



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

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Catechesis: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) Caretaking of our buildings: Eddie Mgbeoduru

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SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER YEAR C



TOUCHING THE WOUNDS

Why was the Risen Jesus scarred by the wounds of crucifixion and death? Surely they should have been healed? Obliterated?

It was not simply so that the disciples could be sure it was really Him, really alive! Resurrection does not obliterate death - it transforms it: for Jesus and for us. Healing is about growing through our woundedness to a new wholeness, not removing the wounds. For our wounds are the privileged meeting places with the divine, transforming Love. Our wounds become the place of growth, of new becoming and new beginning. We become whom we truly are through our wounds as touched by Love they become well-springs of healing and wholeness - source of our resurrection and new life.

And Thomas the doubting Apostle must touch the wounds - not only so that he will believe at last, but so that the Church formed upon the foundation stones of the witness of the Apostles, will know that it must always touch the wounds of humanity, the scars of the world, the cries and tears of the Earth, if we are to know the Risen Jesus and become part of His Rising in today's world. With love and courage to be Jesus

SUNDAY: Mass at 10.00am

Mass with LGBTQ+ community with Reception of Andrew Searle into Full Communion and Confirmation at 3.00pm - all welcome

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY No Liturgy

THURSDAY: Feast of St Joseph the Worker - Labour Day - Jubilee Icon at St Nicks

Adoration at 11.30 am Mass of Hope at 12.00 noon

Evening Prayer of Hope before National Jubilee Icon of Hope at 7.00pm

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FRIDAY: Feast of St Athanasius, Bishop & theologian of the Incarnation (296-373)
Adoration at 11.30am **Mass of Hope** at 12 noon **Jubilee Icon at St Nicks**

SATURDAY: Feast of St Philip & James, Apostles

We Dare to Hope Session Five 10.am to 11.30am

Adoration at 11.30 **Mass** at 12.00 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and 4.00pm

TODAY [1] '**Low Sunday**', the Octave Day of Easter: we celebrate the wonder of this Feast of Feasts throughout the week. In the early Church this was the only other day that Baptism was celebrated - an overflow if there were too many to be baptised during the Vigil itself. The Word of God speaks to us of that **first Christian Community in Jerusalem that was so close and loving** that its life together that 'great signs and wonders were worked among them' and healing flowed from them into their city. They witnessed to the Risen Lord, the source of New Life! They were a community overflowing with healing and life empowering the witness of Peter and the other Apostles. The conversion of St Thomas from his doubt to profound faith came about because he returned to the Community of the Resurrection and discovered Jesus alive in the midst of them! Does this describe our parish, our Church?

[2] **Mass with our LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm.** Our Elected Catechumen, Andrew Searle will be received into Full Communion, confirmed in the Holy Spirit and be welcomed in the Eucharistic community, sharing Jesus' Body and Blood with us. All are welcome to attend this mass, of course!

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Third Sunday of Easter Year C** we celebrate then mercy and forgiveness of the Risen Jesus. He appears to the fishermen of Galilee and re-enacts their calling to become 'fishers of people'. He is forgiving their failures and lack of courage (in the Garden of Gethsemane 'they all fled'); and Peter denied him three times. In forgiving them He entrusts to them afresh the Mission to gather the nations to Christ Jesus, and to the 'feed my lambs'. He forgives and trusts us too!

[2] Mass will be offered **for the Holy Spirit's guidance in electing our new Pope - 'Come Holy Spirit, Spirit of Wisdom, Spirit of Courage, Spirit of Love'**

[3] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship** at 3.00pm - all welcome

DIOCESAN PRAYER The Diocese prays today for the Parish in Communion for Mission of Sacred Heart, Tisbury, with All Saints Chapel, Wardour, served by Fr Anthony Paris with priest-in-residence Fr Jonothan Creer, and both their communities.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray today for the Ministry of our **Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders**, who Sunday by Sunday seek to explore the Gospel in a way appropriate for our children 4-8 years old. With the guidance of Mary Hopper, our CLOW leaders work in pairs on a 4/5 week rota. This Ministry is a very important foundation for later catechesis (First Eucharist, Reconciliation etc), as well as building up community among our children - the 'little church'. **Unfortunately we now have so few CLOW leaders available that we can only provide CLOW every 2 weeks. Would you help us to provide this every week by volunteering to work with our children, please contact Mary - more volunteers are urgently needed.**

COLLECTIONS - EASTER OFFERINGS

G.A.Env: £00 + Loose £396.93+ Card Reader £? +S.O. £165.88 = £562.81 **thanks!**

CAFOD (Myanmar) ££75.60 Caritas: £104.60 Good Friday Holy Places £82.44

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

1-2nd May	National Jubilee Icon of Hope here at St Nicks
1st May	St Nick's School Governors meet
1st May	Parish Pastoral Council meets at 7.30pm
3rd May	'Encounter 2025' Launch at Clifton Cathedral 9.30am-4.00pm
4th May	Nominations for PPC Elections published]
4th May	Presentation of 2023/2024 Parish Accounts at 10.00am Mass
4th May	Family Fun Day at Emmaus House, Whitchurch 1.00-4.00pm
11th May	Elections to our Parish pastoral Council during Mass
14th May	Ashley Churches Together Serving (ACTS) meet at 12.30pm
15th May	Parish Finance Committee meets at 7.30pm
17th May	Celebration of Marriage and family Life Mass 12 noon at Cathedral
18th May	First Eucharist Sunday at 10.00am
24th May	Second 'Laudato Si' Day of Reflection Mass at 12noon ends 5.00pm
29th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (HolyDay of Obligation)
7th June	Vigil Mass of Pentecost at 8.00pm
9th June	SOLEMN FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME RENEWING SPIRIT, COME!

VISIT OF NATIONAL JUBILEE ICON OF HOPE TO ST NICKS In order to celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, an icon was commissioned from artist Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Ethiopia was chosen because of the strong tradition of iconography within the country and to demonstrate that this is a global Jubilee. The Icon is touring our dioceses in England and Wales and will be in Clifton between 28th April-9th May. We are privileged here at St Nicks to host this Jubilee Icon on Thursday and Friday 1st-2nd May and there will be a special Jubilee Mass of Hope on both days, together with times of prayer to be announced.

AREA HOUSE MASS 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. **Any Volunteers for the next few Area Masses ? Please contact Richard**

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.

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 12th & 26th April.**

CAFOD-ROMERO TRUST PILGRIMAGE TO EL SALVADOR This year marks the 45th Anniversary of the assassination of St Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, while he was celebrating Mass. A Martyr for Justice! There is a **Pilgrimage to El Salvador organised by CAFOD/Romero Trust from November 10-20th 2025.** Richard will

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be going on this Pilgrimage. The cost including all flights will be approximately £2,300. If anyone is interested in participating, I can give more information.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES August 22nd to 29th The healing shrine of Mary under the title of 'The immaculate Conception'. Mary appeared to a young sick child called Bernadette in one of the poorest parts of France - a frontier village in the Pyrenees. Since then countless millions of pilgrims have flocked there, often bringing sickness, depression and profound burdens - finding peace and strength and often physical and emotional healing. For further details please go the diocesan website to find **LOURDES/CLIFTON DIOCESE**

MASS CELEBRATING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE Bishop Bosco invites all families to come and share this mass on **Saturday 17th May at 12noon**. All celebrating particular Wedding Anniversaries are especially invited - please let Richard or the Parish Office know if you are celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th or even 60th anniversaries and if you let us have your address you will receive a individual invitation to the Mass.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - Sunday 11th May - Day of Prayer for Vocations We are asked to pray for a deepened sense of vocation in each of our lives and parish community. All of us has a unique vocation from God; called to proclaim the Good News and serve the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace; called to care for our planet, healing the abuse of our good Earth, that future generations can thrive. Vocations to marriage, to ordained ministries and to the religious life are all necessary to the mission of God's Church. Pray also for new expressions of ordained ministry!

ENCOUNTER 2025 This diocesan wide programme aims to equip and empower people to share their faith and be renewed in heart and mind through opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit. The programme begins on **Saturday, 3rd May, with a launch event at the Cathedral**, open to all ages. With children's streams, so families can participate in this journey, the weekly sessions follow on Wednesday evenings, live-streamed from the Cathedral. Everyone across the Diocese to join in. These will be recorded and available to view at a later date.
For more information: email pentecost@cliftondiocese.com

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE We are invited to this special event with Bishop Bosco at Downside Abbey and School on Saturday 19th July. There will be three keynote speakers and a full programme for children and young people (from 3-15 years). Full details: Jubilee Celebration of Hope | Clifton Diocese Register via the link: www.jubileedayofhope.eventbrite.co.uk

ELECTION OF OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL We are holding elections for all 12 members of our Parish Pastoral Council. on 11th May. Nomination Papers are available today - please pray and think who might have the commitment, skills and capacity to serve the future development of our parish. Nominations papers must be returned to the parish office by Friday 2nd May so that all nominees can be introduced to the parish at Mass on Sunday 4th, preparing for the voting on May 11.

CONDOLENCES RECEIVED - THANK YOU! The parish has received many messages of condolence and assurances of prayer on the occasion of the death of Pope Francis - other church traditions as well as the Synagogue and our Muslim friends. This is a testimony to the impact of Francis on our world - thank you for your prayer!

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