



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

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LOW SUNDAY (OCTAVE OF EASTER)



TOUCHING THE WOUNDS

Why was the Risen Jesus scarred by the wounds of crucifixion and death? Surely they should have been healed? Obliterated?

It was not simply so that the disciples could be sure it was really Him, really alive! Resurrection does not obliterate death - it transforms it: for Jesus and for us. Healing is about growing through our woundedness to a new wholeness, not removing the wounds. For our wounds are the privileged meeting places with the divine, transforming Love. Our wounds become the place of growth, of new becoming and new beginning. We become whom we truly are through our wounds as touched by Love they become wellsprings of healing and wholeness - source of our resurrection and new life.

And Thomas the doubting Apostle must touch the wounds - not only so that he will believe at last, but so that the Church formed upon the foundation stones of the witness of the Apostles, will know that it must always touch the wounds of humanity, the scars of the world, the cries and tears of the Earth, if we are to know the Risen Jesus and become part of His Rising in today's world. With love and courage to be Jesus touching the wounds!

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

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

TUESDAY: **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
Adoration at 6.00pm Service of Word and Communion at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Service of Word and Communion at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: **Feast of St Stanislaus, Polish Bishop & Martyr (died 1253)**
Adoration at 11.30am Service of Word and Communion at 12.00 noon

Jesus said: 'The Christ had to suffer, die and then rise again - so go in My name to the whole world and be my witnesses proclaiming forgiveness and New Life!'

FRIDAY: *Adoration* at 8.30am **Service of Word and Communion at 9.00am**

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass at 12.00 noon**
 Jesus Youth Vigil of Prayer 8.00-11.00pm with Mass at 10.00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

7/04/2024: ‘**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?

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY: **PARISH MASS** at 10.00am (*streamed*)
 Mass (Signed) with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship and the Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm.

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

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 12.00 noon**

FRIDAY: **Feast of St Alphege, Bishop and Martyr (953-1012)**
 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

14/04/24: [1] On this **Third Sunday of Easter** we celebrate the Risen Jesus whom we meet and recognise in the ‘Breaking of the Bread’ - the Eucharist. The Risen Christ comes to the first community of disciples, shows them his wounds and brings them His ‘Shalom’ - His peace, healing and well-being. And He sends them to all the world as His witnesses ... He sends you, me, the parish and whole Church in mission and witness of a New Creation!

[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!

DIOCESAN PRAYER **14/04/24** The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton, with Milbourne Port, Castle Carey and Bruton, served by Fr Francis Eyo MSP, and all their communities.

14/04/24 The Diocese prays today for the Religious Communities present and serving in our diocese - Sisters, Brothers and Priests, both contemplative and apostolic communities. Their work and their prayer are a vital charism and ministry in our diocesan and its mission.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION **7/04/2024** We pray for the Ministry and Mission of our Parish Pastoral Council. The Co-Chairs of our PPC are Mar-

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ta Bolognani and Reagan D'Mello. It is elected by the parish congregation and seeks to represent the diversity of our community. The parish priest and Lay Pastoral Assistant are ex-officio members. It is the most important decision-making body, reflecting the many and varied 'voices' of our parish family and offering leadership by word and example. It meets approximately every 4-6 weeks. Please contact PPC members with your ideas, concerns and hopes for the parish community and its future development. This is part of being a 'synodal' parish.

14/04/2024 We pray for the **Ministry of our Parish Office and its Team**, supported by our Parish Administrator, Astrid Fagon (currently on sick leave) and Margaret Ulloa. The Office handles most of the day to day administration of the parish (vital work) as well as outreaching to the wider community. Many thanks to Claudia, Benedicta and Kerry who volunteer and enable the parish to serve the wider community on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings (10.00am to 1.00pm). We wish to open the Office Monday to Friday but need more volunteers to support this. Please contact Margaret or Richard to support this vital mission to the marginalised and impoverished of our inner city area.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £45.00 + Loose £1175.11 + Card Reader £665.00 + S/O £165.88 = £2050.99

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day £345.13 **Lepra** £20.00 **Caritas** £33.00 **Holy Places** £187.33

many thanks for your generosity, especially with the Easter Offerings (£2005.99) which contribute to the annual salary of your priest!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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
21st April	'Good Shepherd Sunday' Day of Prayer for Vocation to all ministries
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)
19th May	FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOLY AND RENEWING SPIRIT!
15th May	St Nicholas School Governors meet
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!

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. 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

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just need to 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.

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.***

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.

'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.

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

CHURCH CLEANING - FRIDAY MORNINGS

Thank you to those who have been serving the parish in this way each Friday morning from about 10.00am onwards. **Some have found work so we urgently need more volunteers who can commit once or twice a month to come.** Please Contact Eddie or Richard to volunteer for this ministry, this act of service to God and the whole community. Thank you!

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