



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

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(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 12 noon; Tuesday 2 - 4pm; Friday 5 - 7pm)

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Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

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) & Jennine Oldis (0117-915-0486)

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

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SON OF MARY, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD



Christmas Season Begins

TUESDAY: *Christmas Eve*

MIDNIGHT MASS OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST at 10.30pm

WEDNESDAY: *CHRISTMAS DAY*

SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 10.00am

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr and Deacon (Bank Holiday)*

Adoration at 9.30am **MASS** at 10.00am

FRIDAY: *Feast of St John the Evangelist, Apostle*

Adoration at 9.30am **MASS** at 10.00am

The Word is made flesh and pitches tent among us - His beloved people!

- SATURDAY:** **Feast of the Holy Innocents (Day of prayer for all child victims)**
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass** at 12 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) after Mass only
- SUNDAY:** **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**
PARISH MASS OF SUNDAY at 10.00am (*Live-streamed*)
- MONDAY:** **Feast of St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr**
No Liturgy
- TUESDAY:** **WATCHNIGHT MASS** for NEW YEAR'S EVE at 10.30pm
- WEDNESDAY:** **FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD - NEW YEAR'S DAY**
PARISH MASS FOR PEACE at 10.00am
- THURSDAY:** **Feast of Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops**
Adoration at 12.00 noon **MASS** at 12.30pm
- FRIDAY:** **Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**
Adoration at 12.00 noon **MASS** at 12.30pm
- SATURDAY:** **Adoration** at 11.30 noon **MASS** at 12.00 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass & 4.00-4.30pm
- SUNDAY:** **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
PARISH MASS OF SUNDAY at 10.00am (*Live-streamed*)

Fr Richard, our Community Stewards and the Parish Team

Want to assure you all of our Special Prayer for you and yours this Christmas.

May your Joy know no bounds and your Hope enlarged

We wish you and those you love every Joy and Happiness this most Blessed Christmas.

You are especially remembered at the Eucharist.

A Special Word of Welcome to all Visitors to our Parish this Christmas.

In particular to any friends who are not Roman Catholics ...

We value your presence with us as we worship together Our Saviour Jesus Christ

On this Feast of Endless Love!

CHRISTMAS DAY: With amazing joy we celebrate this wondrous day of Mystery - the **Mystery of Love made Flesh**, God stooping down in the Divine Liteness of the tiny Child who carries all creation in His infant Heart. Men and women everywhere! Know your sublime dignity, that now our humanity carries the Divine, is capable of infinite love and endless life. How can we ever fear this God who comes in the vulnerable poverty of Bethlehem's Christ Child? Or ever diminish another human person whom we know is filled with Divine Presence? Forever the world at its very heart, in its utter depths, is changed! ALLELUIA!

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NEXT SUNDAY: [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**. We contemplate God's immense trust in us, in our human family, in entrusting the human development of His Son to a family like our own! No idyllic world for the Word made Flesh - but born to an unmarried mother, a displaced family, soon to become a refugee family fleeing the oppressive terror of a corrupt and violent ruler. Then growing to maturity in a village of great poverty. From this world of poverty and suffering the Word of God is shaped!

NEW YEAR'S DAY: [1] We celebrate on **New Year's Day**, the **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. The Council of Ephesus, 431AD, made the first solemn pronouncement of the Church's doctrine in regard to Mary - giving her the title 'Theotokos' - bearer of God. It did so less to honour Mary and more to preserve and proclaim the fundamental doctrine that Jesus was truly God and truly Human. Mary is the model disciple, God's teacher to God's People on how to be true and loving disciples of Jesus. Let 2025 be truly the Jubilee Year of Hope, a time of renewal and growth in Missionary Discipleship for the whole Church!

[2] Held by most of the Church as the **World Day of Prayer for Peace**, Mass will be offered for the Peace of the World - that the brutal wars of 2024, especially in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and elsewhere might give way to an era of Peace and Reconciliation: courage is making Peace rather War!

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays for the Parish in Communion for Mission of St Thomas More, Marlborough with Holy Family, Pewsey, served by Fr John Blacker and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION This week, pray God's Blessing upon our **Hospitality Ministry**, providing our community Sunday by Sunday the opportunity to grow in friendship and community in the Parish hall over tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes (and often more!!). I hope more of us, especially those new to our community, will make time to come into the Hall after Sunday Mass and enjoy getting to know better the sisters and brothers of our worshipping community. We also ask more people to come forward to offer this Ministry in Hospitality teams. Please contact Margaret Ulloa to volunteer.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

G.A.Env £45.00 + Loose £221.10 + Card Reader £?. + S/O £165.88 = £431.98 thanks!

Caritas Fund £534.00 **FOODBANK** £400.00 **Zimbabwean Mass** £103.15 many thanks!

I wish to thank all who give large or small amounts to the work and mission of the parish. Every gift and every giver is equally valued and these gifts are used to serve the growth of the Kingdom of God. Thank you!

Our Caritas Fund is supporting so many people as those unemployed, homeless or suffering from the cost of living crisis, food and fuel poverty are increasing.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS For those not using Offertory envelopes, there are some 'Christmas Offering' envelopes available today for the Christmas Offerings. The Collections at Christmas and Easter are your personal offering of financial support for your parish priest, and makes up a major part of his annual 'wage'. Thank you for your generosity.

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CRIB OFFERINGS These are gifts that support the work of our outstanding **Diocesan Children's Society**. With their offices in Pennywell Road, they are indeed a part of our parish! Please pray for their work, give generously, and pray for more adoptive parents to come forward - **could you be such an adoptive family? Contact tel: 0845-122-0077.**

COME AND CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER! There will be a **New Year 'Watch Night Mass' at 10.30pm on 31st December**, praying the New Year in. During this Year of war and conflict in our world, and change in our Church, we need to pray for fearful world, our war-torn world, for our polluted Earth, for our refugee and asylum-seeking sisters and brothers; we need to pray the Spirit's guidance for our changing Church and for our own families

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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'

Christmas Thanks

+ to all who have worked so hard all year preparing the Church
+ to all who clean and decorate with flowers the Church each week
+ to all working in the sacristy, preparing the Crib etc
+ to all who help celebrate the Liturgy - choir, altar servers, Readers, Lay Ministers of the Eucharist, Welcomers and sacristans
+ to all who give time to pray and who serve our community all year
+ to all who serve the many Ministries and Missions of our parish family
+ to all who serve in or support our Food Bank ('St Nicholas Bread')
+ to all who support the mission of our 'Borderlands' Charity
+ to all who enable the parish office to do so much pastoral care
+ to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ in this wonderful community!

In gratitude, I have give you all as a Christmas Gift, CAFOD World Gifts.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES The **First Eucharist Programme** begins on **Thursday 9th January at 4.00-5.00pm** in the Assisi Centre. There will also be a parents meeting at the same time, also in the Assisi Centre. The **First Reconciliation Programme** begins on **Friday 10th January at 4.00-5.00pm** (Assisi Centre). There will also be a parents meeting at the same time.

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.

Rite of Child Catechumen (or 'Welcoming') Sunday 5th January 10am Mass

Baptismal Sunday - Sunday 12th January at 10.00am Mass

Parents Preparation Sessions: Friday 3rd January and Friday 10th January both at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

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