



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

Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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

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

FOURTH OF EASTER Year B 'Good Shepherd Sunday'



Which am I? Shepherd or sheep?

Am I called to be a shepherd or a sheep? a leader or a follower? A pastor or one who is pastored? Well if we look at Jesus, 'the Great Shepherd of the sheep', he was pointed out to be 'the Lamb of God', innocent and led to the slaughter! Every shepherd must allow him or herself to be shepherded: cared for, held, gathered, guided. Every 'sheep' must be ready to hold, listen, guide, and gather to the Lord. We are all called to be both - as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows us.

We all need a guide who lead us to good pasture, to share the rich food of God's truth and love so as to be nourished. And we all have a gift to nourish another, or our community, in truth and love. In today's Church we all share the responsibility of being shepherds and we all need to be guided by listening to each other, whether we are Pope, bishop, priest, deacon or parishioner. Sadly there is a strong trend to 'protect' the priesthood by 'up-ing' its status and separating it off - like in the old days. This is a loss of faith in the Holy Spirit who speaks through the whole People of God as St John Henry Newman taught us so well. Only a listening Church can be a teaching church: those with authority to teach can only do so if they have the humility to learn from those they teach!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (*streamed*)
Mass with our LBGTO+ friends and families at 3.00pm (streamed)

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

TUESDAY: *Feast of St George, Martyr, Patron of England (died 303)*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *Feast of St Mark the Evangelist*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: *Adoration at 11.30am Service of Word and Communion at 12.00 noon*

Jesus says: 'I am the Good Shepherd - I lay down my life for My sheep. Listen to my voice and do not fear to follow where I lead you. I come to give you fulness of Life!'

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

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12.00 noon** (*in Assisi Centre because of Ethiopian Orthodox Eucharist in church*)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] On this **Fourth Sunday of Easter** we celebrate Jesus the Good Shepherd who lays down His life to give us 'Life in its Fulness'. He knows us through and through, calls us by name to come and follow Him wherever He may lead us. He feeds us, keeps us united and opens us to those 'other sheep not of this flock' whom He gathers into our community. And He sends us in the power of His love to be His shepherds gathering all nations into the One Flock of humanity.

[2] **Day of Prayer for Vocations** We pray for a deepened sense of vocation in each of our lives and in our parish community. Each 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. Is God calling 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!

[2] **Mass with the LBGTO+ community and friends at 3.00pm.** All are very welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Fifth Sunday of Easter** we celebrate Jesus the Vine in Whom we are the branches. This great parable speaks of our deep oneness in Christ as members of the Church. The Church is to bear fruit in plenty by living together with lives intertwined with Jesus. We are called to remain always in Christ, nurturing each other in faith and love, so that we can together bear the fruit of God's transforming love to the people of our world today - fruit of peace and healing, fruit of justice and equality, fruit of care and love.

[2] There will be a **Retiring Collection for the Clergy Training Fund**, supporting the training of our seminarians preparing for Ordination as Priests, for our students preparing to be ordained Deacon, and for in-service training of all our priests and deacons.

[3] **Senior Citizens Mass** at 3.00pm with Refreshments afterwards in the Hall. We are intending to transport our housebound into the Mass but need volunteers with cars to help (contact Margaret Ulloa 07533880523) and with refreshments (contact Patience Bird 07411406411). All are welcome to share this Mass, and especially all senior citizens.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for those who serve the Ministry of our Bishop at Bishop's House, St Ambrose in Leigh Woods; for the central administration of the Diocese at Alexander House and the many ministries and missions they support to enable us in the parishes and schools to offer Good News to our society.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray today for the **Ministry of our Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders**, who Sunday by Sunday seek to explore the Gospel in a way appropriate for our children 4-8 years old. With the guidance of Mary Hopper, our CLOW leaders work in pairs on a 4/5 week rota. This Ministry is a very important foundation for later catechesis (First Eucharist, Reconciliation etc), as well as building up community among our children - the 'little church'. If you would like to work this way with our children, please contact Mary - more volunteers are needed.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

7/04/24 G.A.Env £55.00 + Loose £149.51 + Card Reader £48.75 + S/O £165.88 = £419.14

14/04/24 G.A.Env £95.00 + Loose £200.14 + Card Reader £00.00 + S/O £165.88 = £461.02

Jesus says: 'I am the Good Shepherd - I lay down my life for My sheep. Listen to my voice and do not fear to follow where I lead you. I come to give you fulness of Life!'

Caritas £55.00 - Many thanks!

many thanks for your generosity, especially with the Easter Offerings (£2120.99) which contribute to the annual salary of your priest!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

21st April	'Good Shepherd Sunday' Day of Prayer for Vocation to all ministries
2nd May	Parish Finance Committee meet on Zoom at 7.30pm
8th May	Ordination of Bosco MacDonald as Bishop of Clifton at 12 noon
9th May	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)
9th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
11th May	Parish Prayer Day about the Parish's future 9.30am to 1.00pm
12th May	Building Community Sunday - extra refreshments after Mass; all please come!
15th May	St Nicholas School Governors meet
19th May	FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOLY AND RENEWING SPIRIT!
19th May	Nominations for discernment as 'Community Elders' to be submitted to PPC
22nd May	Clergy Training Day of Fresh Approaches to Catechesis
25th May	Mass in Celebration of Christian Marriage with Bp Bosco at 12noon (Cathedral)
9th June	First Eucharist Sunday
1st June	Parish Pastoral Council away day for Discernment of the six 'Community Elders'
11th June	Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday
13th July	Diocesan Day for all Catechists - led by Dominican Sisters of St Joseph

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. We will also celebrate 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. Send names to this email (adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) with the address so that a personal invitation can be sent to them from the bishop, including the number of years celebrating.

DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT THE PARISH MISSION? Arising from the recent Parish Forum on the future of our parish, the Parish Pastoral Council is delighted that many have expressed the wish to offer some time and energy in support of the life and mission of St Nicks. So the PPC is establishing a '**Volunteers Whatsapp**' to let people know the needs and opportunities for volunteering either on a long-term or an occasional basis. Some cannot commit themselves to a regular slot or programme but could volunteer from time to time and for limited periods. *If you would be willing to join such a team of volunteers on this Whatsapp Group, then please contact the Parish Office or Patience Bird (07411406411) and give your mobile no. Thank you!*

WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL: To improve communications among our diverse parish community, we will begin to send weekly a brief Parish News Email, highlighting key news or issues that we all need to be aware of. Please check your emails for the Parish Update!

TIME-TABLE FOR DISCERNING 'COMMUNITY ELDERS' AS PARISH CHANGES

Some time ago we publicised a timetable for the process of discerning (or prayerfully selecting) 'Community Elders' as we transition to a Lay-led parish served by our non-resident parish priest (Fr Richard for the next 3-4 years). So please make every effort to be part of this 'synodal' community process:

- [1] **Parish Prayer Day** to root our discernment in prayerful openness to the Holy Spirit on **Saturday 11th May** 9.30am (Morning Prayer, explanation and Adoration) to 1.00pm
- [2] **Nominations from parishioners** of names for discernment as 'Community Elders' to be collected before or during the **Pentecost 10am Mass on 19th May**

Jesus says: 'I am the Good Shepherd - I lay down my life for My sheep. Listen to my voice and do not fear to follow where I lead you. I come to give you fullness of Life!'

- [3] **PPC Away Day to discern the six 'Community Elders' on Saturday 1st June**
 [4] **Richard moves out of the presbytery September 8th - Feast of St Nicholas.**

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.***

BISHOP DECLAN RETIRES - A NEW BISHOP APPOINTED 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. His Episcopal Ordination will be celebrated in Clifton cathedral on May 8th 2024 at 12 noon.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Join some of our diocesan family on the Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes shrine in southern France. Friday 23rd August to Friday 30th August. Accommodation in 3/4* hotel, full board including transfer from Toulouse Airport to Lourdes. Single rooms from £680 and shared rooms from £510. Pilgrims to arrange own flights (Bristol-Toulouse on EasyJet) and travel insurance - information available from email: lourdes@cliftondiocese.com or Alexander House on 0117 902 5590

CALLING SISTERS AND BROTHERS WHO FEEL ALIENATED FROM THE CHURCH

There are so many who have been hurt by their experiences in the Catholic Church and many reasons for that hurt. A particularly destructive hurt has been abuse especially by priests and religious. Yet Christ calls us to be a welcoming, safe and healing community.

Here at St Nick's we seek to offer an unconditional welcome and a safe and respectful place to be and to speak your voice. We seek to echo the words of Jesus: *'Come to me all you who labour and are burdened and I will give you peace'*. So we want to welcome you, be a community where you can if you wish speak your pain, voice your hurt and anger, or just come and be. We understand that for many it is impossible to trust the Church again, and we do not expect or deserve that trust. But we do want to earn it and so offer to share your journey and make together the safe space that is your right. 'Our community currently includes those who have expressed some of their own experience of this particular hurt. They, particularly, would like you to know: "If you come to see us you won't be alone - it isn't easy but we do seek to journey together gently." We understand it may be difficult for some to enter the Church. If you wish to make contact please tell us what might help to make things easier for you.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL: When a Catholic goes into hospital, the patient or their family **MUST** request a visit from the Catholic Chaplain - data protection and confidentiality rules in hospitals prohibit the passing on of information to chaplaincies otherwise. The Chaplain will not know of your presence in hospital and cannot visit a patient without the patient's prior request and permission.

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