS' PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE ENRICH YOU WITH HIS LOVE AND PEACE, AS YOU ENRICH OUR WORLD WITH FAITH AND NEW CREATION.*

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

30th March	<b>THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL at 9.00pm - welcoming the Light of Christ</b>
31st March	<b>EASTER MORNING - THE LORD IS RISEN ALLELUIA! 10am Mass</b>
13th April	Jesus Youth Vigil & Mass 8.00-11.00pm at St Nicks
16th April	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
18th April	Funeral Mass for Rita Eugene RIP at 11.00am
20th April	Joint Committees Meeting (PPC, PFC, Legacy Group) 9.30-11.45am
23rd April	Pastoral Area Clergy Meeting
1st May	New Deanery Pastoral Council Inaugural meeting 7.30pm (St Nicks)
8th May	<b>Ordination of Bosco MacDonald as Bishop of Clifton at 12 noon</b>
9th May	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
9th May	<b>Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>
19th May	<b>FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOLY AND RENEWING SPIRIT!</b>
15th May	St Nicholas School Governors meet

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25th May Mass in Celebration of Christian Marriage with Bp Bosco at 12noon (Cathedral)  
 9th June **First Eucharist Sunday**  
 11th June Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - Sunday 21st April - Day of Prayer for Vocations** We are asked to pray for a deepened sense of vocation in each of our lives and in our parish community. Each one of us has a unique vocation from God; each of us is called to proclaim the Good News and serve the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace; each of us is called to care for our environment and seek to heal the abuse of our good Earth so that future generations will be able to thrive on this planet. Vocations to marriage, to ordained ministries and to the religious life are all necessary to the mission of God's Church. We seek to call members of our community to the Permanent Diaconate in support of the growth of lay ministry and leadership in the parish, as we move to a Lay-led parish served by a non-resident priest. Pray also for new expressions of ordained ministry!

**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.

**'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'** It is our privilege to host here at St Nicks the Diocesan Ministry among the LBGQT+ 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 LBGQT+ friends. Do try to come occasionally and share with us. We also support the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship and the Catholic Deaf Association - they too invite all who wish to share with them their monthly 3.00pm Sunday Masses.

**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.

**MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE**

The bishop is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 25 May** (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to celebrate the joys & challenges of family life.

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In addition, we will celebrate those couples celebrating a significant anniversary during 2024. If you are, or know of a couple celebrating special anniversaries during 2024 please do let us know.

You just need to send names to this email ([adult.education@cliftdiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftdiocese.com)) with the address so that a personal invitation can be sent to them from the bishop, including the number of years celebrating.

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