



## 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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## PASSION SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS



### HOSANNA TO CRUCIFY HIM!

'Behold your King comes! Riding on a donkey!' The King on a beast of burden, for He carries the burden of the sin of the world, of the inhumanity that children of God are capable of. The donkey, the impure animal carrying the holiest of all our brothers and sisters - but a holiness that refuses to protect itself in sacred aura, but rather dives into the world of the impure to bring a love that purifies and cleanses.

They acclaim Him with Royal title - 'Son of David' and greet him with the ancient Battle cry - 'Hosanna!' as He rides towards the greatest of battles and the strangest of victories: the battle against hate and brutality, sin and unforgiveness; the Victory of Life over Death, Peace over Violence. He rides towards the Drama that will see Unconquerable Love born forever among us from the wounded lance-opened side of the Servant King enthroned upon the wood of the Cross and crowned with the thorns of the world's pain. These Palms of Victory that carry the scent of pain and death - for Life!

**SUNDAY:** *PARISH MASS with Solemn Procession of Palms at 10.00am (begins at school)*

**MONDAY:** *Adoration at 6.00pm Mass for Refugees & Peace in Ukraine at 6.30pm, Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.15-7.45pm*

**TUESDAY:** *Adoration at 6.00pm Mass for Victims/Survivors of Abuse at 6.30pm, Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.15-7.45pm*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.15-9.45am*  
**MASS OF THE CHRISM** at 11.00am (Clifton Cathedral) - all invited  
*Adoration at 6.00pm Mass for Peace in Middle East at 6.30pm*  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation 7.15-7.45pm*

**PSALM RESPONSE: 'MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?'**

## +++ *The Sacred Triduum* +++

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Tenebrae Morning Prayer at 9.00am

**MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER** at 7.30pm

*This beautiful Liturgy includes:*

*the Reception of the Holy Oils that were consecrated at the Cathedral Chrism Mass;  
the Mandatum (or the celebration of the Servant Christ washing the feet of his disciples);  
the Procession to the Altar of Repose, and Gethsemane Watching with Jesus until midnight.*

**“COME WATCH WITH ME ONE HOUR”:** watching with love for Him who is all love!

Rosary for Peace ... approx 10.30pm

Night Prayer of the Church ... 11.45pm

**GOOD FRIDAY:** *[Day of Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence]*

Tenebrae Morning Prayer at 9.00am

**GOOD FRIDAY UNITED OPEN-AIR WAY OF THE CROSS**

*Begins with at St Nicks at 11.00am, walks up Stapleton Road and St Mark's Road, concluding at St Mark's Baptist Church around 1.00pm. We walk with Cross as witnesses to Christ's sacrificing love through our local community, praying for the needs of this community.*

**SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION** at 3.00pm (live-streamed on Parish Website)

*This meditative and moving Liturgy includes the Proclamation of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Solemn Intercessions, and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified. **This is the most important Service of the Day, so please prioritise attending the Liturgy of the Passion***

**Prayer around the Cross** at 7.00pm

*Come for a little while quietly around the Cross, pondering this great mystery of Love and remembering Jesus as he is taken down from the Cross and laid in a borrowed Tomb*

**HOLY SATURDAY:** 'Tenebrae' Morning Prayer at 9.30am

*Today, we wait in stillness by the Tomb of Christ, the Crucified God. The Church celebrates no Sacraments, but holds a silent, mournful but hope-filled vigil at the tomb, waiting for death to explode into life with the dawn of Easter. Come and pray awhile waiting with love for the Divine Lover to wake from Sabbath rest and liberate the captive slaves of death as its power is destroyed.*

+++ *The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ* +++

**HOLY SATURDAY:** THE VIGIL MASS OF EASTER at 9.00pm

*This is the greatest Mass of the year, one for which we prepare most especially. throughout Lent. We keep vigil into the dark hours of the night, opening ourselves in prayer, Word and song to the Rising of the Light of Christ's Resurrection Glory. Every shadow of death scattered! Every member of our parish family should be a part of the great Vigil Mass. Let us fill the church! During our Vigil, we have the joy of welcoming into Full Communion and Confirmation of Gabe and Gray. We also renew our Baptismal Commitment to Christ; affirming our faith in the Gospel of Life and limitless love; decide afresh to be a community of faith and proclamation.*

*There is an Agape after the Easter Vigil: please bring some food to share - I will look after the liquids! Please bring your offering of food to the Parish Hall before the Vigil begins. [The Vigil Mass fulfils your Easter obligation, but you are warmly invited also to the Easter Morning Mass, a very different Liturgy]*

**PSALM RESPONSE: 'MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?'**

**EASTER DAY:**      **SOLEMN DAY MASS OF EASTER with Child Baptisms** at 10.00am  
(streamed on Parish Website)

**EASTER MONDAY:**      *Adoration at 9.30am Mass at 10.00am*

***PLEASE NOTE: IN THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF THE CHURCH, RECONCILIATION WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED AFTER THE WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK.***

**TODAY:** [1] **HOLY WEEK BEGINS with the Celebration of Passion (Palm) Sunday** - we begin the great drama of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We bless and process with Palms - the ancient sign of victory, hailing a King, who will win our victory by embracing the failure of the Cross. We welcome our King who will be enthroned on the wood of the Cross, crowned only with thorns and whose death becomes our Life.

**NEXT SUNDAY:**      **EASTER CELEBRATIONS!!** We celebrate the incomparable joy of Love's victory over hatred, Life's victory over death, Light's victory over all darkness, Holiness' victory of sin. The Spirit raises the dead Jesus into our Risen Living and Life-giving Lord. As we celebrate with joy the welcoming into Full Communion and Confirmation with Gabe and Gray during our Vigil Mass and the baptism of a number of our child catechumens on Easter morning, we too renew the promises of our baptism and commit ourselves to serving the Kingdom, living the Resurrection and being Good News to the Poor of the world.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER**      The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St George, Warminster, served by Fr Martin Queenan, and all their community.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry of Healing Prayer**. Every parish is called to be 'God's field hospital', welcoming into a caring, listening and safe place, where the wounded and hurting can find healing, support and peace. It is the responsibility of the whole parish family to build such a community among us. We have a team of those who have been trained in praying healing with others who come to our healing Masses or at other times. We often pray healing and offer the Sacrament of Healing during our Thursday midday Mass. This ministry is co-ordinated by Fr Richard and Mary Hopper. If you wish to know more and/or help with this ministry please contact them.

**EASTER OFFERINGS:** This Easter Collection (together with the Christmas Offerings) is your personal contribution to the annual 'wage' of your parish priest. Envelopes are available at the door - you can give through the digital card reader; thank you for your generosity.

**ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICES FOR HOLY WEEK** Would all Altar Servers please attend the following serving practices to prepare for the most important week of the year - Holy Week. Please arrive on time - thank you!

Friday 29th March at 10.00am - for Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 30th March at 10.30am - for the Great Easter Vigil.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

G.A. Env £29.70 + Loose £295.98 + Card Reader £68.83 + S/O £165.88 = £560.39 - thanks!

**Donation (Ethiopian Church) £200.00 Retiring Collection for Lepira £120.10**

**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY £370.13 - still open, thank you!**

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Donations of money towards flowers will be gratefully received, to help decorate the church for Easter (& at other times). Please see Minette. Thank you. **There is a Retiring Collection for Church Flowers - thank you!**

**PSALM RESPONSE: 'MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?'**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

24th March	<b>PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS</b>
27th March	Mass of the Chrism at Clifton Cathedral at 11.00am - all invited
28th March	<b>Holy Thursday - Mass of the Last Supper 7.30pm Watching until midnight</b>
29th March	<b>Good Friday - Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm</b>
30th March	<b>Holy Saturday - Tenebrae Prayer at 9.30am - waiting at the Tomb</b>
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</b> at 12 noon
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
9th June	<b>First Eucharist Sunday</b>

**BISHOP DECLAN INVITES US ALL TO SHARE IN THE MASS OF THE CHRISM**

Come and celebrate with our diocese this special Mass to renew our commitment to Ministry and Mission and to consecrate the Holy Oils used to bring God's Healing and Liberating love to the world - 11.00am Weds 27th April - do come!

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES** Please be especially generous to this collection, supporting both the Holy Places and the beleaguered Christians of the Holy Land and the Middle East, supporting the many refugees fleeing the terror and war especially in Gaza and the West Bank

**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.

**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).

**'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'** It is our privilege to host here at St Nicks the Diocesan Ministry among the LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ friends. Do try to come occasionally and share with us.

**PSALM RESPONSE: 'MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?'**