



## 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](http://www.tolentino.org.uk)

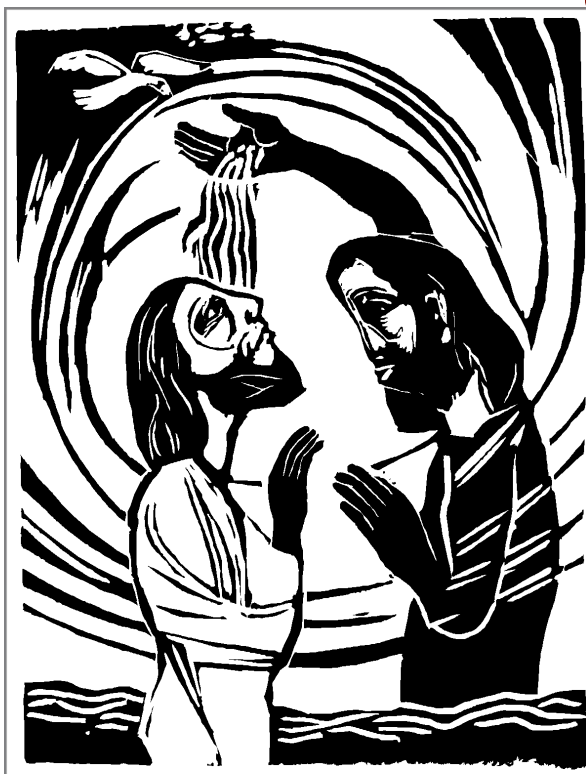
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)

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)

## THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



### **ANointed SERVANT OF DIVINE LOVE**

Conceived in the Spirit long ago, yet now, in His adult freedom and questing, comes to welcome the Spirit and hear the Father's voice. The Voice over the waters speaks of the Father's embrace of Love for the Beloved Son - and something, Someone, is brought to birth afresh: the Son is reborn as Servant precisely because He is Beloved beyond all imagining.

The waters of the Jordan River become the Waters of Creations rebirth, for now a New Creation has begun: a New Creation that we are to complete in the power of the same Spirit. For we too are beloved daughters and sons, loved by our Father and filled with the Spirit to become the same Servants of Divine Love that 'recreates the face of the Earth'.

Now the ministry begins, now the poor and broken will hear Good News, now sinners will be reconciled and the despairing find unconquerable hope. For here is the Son who invites all to share His 'Belovedness', to become co-heirs with Him, to receive the same Spirit of the Father's Love equally lavished upon us as upon Him, the Only-Begotten One!.

**SUNDAY:** Mass with Celebration of Baptism at 10.00 a.m (live-streamed)

**MONDAY:** No Liturgy

**TUESDAY** No Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY:** No Liturgy

**THURSDAY:** Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

**FRIDAY:** Feast of St Anthony, Abbot, founder of Desert Fathers & Mothers (d. 356)  
Adoration at 12.00 noon Mass for Christian Unity at 12.30pm

*The Father speaks to Jesus: 'You are my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased ... I will take you by the hand, who are a covenant for the people, a light to the nations'*

**SATURDAY:** **Adoration** at 11.30 **Mass** at 12.00 noon

Mass in Shona with Zimbabwean Community at 1.30pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** After Mass and at 4.00pm

**TODAY** [1] Celebrating **the Baptism of the Lord**, we renew our own baptismal commitment to Christ Jesus. Jesus abandons Himself in the Hands of His Loving Father and hears the words of affirmation - 'You are My Beloved Son'. The Father whispers these words deep in our own hearts, for we too are His 'Beloved' - God loves us with the same intense love with which He loved His Son - do you believe this? Never doubt His love for you, beloved of God!

[2] We have the joy of **celebrating the Baptism in to Christ of some of our children**. Please pray for them and their families.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] On the **Second Sunday of Year C** we celebrate the first 'sign of power' that manifests Jesus Glory as Son of God in human flesh. At the Marriage Feast of Cana as Jesus turns water into wine He expresses the true face of God - God the lover who comes to betroth humanity to Himself in the most profound Covenant of love. The depth of faithful and passionate love of husband and wife (at its best) is the closest human experience to express God's loving of us. That is why marriage is a sacrament - a witness to the God who is Love.

[2] This being the Sunday **during Christian Unity Week** the 10am Mass will be offered the healing of the wounds of division in the Christian Church, while rejoicing the rich diversity of the Body of Christ.

[3] **Mass with the LGBTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm - all welcome.

[4] Come and pray together with our fellow Christians in the Ashley area of our parish - **Unity Service at the Salvation Army Citadel, Ashley Road, St Paul's**.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Catharine (of Alexandria), Frome and St Dominic, Mells served by Canon Richard Dwyer, (retired) Bishop Crispian Hollis, Deacons David Brinn, Richard Mills, Parish administrator, Anna Pang, and both their communities.

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for our **Ministry of St Nicholas Bread Foodbank**, led and managed by Michael Conway. It is a vital ministry providing food and toiletries to families and individuals most afflicted by the cost of living crisis. The foodbank is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 12.30pm and needs supporting, not only donations of food, toiletries, nappies or money etc but also with volunteers, especially from the parish community. Please contact Michael Conway (07482425539) for more information about supporting this life-giving mission.

### **COLLECTIONS**

**22/12/24** G.A.Env: £40.00 + Loose £148.05+ S.O £165.88 = total: £353.93

**5/01/25** G.A.Env: £38.00 + Loose £194.09+ S.O £165.88 = total: £397.97

**Caritas** £205.00 **Donation (Ethiopian Community)** £200.00 Thank you!

**Christmas Offerings** £664.35

**Thank you for your Christmas offerings which contribute to your priest's annual stipend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.** ALSO - APOLOGIES THAT THE CARD READER HAS BEEN OUT OF ACTION FOR THE PAST MONTH - WE HOPE IT IS SOON RECTIFIED. FOR NOW USE CASH TO SUPPORT THE PARISH'S LIFE AND MISSION.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY 2025**

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

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

***The Father speaks to Jesus: 'You are my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased ... I will take you by the hand, who are a covenant for the people, a light to the nations'***

- 18th Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins - 'that we all be one'  
 19th Jan Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome  
 24th Jan Area Mass at Grace Etim's Home at 7.00pm  
 27th Jan Holocaust memorial Civic Event - City Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm  
 9th Feb Healing Mass for World Day of the Sick at 10.00am  
 9th Feb Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm, all welcome  
 20th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on zoom)  
 5th March **ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS WITH DAY OF FASTING**

**HEALING MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9th** Come to this special **Healing Mass for the World Day of the Sick** here at St Nicks on Sunday **9th February at 10.00am**. The **Sacrament of Anointing the Sick for Healing** will be offered to all who wish to receive the Healing Jesus and His Spirit in this way. A very special experience, Jesus touches us with healing love through the prayer of the Church gathered together. Jesus' Word of Healing is an event of transformation as we pray with and care for the sick and housebound, the troubled and anguished. Come yourself and bring others to Jesus.

**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!**

### **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 last year were 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**

After a break over Christmas, these talks resume next weekend. We continue the theme of prayer - reflecting on the 'Prayer of Praise'.

### **CLEANING OUR CHURCH**

We are short of people for the weekly clean. This normally happens on a Friday morning, so if anyone has a little time then, some more hands would be very helpful. If you can't come at that time, see Eddie and negotiate a time when you could do some of the cleaning. It's like Tesco - every little helps!

### **ARE YOU A SKILLED DESKTOP PUBLISHER?**

***The Father speaks to Jesus: 'You are my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased ... I will take you by the hand, who are a covenant for the people, a light to the nations'***

We'd like to have a think about redesigning our parish bulletin. Would you like to help? Do you have lots of ideas? Please speak to Fr Richard or to Margaret, or contact the parish office (email on the front of the bulletin)

**'SWEP' - SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL** This winter as in previous two years, St Nicks is a place of refuge, warmth and safety in the coldest conditions for rough sleepers - those sleeping in the open with frost and severe cold descending. Thank you to Michael Conway and Eddie Mgebeoduru who welcome those who staff and those who use this facility in or Parish Hall. 'I was homeless and you welcomed me into your House'. Thanks be to God!

**WHY PRAY AND WORK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY?** At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for the Church through the ages: 'Father, may they all be One as you and I are One, may they be so completely One that the world will believe'. Jesus also said about his followers (us): 'By your love for one another shall all people know you are My disciples'. As long as the Church is divided we are damaging our witness to the love of Christ for our world. As long as we are divided, we failing to love one another and are less disciples of Christ. As long as we are divided, we fail in our Mission to bring liberating truth, light and love to transform our world. How much longer will we ignore the Spirit's call to commit ourselves to building unity, healing the Church?

**A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development** 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? What can I do? Join us for an introduction to the Jubilee with our special guests including Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and see how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. And a special appearance by Ooberfuse.  
**Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online.** [Register here for free](#)

**Housing Support Register Co-ordinator post available at BCC**

The HSR coordinator post in the ISAT Team is being advertised. I use to do this job before I joined the commissioning team and I really enjoyed it. I would highly recommend the role. If you know of anyone who would be interested please let them know it is being advertised on BCCs jobs webpages:

Job Reference	VAC006361	Application Closing Date	26/01/2025
Location	100 Temple Street, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6AN		
Salary	£31,067-£33,366	Full time	Hours 37

If anyone is interested in applying and would like an informal chat about what the work, there are contact details in the job advert.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL:** When a Catholic goes into hospital, the patient or their family **MUST** request a visit from the Catholic Chaplain - data protection and confidentiality rules in hospitals prohibit the passing on of information to chaplaincies otherwise. The Chaplain cannot visit a patient without prior request to visit.

**JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE** Hope is a key virtue, along with faith and love - it is a trust in the future of the Church and the world. As Pilgrims of Hope we are witnesses and servants of a new future for our torn world, that it will one day become a 'New Heaven and a New Earth', ending war, poverty & injustice.

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