



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

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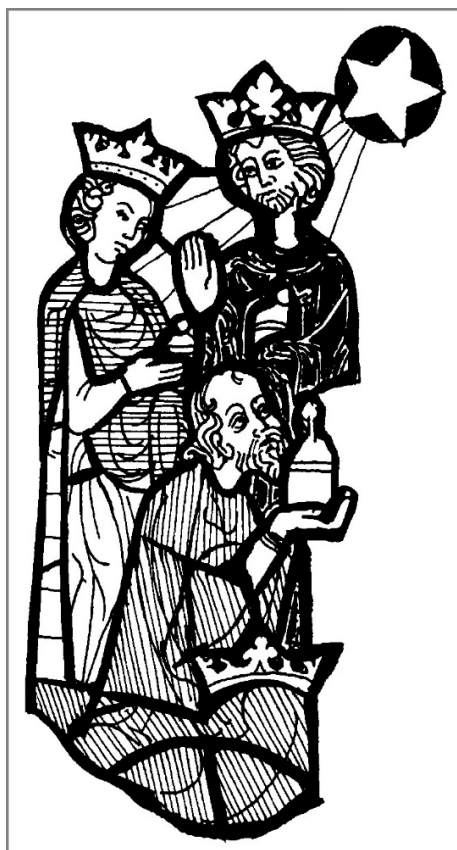
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)

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)

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



A FEAST OF GLORY MANIFESTED!

Seekers after wisdom have travelled far, and bring with them the hopes of the Nations, the gifts of the Peoples, the riches of Learning - and lay them before this vulnerable little child trapped in poverty and soon to be a refugee! These strong men of intellect who gaze upon the stars and research the wisdom of ages in their books: now they bend low, humbled and humbling in the generosity of their spirits and the humility of their minds - bending the knee to the child and His young mother and labourer father.

And in the poverty of the Bethlehem home they touch the quiet and hidden glory of Love made Flesh, of God in human skin, of the intertwining of the Divine and Human stories forever - literally for all eternity. They have found Wisdom - or rather Wisdom made Flesh has found them! Let us be drawn like them to the strange Glory of this God-touched Humanity. Forever we will walk a different Way as wise seekers and lovers! Then the Glory can be quietly and gently manifest in us! These strangers from distant lands bring us gifts - the gifts of their faith, their love, their searching, their searching and their courage. Then and now!

SUNDAY: Mass with Rite of Child Catechumenate at 10.00 a.m (live-streamed)

MONDAY: No Liturgy

TUESDAY *Feast of St Raymond of Penyafort, priest, Dominican (1180-1275)*
No Liturgy

WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy

THURSDAY: Mass for beginning of the School term and for Epiphany at 9.30am
Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00

*'Arise, Shine! for your light has come - the Glory of the Lord shines upon you!
All nations shall come to your light!'*

FRIDAY: *Funeral Mass for Stuart Jones RIP at 11.30am (Christ the King, Knowle West)*
Adoration at 12.00 noon **Service of Word and Communion** at 12.30pm

SATURDAY: **Adoration** at 11.30 **Mass** at 12.00 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation After Mass and at 4.00pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR A New Year is a time for reflection upon the past, and commitment to the future. Our Faith is faith in the future - the future God and ourselves will forge together for our own lives and for the world. A Future of Peace rather than war; a Future without poverty and injustice; a Future of harmony with our planet rather than our abuse and pillaging of 'our Common Home'. Does this seem an impossible dream? BUT...Our Faith is a faith in God's New Beginnings, who always redeems and heals the mistakes and tragedies of the past and launches us confidently upon the paths of the future. Our Faith is faith in a God who walks with us through dark threatening valleys towards light-filled joyous mountain tops - and helps us see the creativity and beauty of both! Let us as a parish community embrace this New Year with a new determination to place Christ first, to rebuild our community of love, prayer and inclusion of all. Let us serve the Mission of the Church as Good News to the Poor. I wish you every blessing this new Year - let us together make it a Year of Mission, a Year of Contemplation, a Year of Friendship with our Emmanuel, our God who walks always at our side in our hearts.

TODAY [1] We celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord** ... the 'manifestation' of the Glory of the Lord. Led by Light the Wise Ones discover Him who is the Light of the World,. In that Light, that little Child they discover a Wisdom greater than their books, and Light brighter than any star. They bring their extravagant gifts to Him Who is the Gift beyond any other! After encountering the Christ Child, they return to their own lands 'by a different Way' - they journey in the Way of Christ. Will we walk faithfully in the Way of Christ all our days?

[2] Please pray for the children and families preparing for Baptism into the Light of Christ, welcomed today into the community by the Rite of Catechumen.

NEXT SUNDAY: [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.

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for Parishes in Communion for Mission of St Thomas of Canterbury (Thomas Becket), Fairford with St Mary, Cricklade served by Fr Michael Robertson and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Ministry of Catechesis**, which seeks to grow understanding of our Catholic Christian Faith and form our children, young people and adults as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. Co-ordinated by Mary Hopper, catechists prepare our children for baptism, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation, our young people for Confirmation, and our parents for the baptism of their children. This is an essential ministry, the bedrock and foundations of members of our Faith Community now and into the future. **WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY TO OFFER THEMSELVES FOR THIS WORK OF FAITH FORMATION.** Training and support will be provided - please contact Mary Hopper or Richard.

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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!

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 THEN 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

5th Jan **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

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

9th Jan First Eucharist Course begins (Includes Parents meeting) 4.00pm

10th Jan First Reconciliation Course begins (Includes Parents meeting) 4pm

10th Jan Baptismal Course of Parents at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

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'

19th Jan Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome

25th 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

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 **11th 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!**

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 2nd Preparation Session: Friday 10th January at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)

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

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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.

CLEANING OUR CHURCH Thank you to everyone who responded to the shout-out for cleaners before Christmas. We are actually 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!

INVITED TO VISIT ST BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY - AN INITIATIVE FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OFM HOPE - GETTING TO KNOW OUR PASTORAL AREA PARISHES "You are warmly invited to a Parish Open Morning on Saturday 11th January 2025 at St Bonaventure's Church, Egerton Road Bristol BS7 8HP.

We will start with Mass at 9.30 followed by refreshments. Representatives from our parish groups will speak briefly about what they do, then afterwards there will be time to talk informally and find out more about what goes on at St Bons. You will also have a chance to look around our church and grounds if you wish, before making your way home for lunch. **We are holding this event to mark the beginning of the Church's Jubilee Year in 2025, and look forward to welcoming parishioners from neighbouring churches in our Pastoral Area.**

Our car park is accessed from **Berkeley Road not Egerton Road BS7 8AF**

ARE YOU A SKILLED DESKTOP PUBLISHER?

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 Mgbeoduru 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!

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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