



## 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)

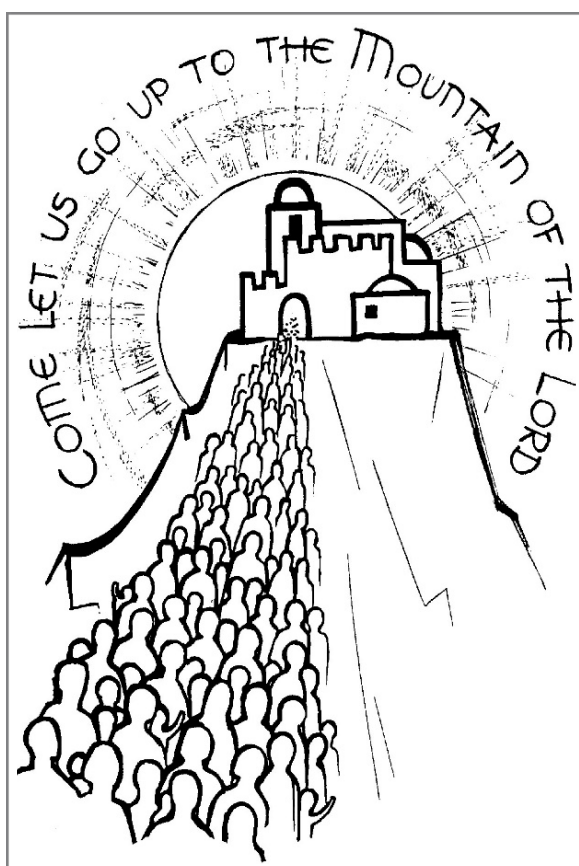
Parish Priest - Rev Richard McKay (tel: 07779677370)

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)

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**



### **SECOND COMING - IMPOSSIBLE!?**

We cry out with the earliest Christians: 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus Come!' But does it make sense in our modern scientific world to think that one day Jesus will come 'on the clouds of Heaven' and transform all creation into His Glory?

Our world, our Universe has been evolving for billions of years. From this gradual evolution the amazing creation we call man and woman has emerged. Now we too shape the course of evolution, by our science and engineering, but our research and exploration. And that is what always intended - He invites us to be 'co-creators' with Him of this evolving Universe.

And what is the goal of this Evolution? Annihilation in another 'Big Bang' (or 'Cosmic Crunch')? Emphatically NO! We are to fill the world with the Spirit of Christ, so that evolution takes a new direction towards its truest destiny - utter integration into the reality of the Cosmic Christ! Jesus will come again - not on the clouds of heaven like some astronaut, but emerging in all creation clothed in the Glory of God's Love! We do not wait - we work for the Coming of the Kingdom by building a world of Justice, a world of compassion, an era of Peace!

**SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (Live-streamed)**

**MONDAY: No Liturgy**

**TUESDAY: No Liturgy**

**WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Francis Xavier, early Jesuit missionary priest (1506-1551)**

**No Liturgy**

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**THURSDAY:** **Feast of St Charles de Foucauld & St Alexander Bryant, priest-martyr**  
**School Mass with blessing of Advent Wreaths** at 9.30am  
**Adoration** at 11.30am      **Mass** at 12.00noon

**FRIDAY:** **Feast of St Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury (died 1099)**  
**Adoration** at 11.30am      **Mass** at 12.00noon

**SATURDAY:** **Feast of St Nicholas of Myra (& Bari), Bishop (4th Century)**  
**Adoration** at 11.30am      **Mass** at 12.00noon  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**TODAY** [1] We begin a new Liturgical Year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. We are on Cycle A - with the Gospels from St Matthew. Jesus calls us to be truly awake - awake to our world and its needs and crises; awake to those around us - family, friends, community; awake to the cries of the Earth, the cries of the poor! Awake to the 'signs of the times' and ready for action!

[2] The First Sunday of Advent is the '**Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees**'. This annual Day of Prayer was inaugurated by Pope Francis and could not be more timely in the light of the proposed legislation from the Home Office and how political leadership has betrayed our beloved refugee community by seeking to pass draconian and inhuman measures and restrictions.

[3] **Meeting after 10.00am Mass for parents of children to be prepared for First Eucharist or First Reconciliation in 2025**

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Second Sunday of Advent** celebrates that God sent John the Baptist 'to prepare the Way of the Lord', to open His People's hearts to repentance, straightening our twisted ways so that the Christ of God could enter in and reign through love in our lives. Advent is a 'penitential season' (hence the purple vestments), a call to wake up to our need to change direction. Let us not be afraid to 'change our ways' so that we can walk in the Way of Christ, the Way of love and justice. And we are also called to be John the Baptist to others, calling our world, society, nation to 'change its ways' by listening to 'the cries of the poor, the cries of the Earth'.

[2] **Mass with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship** at 3.00pm - all are welcome.

[3] **Retiring Collection for Poor Missions of the Diocese** - helping our poor parishes

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for our **Ministry of Liturgical Music**, our choir and instrumentalists, led by Eneyi (thank you!). 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 is currently practicing each Sunday after Mass - but if more join us a different time could be arranged). **We also need instrumentalists to accompany the singing: guitars, drums, and especially key-board.** Please contact Eneyi or Richard

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** Today the Diocese prays for the Parishes in communion for mission of Our Lady, St Mary of Glastonbury, Glastonbury, St Michael, Shepton Mallet, Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Cheddar, St Joseph & St Teresa, Wells served by Fr Mark Moran, Fr Tony Pazhayakalam CSTR Parish Administrators Mrs Clare Sharp, Mrs Charlotte Lythaby and all their communities.

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**COLLECTIONS**

GA: £10.00 + Loose £197.21 + Card Reader £?? + S.O. £165.88 = £373.09

**Zimbabwean** £73.61 **Minette's Cake Sale for Jamaica Hurricane** £193.35 thanks!

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

30th Nov **Advent begins - New Liturgical Year - Year A (Matthew's Gospel)**

30th Nov Meeting of Parents seeking First Eucharist & Reconciliation for their children **(after 10.00am Mass)**

4th Dec Advent School Mass (Church) at 9.30am - all welcome

6th Dec Community Stewards Meeting at 1.00pm (Assisi Centre)

9th Dec **Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 7.00pm**

17th Dec School Infants Nativity Play (Church) at 2.00pm - all welcome

18th Dec School Carol Service (Church) at 2.00pm - all welcome

19th Dec School pre-Christmas Mass at 9.30am - all welcome

24th Dec **CHRISTMAS EVE - MIDNIGHT MASS** at 10.30pm

25th Dec **SOLEMN DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS** at 10.00am

**ADVENT - THE VISION OF MISSION**

Advent is a time for 'people with far-seeing eyes' - awakened to the reality of our world, ready to listen and to gaze: in order to recognise where, when and how Jesus comes in the 21st century (in the poverty, among the oppressed, disguised as an addict or as homeless, crying out for acceptance and freedom in the asylum-seeker, yearning for peace among the women and children who are the greatest victims of our wars). But you have to have courage to see and to hear - and more courage to speak and to act! The Spirit of God unfolds a vision of Mission - to transform the deserts and wastelands of our world into places of hope, rich and fertile in humanity and justice, healing and freedom. Our Mission is world-challenging and world-changing. Let our worship empower our mission, as we gaze upon bread from the fields and wine from the hills being transformed utterly in Christ by the Spirit and the Word through the ministry of the Church!

**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**

Throughout the new Liturgical Year (A) most Sundays we will be proclaiming the Gospel of St Matthew. This is the most Jewish of the Gospels, arising from the life experience (and so the questions and issues) of a first century Christian community composed mostly of Jews who had embraced Jesus as the Messiah they had long awaited. The author seems to have been a rabbi as many rabbinical techniques are used in this Gospel (eg grouping miracles, healings, parables in groups of seven). Jesus is presented as a New Moses giving a New Law (the Beatitudes) that fulfils and surpasses the Old Law. At a time when Christian Jews were excommunicated from the Synagogues and Jerusalem and its Temple lay in ruins at the hands of the Roman Army, the author is seeking to reassure them that they were being faithful to God's Covenant with His people in accepting Jesus, Messiah and Son of God ... they were faithful Jews by becoming Christians: the Gospel concludes with the Universal Mission ('all nations') entrusted to them by the Risen and Glorious Christ at the mountain of the Ascension.

**ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION - 'MARY'S YES' Saturday 6th December**

You are invited to this day of Prayer, Teaching, personal reflection time and sharing at the Apostle Room at Clifton Cathedral - starting at 10.15am (after Mass at 9.30am) and finishing at 3.30pm - bring packed lunch. Part of our 'Jubilee Year of Hope' Journey  
Contact: [adult.education@cliffondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliffondiocese.com)

**ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS**

Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering [Essential Training for Catechists](#). Parishioners can join us on Saturdays, 6th, 13th & 20th December, online, from 9am to 12 noon for a short course

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of 3 sessions, to discover the essential nature and principles of catechesis, the sources of catechesis, and the best ways to prepare and deliver our catechesis. This course is open to everyone involved or interested in any kind of catechesis for adults, young people or children. Anyone interested can sign up for the series by clicking on the Zoom link [here](#). More information on other courses & sessions run by the Sisters can be found on the following link: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

### **ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL - ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2026**

Thinking of Reception Class for your child next year? Please take a look at our parish primary school. **Open Day Visits: Friday 5th December 1.30pm-3.00pm**

**Monday 8th Dec 9.30am-11.00am**

**Friday 9th January 2026 9.30am-11.00am**

If you are unable to make any of these times, then please contact the School Office to book a suitable time- tel; 0117-377-2260

### **MASS CELEBRATING FAMILY LIFE**

Bishop Bosco is to celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 14 February** (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2026 please do let us know. You just need to send names to: [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, we look forward to seeing you there.

### **Neurodiversity and our Faith research**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you're an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a Caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to fill in our short surveys look here:

[www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys)

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)**

We have not been able to restart this essential part of our Liturgy and the foundation of catechesis for our children through lack of enough volunteers to help our children and parish in this way. **However we are having Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday in Advent - starting next Sunday. BUT WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY. Please offer some time and energy so that our children can enter more fully into the wonder of the Mass - Eucharist and the Word of God.**

### **CAFOD WORLD GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS**

Why not give a friend or family a gift that benefits the poorest of our world. Jesus is not honoured by lavish gifts to each other - when you give someone a CAFOD World Gift, you are giving to Jesus who identified himself with the poor who benefit from your Gift. 'Whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers you do to me!' The catalogues for these CAFOD World Gifts can be found on the CAFOD website: [www.cafod.org.uk/give/christmas-world-gifts](http://www.cafod.org.uk/give/christmas-world-gifts)

### **ADVENT - A TIME TO TURN BACK TO GOD**

This is a time to come humbly before God, seek His Ways: to help you, why not return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) this Advent in your preparation for celebrating the Birth of Jesus our Saviour.

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