



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

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

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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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A - 'WORD OF GOD SUNDAY'



Called to be Light in dark places!

Throughout Christmas we have celebrated the birth of the Light of God's Love into the dark night, not only of Bethlehem, but that darkness that covers all the world - the darkness of despair, of war, of poverty and oppression, the darkness of broken relationships and shattered dreams.

Now the work begins! We are called to be a people who with courage take the Light of challenging love into every dark place, the Light of healing into every brokenness, the Light of Kingdom Justice and Peace into those darkest places where war rages and injustice rules! We are called not to sit comfortably in the Light of Divine Love in our churches, homes and hearts: we are called to be bearers of the Light into the challenging places - to confront darkness with courage wherever it appears to rule!

To be in the Light, to carry the Light is to be called to let go of our comfort for Jesus!

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS at 10.00am (Live streamed)

United Service for Christian Unity Week at 4.00pm (Parkway Methodist)

MONDAY: St Timothy and Titus, Bishops, disciples of St Paul

No Liturgy

TUESDAY: St Angela Merici, founder of Ursulines, (1474-1540)

Funeral Mass for Sr Jean Daniels at 11.00am (Burnham-on-Sea)

Jesus proclaimed 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand'. Then he called his first disciples - 'Come and Follow Me and I will make you fishers of people!' Answer his call!

WEDNESDAY: St Thomas Aquinas, priest and Doctor of the Church (1225-1274)**No Liturgy****THURSDAY: Funeral Mass – Bernadette James R.I.P 11.00 am****FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 noon****SATURDAY: St John Bosco, priest & educator, founder of Salesians (1815-88)****Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 noon**

TODAY [1] On this **Third Sunday in Ordinary time (A)** we celebrate Jesus who comes to bring Light into our darkness. With so much darkness in our world today - wars, conflicts, lack of honesty among powerful leaders, poverty, addictions - we who are disciples of this Jesus are called, like the first apostles, to walk with Jesus and bring His Light of love, justice, freedom to our world. Will we shine with His Love? [2] This is also **Word of God Sunday** - when we give thanks for this great gift of God's Word in the Scriptures, the Word that is 'Bread of Life' for us, the Life-giving and Living Word made flesh in Jesus. May we always hold the Bible close to our heart and share with others the Joy of the Gospel.

[3] As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity draws to a close today, **we offer the 10.00am Mass for the healing of the divisions of centuries** among us Christians that has so damaged and weakened our witness to Christ, our proclamation of the Good News, our witness to Peace. Let us rejoice in the rich diversity of traditions in the whole Church and seek to learn from one another and be One in Christ.

[4] We welcome **Janice Pearson, our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer** to our Mass today. Her presence and words will highlight the importance of Safeguarding in the life and Mission of the Church - Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all.

NEXT SUNDAY [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.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Lay Ministry of the Eucharist**. Our Lay Ministers of the Eucharist enable us to receive the Precious Blood of the Lord each Sunday Mass and lead Services of Word and Communion when Richard is away. This nurtures the prayer and worship life of the community especially when a priest is not available. Lay Ministers of the Eucharist also ensure that all our housebound and long-term sick can receive the Healing Christ of the Eucharist in their own homes on a weekly basis. We are needing to train and commission a few more lay ministers to continue this invaluable ministry and touches the praying and sacramental heart of the parish.

DIOCESAN PRAYER We pray for the parishes in communion for mission of St Margaret Mary, Coleford, Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent and St Joseph, Lydney served by Fr Martin Queenan and Administrator Samantha Buchanan and their communities.

COLLECTIONS

4/01/26 GA: £10.00 + Loose £187.75 + Card Reader £157.30 + S.O. £206.35 = £596.05

11/01/26 GA: £10.00 + Loose £298.36 + Card Reader £240.86 + S.O. £206.35 = £755.57

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18/01/26 GA: £10.00 + Loose £173.22 + Card Reader £199.85 + S.O. £206.35 = £589.42
Christmas Offerings £489.11 **Caritas** £280.00 **Flowers** £5.50 - **FoodBank** £20.00 thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

25th 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)
 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 &.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**
 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 now hold the Third Sunday of the Month as a Youth-led mass - so parents and others please encourage our young people to fulfil a ministry on 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. 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:

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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.

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](http://www.stnicholas-tolentino.org.uk) or by email to paula.asquith@cliftondiocese.com.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday 26th 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

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 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/>

WHY PRAY AND WORK FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY? At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for the Church through the ages: 'Father, may they all be One as you and I are One, may they be so completely One that the world will believe'. Jesus also said about his followers (us): 'By your love for one another shall all people know you are My disciples'. As long as the Church is divided we are damaging our witness to the love of Christ for our world. As long as we are divided, we failing to love one another and are less disciples of Christ. As long as we are divided, we fail in our Mission to bring liberating truth, light and love to transform our world. How much longer will we ignore the Spirit's call to commit ourselves to building unity, healing the Church?

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