St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE

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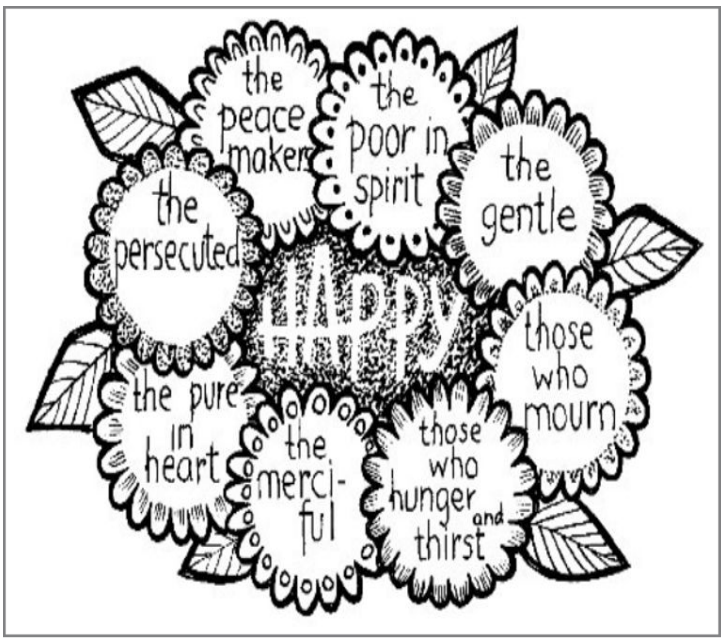
Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com
Download this Bulletin from the Parish Website: www.tolentino.org.uk
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)
Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaking of our buildings: Eddie Mgbeoduru
Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Paul Bradshaw-Price
Parish Administration & Hall/Room Bookings: Astrid Fagon and Team (0117-909-0419)

SIXTH SUNDAY of the YEAR - Racial Justice Sunday



When Good News is Bad News!

St Oscar Romero of El Salvador discovered what many in Latin America came to realise before him - if you preach the Good News of Jesus, Good News to the Poor, then inevitably it becomes Bad News to those who cling to their power, their wealth and their corruption. And so often the powerful will seek to silence the bearers of Good News … they assassinated St Oscar Romero while he was celebrating Mass!

Bad News if you refuse to change! But of course God's love is for rich and poor - but if the rich do not serve the poor and use their power to build a world where poverty and injustice is eradicated, then they have hardened their heart against God's love and will not experience that 'Joy which is the echo of God's Life in us'. And it will not matter how many prayers we say or Masses we attend or pages of the Bible we read - the only way to experience God's blessing is to love the Jesus of the Poor!

SUNDAY: **Mass at 10.00am**
Mass with the LBGTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm

MONDAY: **No Liturgy**

TUESDAY **No Liturgy**

WEDNESDAY: **No Liturgy**

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

FRIDAY: ***St Peter Damian, Reforming Bishop (1007-1072)***
Funeral Mass for Varilla Talbert RIP at 10.30am at 10.30am
Area House Mass for North Bristol at 12 Pine Road Brentry BS10 6RS at 7pm

Jesus challenges us to be truly His 'New Creation' - to love as He loves: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you! Be merciful as God your Father is merciful'

SATURDAY: ***Feast of the Chair of St Peter - Pray for Pope Francis***
Adoration at 11.30 ***Requiem Mass for Clare Robinson*** at 12.00 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation After Mass and at 4.00pm

TODAY [1] On the **Sixth Sunday of Year C** we celebrate Jesus the Prophet who speaks the voice of the poor in Luke's version of the 'Beatitudes'. He speaks the despair and the hope of the Poor for Justice; He speaks challenge and condemnation of the rich and powerful who ignore the cries and plight of the poor. These words of Jesus resonate in our world of today. But will we listen? Will we disciples of Jesus today echo these prophetic and challenging words today?
[2] This is also **Racial Justice Sunday** when we recommit ourselves to oppose every form of racist and anti-semitistic language and action in today's world.
[3] **Mass with the LBGTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm - all welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY: [1] On the **Seventh Sunday of Year C** we celebrate the unconditional love of God in Christ Jesus. The 'man of heaven' - Jesus - challenges us to bear His Image, to become men and women 'of heaven' and love with the same divine unconditional loving. 'Love your enemies' is the real test of our discipleship of Jesus - will we love as He loves? Will we forgive as He forgives?

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for 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 We pray for our **Ministry of Liturgical Music,** our choir and instrumentalists. St Augustine of Hippo said 'Singing is praying twice over' and also 'Sing a New Song to the Lord - our New Lives is the song we are to sing'. Singing in different languages is an essential part of our worship of God in our diverse parish and so we are seeking to rebuild our choir. We invite as many as possible to come and join the choir (it tries to meet for practice each Saturday at 1.30pm - but if more join us a different time could be arranged). We also need instrumentalists to accompany the singing: guitars, drums, and especially keyboard. Please contact Eneyi or Richard.

COLLECTIONS
G.A.Env: £75.00+ Loose £103.04 + Card Reader £97.50 + S.O £165.88 = total: £441.42
many thanks
I am glad to report that the Card Reader is now fully operative! Thank you!

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2025
20th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on zoom)
1st March'We Dare to Hope' faith-sharing course begins 10-11.30am
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)
15th March Mass with Zimbabwean Community in Shona at 1.30pm
16th March Mass with LBGTQ+ community & friends at 3.00pm
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
13th April **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**
20th April **EASTER SUNDAY - THE LORD IS RISEN ALLELUIA!**

Jesus challenges us to be truly His 'New Creation' - to love as He loves: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you! Be merciful as God your Father is merciful'

JOURNEY OF FAITH 2024/25 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.**

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 'Prayer and Action - conflict of cohesion?'

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!

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***) 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**. 5th 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://embracingthemercyofgod.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 the **Service of Reconciliation for our area on Thursday April 10th 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.

CLARE ROBINSON RIP Because many wanted to be at Clare's Funeral In Leicester but were unable to attend, Margaret has asked for Requiem Mass for Clare on Saturday 22nd February at 12noon. All are invited and there will be refreshments after the Mass.

'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE' It is our privilege to host here at St Nicks the Diocesan Ministry among the LBGTQ+ community. It would be a great sign of welcome, valuing 'Gay' Catholics, if more parishioners would come sometimes to our 3rd Sunday a month Mass with our LGBTQ+ friends. Do try to come occasionally and share with us.

NEED FOR WELCOMERS There will be a list for volunteers for the Welcoming Ministry as we are desperate for more people to help with this vital ministry of warmth, welcome and hospitality. It makes such a difference when people are warmly greeted at the door. Welcomers need to arrive no later than 9.45am for this Ministry, ready to greet people and hand out the bulletin and any Liturgy sheets.

LENTEN-EASTER COURSE - A JOURNEY OF HOPE We are 'Pilgrims of Hope' as we journey through this Jubilee Year of Hope, proclaimed by Pope Francis for the whole Church. Our diocese has encouraged us to use **'We dare to Hope'** - a resource for faith-sharing groups on the Jubilee theme of Hope. Lent is a time to reflect more, prayer more, and do more so that the Gospel can renew our lives in Christ. There will be a **'We Dare to Hope' Course 10am to 11.30am, followed by Mass at 12 noon on Saturday mornings beginning 1st March, then 15th & 22nd March, 12th & 26th April.** As I need to purchase the booklets, could people please sign up for this course - list in the porch. Please make the effort to come.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED ALL THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR OUR SUNDAY MASS? Would you like to help to prepare for our masses? We need someone (or a few people) who could come a bit earlier on a Sunday and learn where things are stored, what needs to be set out for mass, how to check on supplies and to do all the little jobs connected with the Sacristy. Might you be one of those people? Come and talk to to Mary after Mass!

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