



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

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)**

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Why does the Son of God seek Baptism?

Leaving Nazareth in the north, Jesus travels seven days to the Jordan in the south in order to join His cousin John, to be baptised by him. But why?

Jesus was utterly human like us - the mystery of the Incarnation that has baffled every generation! That means his self-understanding is, like ours, limited. While realising He had a unique and special relationship with the God He alone knew with the familiarity of 'Abba', Daddy!, He could not yet have known all that this meant. He knew God was calling Him - at first that meant for Him to be the disciple of John, the spiritual hero figure of the day!

But then something amazing happened - the fullness of the Spirit came upon Him, prophecies were fulfilled and He broke through in His humanity to a new depth and awareness of this Abba-Son relationship. The Spirit brought Him to a new knowledge - and Spirit brings us also to a new knowledge - that we too are daughters and sons of Abba! We too are filled to overflowing with the same Spirit - we too are Servants of the Kingdom and daughters and sons of God - ALLELUIA!

The Lord says to Jesus and to us: 'You are my servant - you are to be a Light to the nations that my Salvation may reach to the ends of the Earth'

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

MONDAY: St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot (1110-1167) No Liturgy

TUESDAY: St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor (315-367) No Liturgy

WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy

THURSDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12.00noon

FRIDAY: Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00noon

SATURDAY: St Anthony Abbot, Founder of Christian Monasticism (251-356)

Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF YEAR A - Day of Prayer for World Peace

SUNDAY PARISH MASS 10.00am (youth-led) (live streamed)
Mass with our LGBTQ+ community & friends at 3.00pm - all very welcome

MONDAY St Wulstan, Last Saxon Bishop (1008-1095) No Liturgy

TUESDAY St Fabian, Pope and Martyr, St Sebastian, Martyr (3rd Century) No Liturgy

WEDNESDAY St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr (died 305) No Liturgy

THURSDAY St Vincent, Deacon First Spanish Martyr (3rd Century)

Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

FRIDAY Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00noon

SATURDAY St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor (1567-1622)

Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00noon

11/01/2026 [1] The Christmas Season draws to a close as we celebrate **the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. In Jesus adulthood, he commits Himself to His Father's vision for His life on Earth, commits Himself to the Father's Word and Mission, which would lead him to the Sacrifice of the Cross - the ultimate abandonment of Himself in trust into the Father's Hands! This abandonment is glimpsed when He stayed in the Temple at the age of 13 and found a new depth in His submitting to John's Baptism in the Jordan River. **Jesus invites us today to renew our baptismal commitment, and abandon ourselves into God's hands, because He is our Father!**

[2] We rejoice in the Baptism of baby Jonathan (Joni) Samuel and pray for Mairead and Alon, his parents and Benjamin, his brother.

18/01/2026 [1] The **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A** celebrates Jesus, the Lamb of God as John the Baptist describes Him. How John recognises Him as the long-awaited Messiah is that the Spirit came and rested on Jesus, abided in Him. Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit of God's love Who empowers Him with the sacrificial love needed for His saving Mission. We have received that same Spirit Who also abides in us! Will we serve with a sacrificial love to bring Jesus' salvation to our world?

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[2] The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins today, which we mark during our Mass - please pray that 'we might all be One in Christ Jesus'

[3] Our young people will lead the various ministries involved in our Mass

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for our **Proclaimers of the Word**, co-ordinated by Lucy Lourenco . This ministry of life-giving importance as the Word of God is our daily 'Bread for the Journey'. Christ is truly present among us in His Word proclaimed in our Liturgical Assembly. The Word is not simply 'read' but is to be proclaimed with faith and love, with understanding passion. We also pray for our **Preaching Team** who regularly 'break the Bread of the Word' for us one Sunday a month and when I am away on a Sunday.

DIOCESAN PRAYER We pray this week for the parishes in communion for mission of Immaculate Conception, Clevedon with St Dunstan and Antony Yatton, served by the Franciscan community, Deacon John Woodcock, parish administrator Tom Osman and its community.

COLLECTIONS

GA: £30.00 + Loose £177.00 + Card Reader £75.00 + S.O. £206.35 = £488.35

Christmas Offerings £460.71 - many thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

11th Jan **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** - Baptismal Sunday

18th Jan Mass with LGBTQ+ community at 3.00pm - all welcome

21st Jan Parish Pastoral Council meets after 6.30pm Mass (7.15pm - Assisi Centre)

22nd Jan Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on Zoom)

24th Jan Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Janice, visits St Nicks 10am Mass

27th Jan Holocaust Memorial Day -Civic Event in City Hall 11.00am

29th Jan Bristol City of Sanctuary AGM at 5.00pm - all welcome

1st Feb Mass with Catholic Handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome

3rd Feb St Nick's School Governors meet at 5.00pm (School)

18th Feb **ASH-WEDNESDAY ... LENT BEGINS** Mass at 9.30am and 8.00pm

19th Feb Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (via Zoom)

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS Thank you all for your cards, gifts and kind messages for Christmas and New Year. Thank you also for the 'Christmas Offerings' which contribute towards my annual 'stipend' or salary. I do not take your kindness and generosity for granted, but every day rejoice that I am your brother and priest sharing the journey of our parish as a 'Eucharistic Community in Mission' I wish you all a very blessed and peace-filled New Year.

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 It was so joyous and encouraging to see the involvement of our young people during the Mass for Christ the Universal King. We will hold the Third Sunday of the Month as a Youth-led mass - so parents and others

The Lord says to Jesus and to us: 'You are my servant - you are to be a Light to the nations that my Salvation may reach to the ends of the Earth'

please encourage our young people to fulfil a ministry on Sunday 18th January and Sunday 15th February - our next two Youth-led Masses.

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. 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 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.

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

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 or by email to paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 24th January 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

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS [1] We have a beautiful church - we need to keep it beautiful and even more deepen its prayerfulness. We have a rich and involving Liturgy - **let us make sure we arrive in time and prepared to begin Mass promptly at 10.00am**. Especially if we are exercising a ministry in the Liturgy
[2] Please turn all mobile phones off before, during & after Mass in the church! Please do not make phone calls in Church at all - please go outside to make phone calls.
[3] Please help our children to experience the church as a 'Sacred Space' and not a play ground, especially after Mass. Help them to learn even from the earliest age how to act in this 'sacred space', in the presence of God, the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Teach our children how and why to genuflect to the Tabernacle.

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THIS IS SACRED SPACE, A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING GOD AND LISTEN PRAYERFULLY TO HIS HOLY WORD - LET US ALL DEVELOP OUR CHURCH MORE AS THIS SACRED SPACE FOR PRAYER & STILLNESS!

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