



St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE

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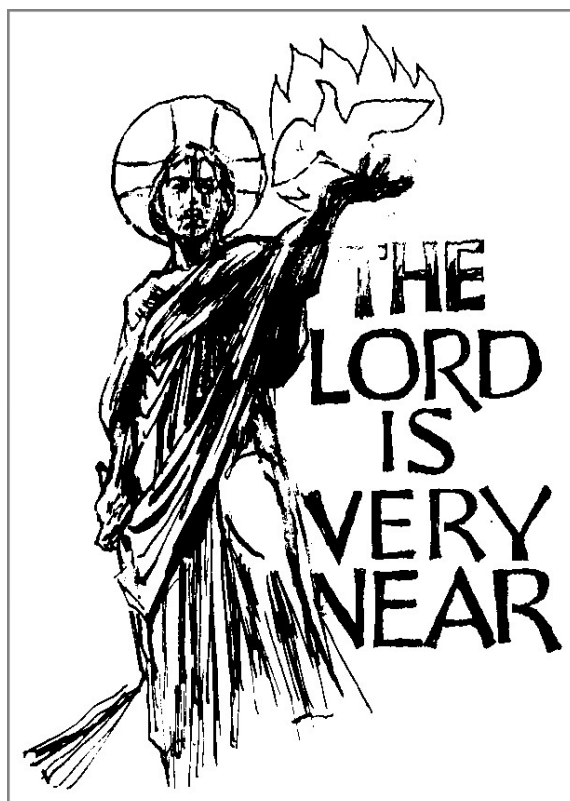
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)

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)

THIRD & FOURTH SUNDAYS OF ADVENT YEAR C



Dance for Joy for you are God's Children, baptised in the Spirit!

Anthropologists tell us that the origin of dance is worship - dancing for joy as a sacrifice of praise to God! You can be forgiven for not recognising that looking at some western dancing!!

David danced before the Ark of the Covenant as it was brought into his capital city of Jerusalem. As we will hear on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist while still in Elizabeth's womb danced and leapt before Mary the Ark of the Covenant as the unborn prophet recognised the unborn Saviour hidden in the womb.

But our dance is nothing compared to the Divine Dance - God who dances for joy over you and me. He is the Lord of the Dance, the Dance of Divine Love and Creative Energy at the heart of Creation! So let us indeed 'Rejoice!', dance for joy with our God as the Bridegroom comes seeking us. Dance for joy that God has come to His Temple - YOU! Filling you with the Divine Dance, the Divine Love, the Holy Spirit. Indeed the Lord is very near - within us!

SUNDAY: Mass with Rite of Adult Catechumenate at 10.00 a.m (live-streamed)
Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all very welcome

MONDAY: No Liturgy
St Nick's School Infant Nativity play at 1.30pm (in church)

TUESDAY: Start of great O Antiphons "O Wisdom"
No Liturgy

WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy "O Adonai - Lord"
St Nick's School Carol Service at 1.30pm (in church)

*The Prophet of God says: 'Sing aloud, shout, rejoice and exult with all your heart:
God is with you in your midst - never be afraid. God dances for joy over you!'*

THURSDAY: Adoration at 12 noon **Mass** at 12.30 "**O Root of Jesse**"

FRIDAY: Adoration at 12 noon **Mass** at 12.30pm "**O Key of David**"

SATURDAY: Adoration at 11.30 am **Mass** at 12 noon "**O Rising Sun**"
Mass in Shona with the Zimbabwean Community at 1.30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation After Mass and at 4.00pm

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'GAUDETE' or REJOICING SUNDAY

A MEETING PREGNANT WITH SALVATION FOR THE WORLD!

Two women meet - and rejoice to share both good news and the risks they are taking. Two children growing in the womb meet and bring life to each other. In the womb of Elizabeth is carried all humanity's hopes for a better world, a world of justice, of freedom, of peace and of love. In Mary's womb God fulfils His promise, and answers the cries of humanity for a new future.

Every woman who carries a child in the womb carries humanity's hopes, carries the promise of a new future, for the child and for the world. Every woman who carries a child in the womb also carries the reality of God within her and within her child, carries God's answer of fulfilled Promise.

In every child heaven and earth are joined and hope is rekindled. In every child God comes to visit His People. They hold the secret of the Kingdom of God and we cannot understand understand the wonder of our Father's love unless we begin to see through the wonder filled eyes of the child. We need the heart of the child truly to welcome the Coming of Love made Flesh in Jesus our brother.

Let us be bearers of both the hopes of the world and the promise of God; may each of our lives be pregnant with hope for our world, bringing the Father's mercy to birth among all peoples.

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS 10.00am (live-streamed) "**O King**"

MONDAY: Adoration at 9.00am **Mass** at 9.30pm "**O Emmanuel**"
Sacrament of Reconciliation After Mass

TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE
Adoration at 12 noon **Mass** at 12.30pm

SEASON OF CHRISTMASTIDE BEGINS

TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE
MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS AT 10.30 pm

WEDNESDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY
SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS 10.00 am

THURSDAY: St Stephen, first Deacon and Martyr (Boxing Day - Bank Holiday)
Adoration at 9.30am **Mass** at 10.00am

15/12/2024 [1] On the **Third Sunday of Advent Year C** we rejoice in the call of John the Baptist, last of the Hebrew prophets, to be the Voice for the Word being made Flesh - calling us to make 'winding ways straight' - repentance so that we can witness effectively to the saving love of Christ for all the world, all people.

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[2] **Retiring Collection for our parish Foodbank and Caritas funds** - please be generous to all whom we help through these two 'services' to the disadvantaged of or parish area. Both funds are in need to financial support - please make a Christmas gift to those we serve. Please see 'St Nicholas Bread' facebook page

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

22/12/2024 [1] **With the Fourth Sunday of Advent** we are preparing for the coming celebration of the Birth of Christ. We celebrate humanity's hopes carried in Elizabeth's womb meeting God's liberating Love made flesh in Mary's womb. Will we carry the same love in our hearts and the work of our hands and minds?

DIOCESAN PRAYER 15/12/2024 The Diocese prays today for Parish in Communion for Mission of St Benedict, Downside, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, served by Dom Martin Gowman and its community.

22/12/2024 The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Stanislaus, Dulverton and Sacred Heart Minehead, served by Fr David Savoury, Deacons Vincent Woods and Philip Ogilvy, Parish Administrator Lorraine Taylor and their community.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION

15/11/2024 We pray for our **Ministry of Church Cleaning**. Our church building is a sacred space where the awesome act of Eucharist is celebrated and the People of God gather to worship and build together community for mission. Every week the church needs cleaning so that we can worthily offer worship to God. Tas and Iwona have been on their own fulfilling this ministry every Friday morning for too long - we really need more volunteers to share the ministry and work. There can be some flexibility about day and time for the cleaning - please contact Richard to join the team.

22/12/2024 We pray for our **Ministry of Liturgical Music**, our choir and instrumentalists. St Augustine of Hippo said 'Singing is praying twice over' and also 'Sing a New Song to the Lord - our New Lives is the song we are to sing'. Singing in different languages is an essential part of our worship of God in our diverse parish and so we are seeking to rebuild our choir. We invite as many as possible to come and join the choir (it meets for practice each Saturday at 1.30pm - but if more join us a different time could be arranged). We also need instrumentalists to accompany the singing: guitars, drums, and especially key-board. Please contact Margaret or Richard..

COLLECTIONS

G.A.Env: £40.00 + Loose £172.94+ S.O £ 165.88 + card reader £?? = total: £378.82
FoodBank £20.00 **Collection for Poor Missions of Clifton** £75.00 Thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16th Dec St Nick's School Infants Nativity Play at 1.30pm (Church)

18th Dec St Nick's School Carol Service at 1.30pm (Church)

24th Dec **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS at 10.30pm**

25th Dec **CHRISTMAS SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY at 10.00am**

31st Dec **New Year's Eve Watchnight Mass at 10.30pm**

2025

1st Jan **FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEARS DAY 10am Mass**

5th Jan **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

8th Jan Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on zoom)

12th Jan **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Baptismal Sunday**

16th Jan Parish pastoral Council at 7.15pm in Assisi Centre

18th Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins - 'that we all be one'

27th Jan Holocaust memorial Civic Event - City Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm

The Prophet of God says: 'Sing aloud, shout, rejoice and exult with all your heart: God is with you in your midst - never be afraid. God dances for joy over you!'

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SUNDAY MASS TIME The Parish Pastoral Council decided (a decision I entirely support) that Mass must start at 10.00am from the 1st December - no matter how few might be there. We must reclaim starting on time. So everyone with a ministry (Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers, Live-streamers, Choir, Altar Servers, CLOW leaders...) please be in place by 9.50am. This is permanent - no more late starts to the 10am Mass.

TIMES OF WEEKDAY MASSES & SERVICES It has become very clear that very few are able to attend our weekday services - sadly, as the Eucharist is the food and strength of our mission here at St Nicks. Can we find a time which permits more people to attend? Over the next few weeks we will try to vary Service times a little to discover what suits more people. It has been suggested 12.30pm is a better time for daily Mass, enabling some to come during their lunch break. Traffic early morning and from 4pm is so congested that it prohibits getting here in any reasonable time frame. Mass during the day seems the only option. Thoughts please...

JOURNEY OF FAITH 2024/25 HAS BEGUN We meet in the **Assisi Centre at 5.30pm each Thursday**. This group explores our Catholic Christian Faith both for those thinking about becoming Catholics and for Catholics who wish a renewal or deeper understanding of their faith. **This includes adult Catholics who have not yet been confirmed in the Holy Spirit. Please contact Richard or Mary for more information or just come along!**

PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM Parents seeking the baptism of their children are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Christopher and Epiphania Chipato or Fr Richard as soon as possible.

**Baptismal Sunday (Provisionally) - Sunday 12th January at 10.00am Mass
Parents (Preparation Sessions to be announced)**

CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We would like hear from those of our young people (13 years or older by January 2025) who have not yet been confirmed in the Holy Spirit and want to think about whether God is calling them to this commitment. There may also be some adults who have not yet be confirmed and would like to consider making this step to complete their Christian Initiation which began at Baptism. We expect to celebrate Confirmation in the Spring of 2025, so young people and adults who are interested, please contact Astrid or Margaret in the Parish office to register your interest.

AREA HOUSE MASSES TO RESUME The Area Masses we celebrated earlier this year was successful in gathering parishioners (and others) living in those particular parts of Bristol; and the Parish Pastoral Council wish to invite people to offer to host such a mass on a Friday evening. After Mass we have simple refreshments - tea/coffee, biscuits (may be cake), but no more. Please contact Richard if you will host.

SHORT TALKS ON YOUTUBE During Covid Lockdowns Richard gave talks and celebrated Mass on FaceBook. He has been asked to give short talks (15-20 minutes) on YouTube. The first was posted last Sunday on YouTube (@St Nicks RC Church Bristol) and hopefully will include contributions from others together with Richard. The themes during Advent will be different forms of prayer.

CHURCH CLEAN FOR CHRISTMAS Could volunteers come to clean the Church ready of Christmas on Monday 23rd Dec at 10am - after the 9.30am Mass. Thanks

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