



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

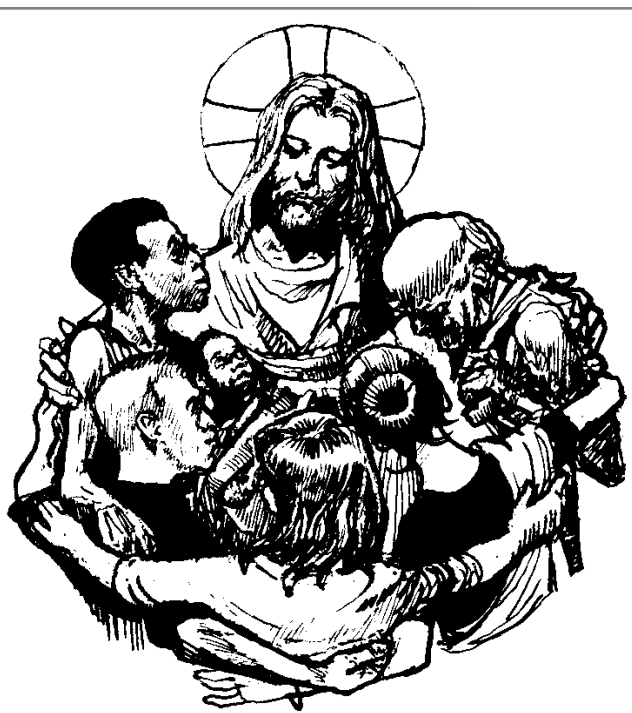
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 0117-909-8810 / mob: 07779677370)

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)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 'World Communication Sunday'



Where do we belong? World? Jesus? or both?

Each of us is made for relationship - we cannot survive without friends, without someone or a community to belong to. And belonging means we find a home in the heart of the other.

Jesus prays that we will belong to Him, find our home in His Heart, His Word, His Church, His Kingdom - that He will be the place of our belonging. Does that mean that we 'do not belong to the world'? Yet He sends us into the world, does not want to remove us from the world. And when He took flesh in the womb of Mary, He embraced belonging to the world. So what does He mean?

Well, there is the 'world' that is the dwelling place of the God who has created all things out of Love and all is Good. God is alive in every atom of creation, including ourselves! There is also the 'world' of injustice, dishonesty, self-centredness, war and oppression - the world Jesus is 'in' but not 'of'! He consecrates us in the truth to belong to the divine heart of the world - and to transform the dark heart of the world!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with Rite of Child Catechumen at 10.00am (*streamed*)
Signed Mass with Catholic Deaf Association at 3.00pm - all welcome!

MONDAY: *No Liturgy*

TUESDAY: *Feast of St Matthias, Apostle elected between Ascension & Pentecost*
Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY: Adoration at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12noon

FRIDAY: Adoration at 8.30am Mass at 9.00am

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all Your faithful people, enkindle within us the fire of Your Love; Send forth your Spirit and we shall be recreated and renew the face of the Earth!

SATURDAY: *Adoration* at 11.30am **Mass** at 12.00 noon
Shona Mass with Zimbabwean Community at 1.30pm
VIGIL MASS OF PENTECOST at 7.00pm - come pray for our parish at this time!
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY: [1] With the **Seventh Sunday of Easter** we join those first disciples in the Upper Room of Waiting and yearning for the Holy Spirit to come and renew our lives, renew the Church and renew the face of the Earth. Jesus, the night before He died, the night of the Last Supper, the First Eucharist, prayed for His Disciples - then and now and for all ages! He consecrates Himself to the Father's Holiness so that we too will be a consecrated People dedicated to God's loving of the world in the power of their loving Holy Spirit.

[2] It is **World Communications Sunday** - a day to prayer for this new way of proclaiming the Gospel through modern communications and Social media. This Mission of the Church can hopefully witness to the potential for great good that the social media has, despite the many abuses of social media and its tendency to lead to addiction & fake news!

[3] **Signed Mass with the Clifton Catholic Deaf Association** at 3.00pm - all welcome!

[4] **Papers for 'Suggested Names' available today as part of the Discernment of 'Community Stewards' Team** (provisional name) - please return your suggestions during the week to the parish Office or the Presbytery letterbox at mass next Sunday.

[5] **Retiring Collection in support of the Church's Mission in World Communications.**

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We celebrate the **Great Feast of Pentecost**, the Holy Spirit overshadowing the Church to bring to birth in every age and place the Christian Community renewed and energised for Mission in the service of the Good News of New Life, fashioning us afresh to be 'Good News to all Creation'. We begin our celebration with Vigil Mass on Saturday evening at 7.00pm and continue it in the morning Mass at 10am. We have a great need to call upon the Holy Spirit to come upon our parish to empower, lead and gift us as we transition this year into a 'New Way of being Church'. Make it a priority to come and pray!

[2] **'Suggested Names' available today as part of the Discernment of 'Community Stewards' Team** (provisional name) - please return your nominations today, to be collected and presented in the Offertory of the Mass.

[3] **Monthly Mass with our LGBTQ+ friends and families** at 3.00pm - all very welcome.

THURSDAY - FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Descending and Ascending - the God of Love!

'Jesus did not cling to His equality with God but emptied himself becoming human, a slave, dying on the Cross .. And therefore God raised Him higher than the Angels'. Jesus is the Flesh of God's loving, descending to the lowest place, in poverty, the victim of injustice and summarily executed through the cries of the manipulated crowds - and all for us! The Sinless One made Sin for us! He shares the darkness to redeem us all into the Light; He is wounded to make us Whole!

And now He ascends - to Glory, to the throne of God. But not just Jesus: in His ascended Flesh and Humanity you and I and all the world are gathered forever into the Glory, into the inner life of God. We are 'divinised'! We now sit at the right hand of the Father - our humanity is enthroned above the angels. Humanity is forever changed, transformed.

And so He sends us to the very creation itself both to proclaim and to be the Good News that there is a new reality - a new World. Let us live it and speak it!

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT This is the first and greatest Novena of Prayer in the Church's tradition, opening ourselves and the Church to the mighty wind of the Spirit - the energy for Mission; opening to the Living Water of the Spirit welling up to Life in all its fulness; opening to the Flame and Fire of God's Spirit that transforms us into flames of Di-

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vine Love in the heart of the world. Without the Spirit of God in us we can do nothing for God, without the Spirit of God we have no real life, without the Spirit of God we have no vision for our mission, no energy to serve the Gospel and the Kingdom. At this time in our parish, our diocese and our Church we all need to cry out **COME HOLY SPIRIT!**

MAY - THE MONTH OF MARY It is a long and honourable tradition that the month of May is the Month of Mary. But why? Mary allowed the Holy Spirit to fill her life and reshape her future - and she gave flesh, humanity to the Son of God. In becoming the mother of the Saviour of the World she said yes also to a unique relationship with the world He saved! Forever she now holds the whole world in her heart of prayer, interceding, bring God's love within her to bear upon the pain and struggles of the world and its peoples. If she loves her Son, she loves the world He died for! She teaches us how to love, how to intercede, how to heal, how to walk in solidarity with a pained world, helping it to come to a new birth.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for all Chaplaincies to the Hospitals and prisons in the diocese. There are many Ministry Teams of lay and clergy working ecumenically to support pastorally our sisters and brothers in sick in hospital and enduring prison. Jesus said 'Whatever you do for the least of these [sick or in prison] you do for Me'.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray today for **our Ethiopian Orthodox Community**. Giving thanks for sisters and brothers in this very ancient Church, going back to the Acts of the Apostles, it is our privilege to host them Sunday by Sunday here at St Nicks.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £40.00 + Loose £178.35 + Card Reader £9.84 + S/O £165.88 = £394.07 - *thanks!*

Retiring Collection (CCS Adoption): £65.00 Caritas: £14.00 CAFOD £40.00

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2024

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| 12th May | Building Community Sunday - refreshments in the Hall -all please come! |
| 15th May | St Nicholas School Governors meet |
| 18th May | 'Living the Common Good' - building community to serve the Common Good at St Brendan's College 9.30am to 4.00pm |
| 19th May | FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOLY AND RENEWING SPIRIT! |
| 19th May | Suggestions for discernment as 'Community Stewards' 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' |
| 8th June | Diocesan Day on 'The Eucharist - a Bond of Love' St Bernadette's School, Whitchurch 9.30am to 4.00pm |
| 9th June | First Eucharist Sunday |
| 3rd July | Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm (on Zoom) |
| 4th July | Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre) |
| 13th July | Diocesan Day for all Catechists - led by Dominican Sisters of St Joseph |

WE WELCOME OUR NEW BISHOP On Wednesday Clifton Cathedral was filled to capacity with those who had come to participate in the Ordination of Bishop Bosco MacDonald as the Tenth Bishop of Clifton in succession to Bishop Declan. We as St Nick's community warmly welcome Bishop Bosco to his new ministry among us and assure him of our prayer and support. The change from ministering to a parish and serving the whole diocese (and beyond - all the bishops have additional responsibilities than their diocese) is a huge life-change, and one that was never planned in Bishop Bosco's mind. We look forward to welcoming him to our parish community hopefully before too long. Pray for our new Bishop.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all Your faithful people, enkindle within us the fire of Your Love; Send forth your Spirit and we shall be recreated and renew the face of the Earth!

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

All of us are part of discerning (or prayerfully selecting) 'Community Stewards' 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 it a priority to be part of this 'synodal' community process:

- [1] **Parish Prayer Day** - which was yesterday - good day but poor numbers!
- [2] **Suggestions 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 Stewards' on Saturday 1st June**
- [4] **Richard moves out of the presbytery September 8th - Feast of St Nicholas.**

DIOCESAN EVENTS [1] **'Living the Common Good'** - exploring how our parishes and Pastoral Areas can build community that serves the 'Common Good' of our neighbourhood, city, world. **Saturday 18th May at St Brendan's Sixth Form College 9.30am to 4.00pm.** To register, please click the Eventbrite link on the diocesan website.

[2] **'The Eucharist - a bond of love which can never be undone'** - a Day for everyone (part of the Year of Prayer) to deepen our understanding and love of the Eucharist led by Fr Michael McAndrew **Saturday 8th June at St Bernadette's School, Whitchurch, 9.30am to 4.00pm.** To register, please click the Eventbrite link on the diocesan website.

MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Our new Bishop Bosco 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.

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.

DISCERNMENT OF 'COMMUNITY STEWARDS' You will all be given a simple sheet for your 'suggested names' of those you consider appropriate to consider taking on the new responsibilities. You can put one name or up to six - those you have respect for and confidence in. This is not an election! You need not those you suggest if they are willing - it is a call of the community to serve the community. Their willingness to accept the call is later.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all Your faithful people, enkindle within us the fire of Your Love; Send forth your Spirit and we shall be recreated and renew the face of the Earth!