



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

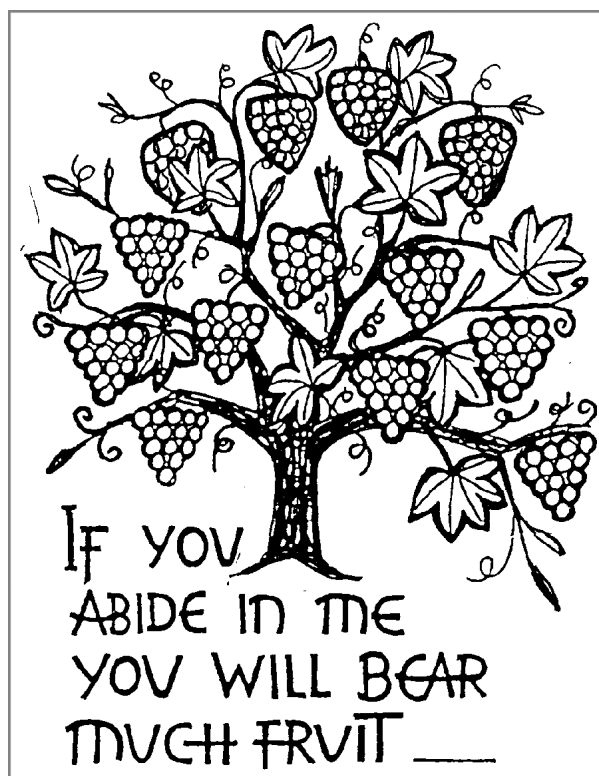
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B



The Church: human institution or Divine Gift?

500 years ago the Church was so corrupt from the Pope onwards that huge numbers of committed followers of Jesus felt they had no alternative but leave and form a new and reformed, purified church - hence the Reformation. Such was the human sinfulness in the Church that they could no longer recognise the Divine Gift.

For many in our time, the scandal of child abuse, the silencing of theologians, the stifling of protest and the reversal of so many of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, have led them also to leave the Church. We, the Church, have to take responsibility for this, and not to blame them.

Today, Pope Francis is leading us to allow the Holy Spirit once more to reform and renew the Church from within: we need to reveal again the mystery of a God who risks our sinfulness in this Incarnational Church, at once thoroughly human (and so very imperfect) and gloriously divine. Let us welcome the pruning of the vine of our corruptions and abuses, let us bear the fruit of a love that is not mere talk but the reshaping lives and communities into witnesses of Christ and so reveal the Divine Gift that is Church!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (*streamed*)
Senior Citizens Mass followed by refreshments at 3.00pm

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY: Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Lay Dominican, Spiritual Teacher (1347-1380)
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass for Victims and Survivors of Abuse at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Joseph the Worker
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Feast of St Athanasius, Bishop and Theologian of the Incarnation (292-373)
Adoration at 11.30am Service of Word and Communion at 12.00 noon

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FRIDAY: *Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles*
Requiem Mass for Idalia Golcher RIP (Jackie's Mum) at 10.00am (at St John's Church, South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF)

SATURDAY: *Feast of the English Martyrs of the Reformation (244 recognised)*
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 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Fifth Sunday of Easter** we celebrate Jesus the Vine drawing us into His Body so that utterly connected with each other in Him we can bear the fruit of the Gospel - the fruit of love, joy, peace, justice, hope! We cannot belong to each other without belonging to Jesus Christ, and we cannot belong to Jesus Christ unless we belong to each other! Together and in Him all things are possible and miracles of love can happen!

[2] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship** and 3.00pm - all welcome.

[2] There will be a **Retiring Collection for Clifton Children's Society - our Adoption Service**. Please see the item in the newsletter below.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for all University, College and School Chaplaincies throughout the diocese. Lay and clergy working together in service of our young people and children and staff within the context of the Church's Mission in the arena of education. We pray that they will help our young people to catch the excitement of discipleship of Christ Jesus and the mission to witness to Him before their world.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray today for the **Ministry of our Pastor, Fr Richard**. The priest is the servant of the Eucharist, who gathers the People of God that the Spirit might form us as the Missionary Body of Christ, and then sends us out into the world to work with God - co-creators with the Father, bearers of healing Salvation with Jesus and renewers of the face of the Earth with the Spirit. The priest is our brother who walks with us and helps us listen together to the Voice of the Spirit in our times - to see 'the Sign of the Times' that we the Church might be God's radical love poured out with abundant generosity into the hurting heart of the world. As a brother he is our shepherd who needs us all to be shepherds; he is a prophet who challenges us - and wants to be challenged by us! He is a leader who knows how to serve, a preacher who knows how to listen, a prophet who has the courage both to challenge and be challenged. The ordained priest and the Priestly People - journeying with one another in faith and love, forming each other as a People of Hope, a People of Love, a People of Mission - God's People!

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £50.00 + Loose £282.14 + Card Reader £122.90 + S/O £165.88 = £620.92 - *thanks!*

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DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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)
1st June	Parish Pastoral Council away day for Discernment of the six 'Community Elders'
9th June	First Eucharist Sunday
11th June	Feast of Corpus Christi - First Eucharist Sunday
13th July	Diocesan Day for all Catechists - led by Dominican Sisters of St Joseph

PARISH DAY OF PRAYER AS PART OF DISCERNING 'COMMUNITY ELDERS'

Prayer, listening to the voice of the Spirit in silence and in prayerful dialogue with each other is essential if our decisions are to be truly in accord with the mind and heart of God. Prayer 'attunes to the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus'. As we prepare for the future of our parish with faith and courage, and prepare to discern and call our 'Community Elders', **let us all dedicate Saturday May 11th as this special Day of Prayer.** It will begin at **9.30am with a form of Morning Prayer and conclude at 1.00pm, with Mass at 12noon.** *Please make this day a priority and be part of our parish's listening the Holy Spirit.*

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**
- [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.**

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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. 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.

CS ADOPTION - CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

This year marks 120 years of our Adoption Service helping to find 'forever families' for children who need them and providing specialist lifelong support that they need once adopted. If you are considering adoption or would like to find out more about CCS's work and how you might support the team, please get in touch (email: info@ccsadoption.org or tel 0117935005). There will be a **Retiring Collection on 5th May to support CCS Adoption's excellent and life-giving work.**

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.

BUILDING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CHURCH

This ecumenical Day Conference will share experiences of churches that have developed a safe and welcoming space and ministry for sufferers of dementia. Dementia is a major health and social issue facing our nation and therefore our churches. We all have so much to learn! I hope some of our community will attend this conference on **Saturday 8th June 9.30am to 3.00pm at Stockwood Free Church, Ladman Road, Stockwood, Bristol BS14 8QH.** Please contact Richard if you wish to attend or learn more about this important day for the life and ministry of our parish.

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