



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

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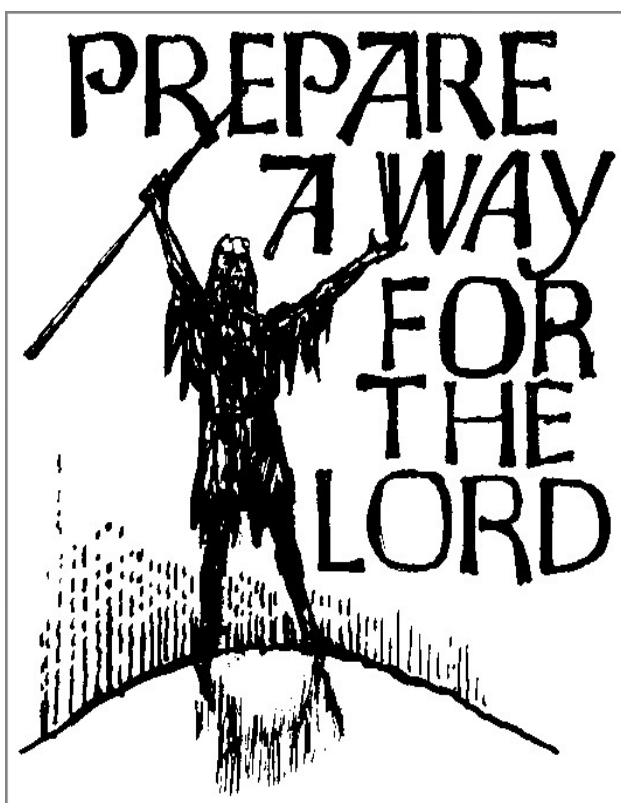
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)

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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C - JUBILEE OF HOPE



John the Baptist, Orthodox & Subversive!

Out in the wilderness, like the Hebrews in their earliest days; hearing the Word of God, as the Hebrews did at Sinai; preparing for a new age, a promise being fulfilled, as the Hebrews did journeying to the Promised Land.

And yet he was challenging corruption in the religious and political state of Israel. Calling them to repentance so that the winding ways of our shallow hearts and devious minds would be straightened that the Lord might enter the human heart and the Kingdom might come.

True orthodoxy is truly radical, truly reforming and renewing. Authentic 'traditionalism' is ever-changing to be faithful to the Word of God in our time - never a mindless preservation of a nostalgic past! This Wild Man of God who ushers in a radically new era is the true Orthodox, is the authentic Tradition! Are we?

SUNDAY: Mass at 10.00 a.m (live-streamed)

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY Adoration at 6.00pm Service of Word and Eucharist at 6.30 pm

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

THURSDAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas
Adoration at 12noon Mass at 12.30 pm

FRIDAY: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
End of Term School Mass at 9.30am - ALL INVITED

In the world of the most powerful, the Word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness: he was the Voice crying out 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'.

SATURDAY: ***St John of the Cross, 16th C. Carmelite priest, Mystic & Spiritual Teacher***
Adoration at 8.30am **Mass** at 9.00am **(NB Change of time today)**
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) after Mass only

TODAY [1] On the **Second Sunday of Advent Year C** we celebrate that God speaks His Word in the wilderness, the barren places, and to the 'Wild Man of God', John the Baptist. The Word was not spoken in the place of power and wealth, the place of rituals and sacrifices (Jerusalem). We will hear God speak if we listen to the broken and marginalised of our - but it takes courage to listen and act!

[2] It is **Poor Missions Sunday** when we have a **Retiring Collection** for parishes in our Diocese of Clifton that cannot finance themselves.

NEXT SUNDAY [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.

[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.

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

THE YEAR OF LUKE With a new Liturgical Year (Sundays Year C) nearly all the Sunday Gospel will be taken from Luke's Gospel. Luke, a disciple of St Paul, expresses especially the Gospel as Paul preached it to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world: a Gospel that was Good News to the Poor, a Gospel of Mercy and Forgiveness, a Gospel filled with the Holy Spirit and Hope, a Gospel of Joy, a Gospel of equality for women - a Gospel for our Age!

ADVENT - THE VISION OF MISSION Advent is a time for 'people with far-seeing eyes' - awakened to the reality of our world, ready to listen and to gaze: in order to recognise where, when and how Jesus comes in the 21st century (in the poverty, among the oppressed, disguised as an addict or as homeless, crying out for acceptance and freedom in the asylum-seeker, yearning for peace among the women and children who are the greatest victims of our wars). But you have to have courage to see and to hear - and more courage to speak and to act! The Spirit of God unfolds a vision of Mission - to transform the deserts and wastelands of our world into places of hope, rich and fertile in humanity and justice, healing and freedom. Our Mission is world-challenging and world-changing. Let our worship empower our mission, as we gaze upon bread from the fields and wine from the hills being transformed utterly in Christ by the Spirit and the Word through the ministry of the Church!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of The Immaculate Conception Devizes, with St Joseph, Lavington, served by Administrator Jennie Bannister. The much-loved parish priest, Fr Paul Gonsalves MSFS recently died unexpectedly aged only 55 years to the shock and sadness of the parish - please pray for them in their grief, and as they await a new priest to be assigned.

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PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION

We pray for our **Ministry of the Journey of Faith**. We are called to share our faith not only with each other but with all who might come to us searching for new meaning, a new wisdom - the Gospel and the love of Christ. That is the purpose of our Journey of Faith group. It also serves Catholics who wish to explore about their faith more deeply and seek a renewal in Christ and his Spirit. Adult Catholics who have not yet been Confirmed in the Holy Spirit - this group is also for you in your journey towards completing your 'Initiation into Christ'. The group is animated by Richard and Mary Hopper. Are you interested in joining? please contact us.

COLLECTIONS

G.A.Env: £50.00 + Loose £185.74+ S.O £ 165.88 + card reader £100.00 = total: £501.62
CAFOD £40.00 Thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

12th Dec Bristol City of Sanctuary AGM - 2-4pm (New Rooms Broadmead BS1 3JE)
 12th Dec United Carols in Rawnsley Park, Stapleton Road at 6.30pm
 13th Dec End of Term School Mass at 9.30pm
 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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SUNDAY MASS TIME

The Parish Pastoral Council has been most concerned about the time keeping of the parish community for Sunday Mass. It seems that some people are no longer attending St Nicks because of the late start to Mass. It has decided (a decision I entirely support) that Mass must start at 10.00am from the 1st December (First Sunday of Advent) - 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...) need to be in place by 9.50am. This will be permanent - no more late starts to the 10am Mass. And Mass will finish no later than 11.30am (except for Baptismal Sundays).

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 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 5pm is so congested that it prohibits getting here in any reasonable time frame. Mass during the day seems the only option. Thoughts please...

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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.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Why not give a friend or family a gift that benefits the poorest of our world. Jesus is not honoured by lavish gifts to each other - when you give someone a CAFOD World Gift, you are giving to Jesus who identified himself with the poor who benefit from your Gift. 'Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers you do to me!' The catalogues for these CAFOD World Gifts will soon be in the porch.

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.

"I was sick, and you visited me..."(Mt 25:36)

The Department of Spiritual and Pastoral Care of the central Bristol Hospitals (University Hospitals Bristol and Weston) is looking for people to give up 2.5 hours a week each to reach out to the sick as chaplaincy volunteers. If you are interested in this important ministry, and would like to find out more about the recruitment and our thorough training process, please contact Rob Morgan, Lead Chaplain, on 0117 3426795 Mon - Fri 9 - 4:00, or email Robert.Morgan@uhbw.nhs.uk before 31st December 2024."

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. '.

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