



## 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)

### THIRD SUNDAY OF YEAR C - 'Word of God Sunday'



#### *JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUE!*

This week we mark on the 27th January **Holocaust Memorial Day** - a sober day for every Christian knowing that the extermination of 7 million Jews (and 1 million others) was the evil fruit of centuries of Christian anti-semitism. We have denied our origins and roots in the ancient Covenants we share with our Jewish brothers and sisters. We have forgotten that the Lord Jesus we serve was Jewish. We have ignored that our worship, liturgy and especially the Eucharist owes so much to Jewish worship.

So Jesus goes to His home synagogue ('as he usually did') - proclaims the ancient prophecy, standing in the rich tradition of Old Testament prophets. As He unrolls the sacred scroll He unfolds the fullness of the Word and inaugurates the Age of the Spirit, the Age of the Jubilee. He defines His mission - and ours! - as a Mission of Liberation and Healing, a Mission to transform the world into God's Justice & Peace.

It all begins in the Synagogue - the spiritual home and school of His beloved People of the Covenant. Our faith begins in the Synagogue - to love Jesus is to reverence our Jewish roots and family.

**SUNDAY:** Parish Mass with Holocaust Memorial at 10.00 a.m (live-streamed)

**MONDAY:** No Liturgy - Holocaust Memorial Civic Event - City Hall at 11am-1pm

**TUESDAY** No Liturgy

**WEDNESDAY:** No Liturgy

**THURSDAY:** Feast of St Thomas Aquinas, Dominican priest & Theologian (1225-74)  
Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

*Jesus unrolled the Scroll of the Scriptures in the synagogue and declared: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, has anointed me, to proclaim good news to the poor'*

**FRIDAY: Feast of St John Bosco, Priest and Educator, founder of Salesians (1815-88)**  
**Adoration** at 8.30am      **Mass** at 9.00am (NB Change of time)

**SATURDAY: Feast of St David, Celtic monk and Bishop, Patron of Wales**  
**Adoration** at 11.30      **Mass** at 12.00 noon  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation** After Mass and at 4.00pm

**TODAY** [1] On the **Third Sunday of Year C** we return to Luke's Gospel (Year C is the Year of Luke in the Sunday Liturgy). We hear Luke speaking of his motivation in writing this Gospel (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit). We celebrate Jesus who is 'Good News to the Poor, setting the downtrodden free'. In his home synagogue of Nazareth he proclaims his purpose - to make the Jubilee of Freedom and Justice the constant reality of our world. We His Church care called to continue His Mission, His identity and transform our world in freedom and justice! Will we?

[2] We give thanks for the great gift of the **Word of God in our Sacred Scriptures - the Bible**. It contains the faith story of the People of God from the call of Abraham to the Mission of the Apostolic Church filled with the Holy Spirit.

[3] We also mark **Racial Justice Sunday**, and so we rejoice in the rich diversity of our parish community and seek to build our community as a Light of Hope in this Jubilee Year of Hope - may we show that peoples of our races and diversity can build together in and rejoice in each one's ethnicity and identity.

[4] On this 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenow death camp we **remember the inhumanity of the Holocaust**, the killing by the Nazi Regime of 7 million Jews and one million others (disabled, gay, Romany, and all who opposed the Nazi ideology).

**NEXT SUNDAY:** [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)** when the Incarnate Word of Gift enters the Temple 40 days after His birth in Bethlehem: He is greeted by Simeon and Anna, proclaimed the Light of the World and Mary is warned of the suffering that would come in bearing witness to the Light and love of God as Jesus was to do and be.

[2] We **bless the candles and oil** used to light the Church throughout the year.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Augustine of Canterbury, Matson and English Martyrs, Tuffley, served by Fr Gerry Walsh, Parish administrator, Mrs Marisa Wood, and their communities

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for our **Ministry of Altar Serving**. We rejoice in our excellent team of Altar Servers who enable and enhance our Sunday Liturgy. They work so well together they are an example to all our parish of great team work. We are training new altar servers (boys and girls of any age after they have celebrated their First Eucharist) at this time on a Saturday - the precise time to be confirmed. Please see Richard or Mary

### **COLLECTIONS**

G.A.Env: £30.00 + Loose £115.69 + S.O £165.88 = total: £493.98

**Caritas (T-shirts)** £29.70      **Zimbabwean Mass** £190.25 Thank you!

Apologies - the Card Reader is still not in use: Please use cash to support our mission.

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

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

13th Feb Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council at 7.30pm ~ (Assisi Centre)

15th Feb Zimbabwean Mass In Shona at 1.30pm

20th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on zoom)

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2nd March Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship 3.00pm, all welcome  
 5th March **ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT BEGINS WITH DAY OF FASTING**  
 12th March Ashley Churches Together Serving (ACTS) meet at 12.30pm (here)  
 20th March Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm (Assisi Centre)  
 24th March Feast of St Oscar Romero of El Salvador - Prophet of Justice  
 29th March Reconciliation Service including **First Reconciliation** at 2.00pm  
 5th April Lenten Day of Retreat on 'Reconciliation - Sacrament of Hope'  
 at St Bernadette's School 9.30-3.30pm  
 10th April Area Diocesan Service of Reconciliation at St Francis Nailsea 7pm

**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 June 2025) who have not yet been confirmed in the Holy Spirit and want to think about whether God is calling them to this commitment. We have only three young people who have come forward, which delays the possibility of Confirmation by Bishop Bosco. We hope other young people will come forward and we can arrange Confirmation later in the year. 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. Please see Richard to discuss preparation.

**AREA HOUSE MASSES RESUME** To gather parish members dispersed around Bristol, to bring the Eucharist to the community and to build small local communities, we are holding regular Area Masses, After such Masses we have simple refreshments - tea/coffee, biscuits (may be cake), but no more. Please contact Richard if you will host a Mass. **Area Mass for North Bristol at Aaron and Irene Tawodzera's Home, 12 Pine Road, Brentry, Bristol BS10 6RS at 7.00pm on Friday 21st Feb.**

**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. Like Tesco – every little helps!

**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.

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**SHORT TALKS ON YOUTUBE** These talks have resumed. We continue the theme of prayer - reflecting on different ways of praying. Our next YouTube will be on 'Praying the Liturgy'

**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. It is our calling and responsibility to build this 'New World' - to make real God's Vision for humanity and our planet - to be bearers of Hope!

**PEACE SUNDAY - POPE FRANCIS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS** Pope Francis stated 15 months ago: *'Now is the time to affirm not only the immorality of the use of nuclear weapons, but the immorality of their possession... genuinely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian effects of any employment of nuclear devices and the risk of accidental detonation as a result of any kind of error, the threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. They exist in the service of a mentality of fear.'*

**SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP** We meet on **Thursdays at 5.30-6.30pm**: come & share reflections, questions, insights on the Scripture Readings used at Mass on the following Sunday: ideal for all of us, but especially for Lay Readers Ministers of the Eucharist, and Catechists. Contact John Flannery (email: [j.flannery@btinternet.com](mailto:j.flannery@btinternet.com)) for the Zoom link.

### **LENT - A TIME FOR RENEWAL AND REPENTANCE**

[1] **Lenten Retreat day to reflect upon & experience Reconciliation as the Sacrament of Hope.** 5<sup>th</sup> April at St Bernadette's Catholic Secondary School, Bristol. Speakers are Fr. Brendan Callaghan SJ and Margaret & Barry Mizen. The day will provide conversation & reflection. We will finish with a Service of Reconciliation & the opportunity for individual confession with Bishop Bosco & priests from around the diocese. Refreshments from 9.30am, please bring a packed lunch, our day will end by 3.30pm. To register for the day, please click on the Eventbrite link: <https://embracingthemeracyofgod.eventbrite.co.uk> All are welcome!

[2] **Services of Reconciliation with Bishop Bosco around the diocese** It is an ancient custom for a Bishop to celebrate Liturgy in different parts of his Diocese during Lent - sometimes called 'Lenten Station Liturgies'. Bishop Bosco will preside at this Service of Reconciliation for our area on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at St Francis of Assisi Church, Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea, BS48 2LP - all encouraged to attend. Other Services around the diocese can be found on the poster in the porch.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - AN INTRODUCTION**, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is launching this online course for staff and volunteers in parishes and other interested parishioners. The programme will be spread over **five one-hour Zoom sessions on each Tuesday in March and on 01 April 2025**. The course is aimed at parishioners not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will hear from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our discussions to life. The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*. Click on the link below to find out more information, or get in touch with course administrator, Bernadette, at [bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk](mailto:bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk).

**CLARE ROBINSON RIP** We have been praying for many months for Margaret Ulloa's sister, Clare, suffering from terminal cancer. I am saddened to announce that Clare died (very peacefully) on Tuesday morning surrounded by her family. May she see God whom she loved face to face and know unending joy and the healing that is Resurrection.

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