



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

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(Office open: Monday-Friday 10am - 1.00pm)

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Clifton Diocesan Website: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

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: Office Team (0117-909-0419)

Community Stewards: Eustace Tameh (Finance), Margaret Ulloa (Property),

Benedicta Lobela Amba (Youth), Epiphania Chipato (Pastoral) Mary Hopper (Catechesis)

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A



#### *The Kingdom's Blessings*

Strange blessings! To be poor, gentle, grieving, persecuted for truth, lied about for Jesus' name. Not the blessings most people look for - to be wealthy, powerful, always fulfilled and never grieving, popular and famous.

Strange blessings that belong to God's 'upside-down Kingdom' - blessings that subvert the world as it is, that challenge the establishment with truth, challenge the strong with gentleness, challenge the wealthy with the cries of the poor.

Strange blessings - yet the open secret to build a world at peace founded on justice! The secret for humanity fully alive! The secret to live in sacred communion with each other and with the all creation! The secret to heal our planet and reduce Global Warming! The secret of how to 'listen to the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth' and build one 'common home'.

**SUNDAY:** PARISH MASS with Candlemas blessing of Candles at 10.00am (Live-streamed)

Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome

**MONDAY:** The Presentation of the Lord

No Liturgy

**TUESDAY:** St Ansgar, Bishop, and St Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

No Liturgy

*Jesus tells us 'Be God's Blessing to the world - by sharing, being gentle, hungry for justice, forgiving and merciful, peace-making, ready to suffer for the Kingdom of God'*

**WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy**

**THURSDAY: St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr (died 250?)**  
**Funeral Mass – Muriel Lewis R.I.P 11.00 am**

**FRIDAY: St Paul Miki, Jesuit priest and the Martyrs of Nagasaki (1597)**  
**Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 midday**

**SATURDAY: Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 midday**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm**

**TODAY** [1] With the **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)** we celebrate Jesus beginning His Ministry of Teaching and Preaching as he begins the famous 'Sermon on the Mount'. He proclaims the Blessings of God (the 'Beatitudes') - how we can experience our life as blessed by the Lord and how we can become a Blessing to others - by being non-possessive and sharing, sensitive to other's pain, gentle and forgiving and peace-making - and with a passion for justice. His Beatitudes are His agenda for a better world and our agenda for a life of discipleship and happiness.

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

[3] **Retiring collection for the Church's Mission to combat Racial discrimination** and to promote Racial Equality - please be generous.

**IMPORTANCE OF SUNDAY MASS:** FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES, SUNDAY WAS THE DAY THAT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD AND CELEBRATE JESUS CALL TO COMMUNITY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF WORK PREVENTS YOU FROM COMING TO OUR 10am MASS THERE ARE 3.00pm MASSES AVAILABLE TO YOU TWICE A MONTH - 1st and 3rd Sundays. IT IS SO IMPORTANT NOT TO MISS SUNDAY MASS UNLESS SERIOUS ISSUES PREVENT (LIKE SICKNESS, CARING RESPONSIBILITIES, UNAVOIDABLE WORK. WE MUST RECLAIM SUNDAY AS THE LORD'S DAY!

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] On the **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)** we celebrate Jesus the Master Who teaches us in the coming weeks how to be true disciples, how to be 'salt to the earth and light to the world'. As the Body of Christ, the Church we are called to build together communities that taste of God's love and shine with the Light of His wisdom and compassion. Will we be true missionary disciples?

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry and Mission of our Parish Pastoral Council**. The current Chair is Marta Bolognani, but co-chairs will be appointed at the next Vision Day. It is elected by the parish congregation and seeks to represent the diversity of our community. The parish priest and Lay Pastoral Assistant are ex-officio members. It is the most important decision-making body, reflecting the many and varied 'voices' of our parish family and offering leadership by word and example. It meets approximately every month. Please contact PPC members with your ideas, concerns and hopes for the parish community and its future development. This is part of being a 'synodal' parish.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** We pray for parish in communion for mission of Immaculate Conception, Devizes with St Joseph's Lavington, served by Fr Terry McGrath MSFS, Parish Administrator Jennie Bannister and their community.

### **COLLECTIONS**

GA: £10.00 + Loose £170.90 + Card Reader £??? + S.O. £206.35 = £387.25

**Zimbabwean Mass offering** £67.45

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**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

1st Feb Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome  
3rd Feb St Nick's School Governors meet at 5.00pm (School)  
11th Feb Parish Pastoral Council meet after 6.30pm Mass (Assisi Centre)  
15th Feb Ministries at Mass led by our young people  
18th Feb **ASH-WEDNESDAY ... LENT BEGINS** Mass at 9.30am and 8.00pm  
19th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (via Zoom)  
10th March School Governors meet at 5.00pm  
15th March **Visit of Bishop Bosco, presiding at 10am Mass and meeting with parish**  
18th March Parish Pastoral Council meets after 6.30pm Mass  
24th March Feast of St Oscar Romero, martyred Archbishop of El Salvador  
25th March **Feast of the Annunciation**  
26th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (via Zoom)  
29th March **PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK BEGINS**  
4th April **EASTER SUNDAY - ALLELUIA!**

**PASTORAL VISIT TO ST NICKS BY BISHOP BOSCO** I am delighted to announce that Bishop Bosco on Sunday March 15th will preside at 10am Mass, then meet parishioners then hold a meeting of the Joint Committees (Parish pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, and The Legacy Management Group, together with the Community Stewards). **Please everyone make it a priority to come and share Mass that day and stay on to meet our Bishop - his first official visit to St Nick's Community.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)** If we are to have Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday or even every other Sunday, **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.

**MONTHLY YOUTH-LED MASS** We congratulate our young people as they bring their special gifts and presence to our monthly Youth-led Mass (on the Third Sunday of the Month). Parents and friends please encourage our young people to fulfil a ministry on Sunday 15th February and on Sunday 15th March, when Bishop Bosco will be with us.

**NEWS ABOUT THE WILLOW TREE IN OUR CAR PARK** Some of you may know that twice in the past four years a major branch of this beautiful tree broke away from its trunk, most recently two months ago. After consultation with Diocesan Property Services we have sadly commissioned Tree surgeons to remove the tree. It presents an unacceptable risk to children in the school, users of the car park and property - cars, the Dunstan Centre etc. A beautiful tree sadly in the wrong place!

**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. We will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. If you are a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2026 please do let us know. Send names to: [adult.education@cliffondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliffondiocese.com) with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating.

**PART-TIME PARISH ADMINISTRATOR (Maternity Cover to 31st December 2026)**

***Jesus tells us 'Be God's Blessing to the world - by sharing, being gentle, hungry for justice, forgiving and merciful, peace-making, ready to suffer for the Kingdom of God'***

We are recruiting for a Part-Time (14hrs per week) Parish Administrator to oversee all parish office tasks and support the Parish Priest in the day to day running of the parish. Reporting to the Parish Priest, the successful candidate will have excellent verbal, written and communication skills. They should be organised and pro-active with the ability to work alone and prioritise work demands in an often-busy environment. The Candidate will often be the first point of contact for enquiries from parishioners with varying needs who will visit the office for help and support. An excellent knowledge of Microsoft 365 programmes and computer skills is required. Any experience in a similar role would be desirable. For further information and an application form, please visit the parish website [St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Bristol](https://www.stnicholasofbristol.org.uk) or by email to [paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com).

Closing date for receipt of applications: **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

**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)

#### **Diocesan Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026 21st ~ 28th AUGUST 2026**

This Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Bosco MacDonald with the Catholic Association of Lourdes UK Including Airport transfers from Bristol to Birmingham Airport, Flights to Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées Airport, hotel transfers. Full pilgrimage programme, including visits to the Grotto of the Apparitions, Mass each day, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Sacrament of Reconciliation, visits to sites related to St Bernadette, Open air Mass in the Cite-San- Pierre, Water Gesture, Station of the Cross...Diocesan Day Trip to Bartres (extra charge)

Please email [lourdes@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:lourdes@cliftondiocese.com) to declare an interest

**SHINING A LIGHT ON RACISM IN ENGLAND** A reflective and action-focused public webinar on Thursday 5th February 2026 7.30-9.00pm online via Zoom. For the link please contact the National Justice and peace Network (NJPN) <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

**CHURCH CLEANING - FRIDAY MORNINGS** Thank you to those who have been serving the parish in this way each Friday morning from about 10.00am onwards. **Some have found work so we urgently need more volunteers who can commit once or twice a month to come.** Please Contact Eddie or Richard to volunteer for this ministry, this act of service to God and the whole community. Thank you!

**PREPARING FOR LENT - A SEASON OF RENEWAL** As part of our lenten journey of renewal, we wish to hold Area Masses each week of Lent (except Holy Week). **Would you be willing to host such a Mass in your home, welcoming parishioners who live in your geographical area.** We will supply known addresses in the particular area so that the host can invite them to their home for the Mass. This will be in addition to other initiatives such as Stations of the Cross each Sunday after the refreshments after the Mass. If you are willing to host such a Mass in your home, please contact either Richard or the Parish Office Team as soon as possible.

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