



## 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: Office Team (0117-909-0419)

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

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

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



#### **JESUS - TEMPTED LIKE US!**

Trouble is, we just find it hard to believe in the Incarnation - that God became really and totally human in Jesus! We always think of Him as Son of God in a way that obliterates his humanity! But Jesus is 'like us in all things but sin' - so he was tempted just like us - the difference being that the sinless One never gave in!

He goes into the wilderness we have made of the world by our sin, to challenge the 'Father of Lies', the false 'Angel of Light', the 'Destroyer'. Just as he was to 'descend into Hell' to liberate the captives - fallen humanity - so He goes into the wilderness to confront the darkness that is part of each of us, to conquer the dark powers of ambition and the abuse of power, to defeat the lust for popularity that too often overwhelms the desire for truth.

Yes, He is human as well as divine, and he is tempted like us - and wins for us!

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

*Stations of the Cross approx 12.30pm*

**MONDAY: No Liturgy**

**TUESDAY: No Liturgy**

*St Paul writes: 'We have a wisdom to offer that leads to true maturity in Christ - not the wisdom of our world around us, but the wisdom of God revealed in Jesus and the Gospel!'*

**WEDNESDAY: School Mass with Ashes at 9.30am**

**THURSDAY: Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 noon**

**FRIDAY: Feast of St Gregory Narek, Armenian Abbot and Doctor of the Church  
Adoration 11.30 MASS FOR JUSTICE at 12.00 noon CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY**

**SATURDAY: No Liturgy at St Nicks - Vision Day for Parish Pastoral Council 10am-3pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4.00-4.30pm only**

**TODAY** [1] The **First Sunday of Lent Year A** sees Jesus wrestling with the temptations to use His divine power (the Holy Spirit) for self rather than in service of others and obedience to His father's will. It is not His Kingdom he seeks to build, but the Reign of His Father's infinite love, building a world where every person is infinitely precious, unconditionally loved. We are entrusted by God to build that world in the loving and serving power of Christ's wisdom and Holy Spirit.

[2] **Most Sundays in Lent we pray the Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm (ie after refreshments following our 10am Mass). We offer this ancient prayer devotion today for much-needed peace in our world.

[3] **Cynthia leads a Public Health workshop** to explore changes in how blood tests etc will be communicated and how they can be intelligible to patients. 12.30-2.00pm

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Second Sunday of Lent A** celebrates Jesus transfigured in glory on the mountain of the Presence. Transfigured by the overshadowing Spirit and the Father's voice, Jesus is encouraged to walk to the Cross and the apostles are prepared for the suffering that lies ahead. We have little moments of transfiguration, to reassure us and strengthen us to continue our Pilgrimage of Faith.

[2] **We pray the Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm (ie after refreshments following our 10am Mass). We offer this ancient prayer devotion today for all victims of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse.

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

[4] **Retiring Collection for CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY**

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray today for the **Ministry of our Pastor**, Fr Richard. The priest is the servant of the Eucharist, who gathers the People of God that the Spirit might form us as the Missionary Body of Christ, and then sends us out into the world to work with God - co-creators with the Father, bearers of healing Salvation with Jesus and renewers of the face of the Earth with the Spirit. The priest is our brother who walks with us and helps us listen together to the Voice of the Spirit in our times - to see 'the Sign of the Times' that we the Church might be God's radical love poured out with abundant generosity into the hurting heart of the world. As a brother he is our shepherd who needs us all to be shepherds; he is a prophet who challenges us - and wants to be challenged by us! He is a leader who knows how to serve, a preacher who knows how to listen, a prophet who has the courage both to challenge and be challenged. The ordained priest and the Priestly People - journeying with one another in faith and love, forming each other as a People of Hope, a People of Love, a People of Mission - God's People!

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** We pray for parishes in communion for mission of St Dominic, Dursley, and St Joseph, Nympsfield, served by Fr Philip Thomas, Deacon Dominic Bucci, and both their communities.

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**COLLECTIONS**

GA: £80.00 + Loose £230.06 + Card Reader £?? + S.O. £206.35 = £516.41 - thanks!

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

22nd Feb Public Health workshop at St Nick's after 10am mass

27th Feb CAFOD Lenten fast Day - the true fast: bring justice to the poorest.

28th Feb Parish Pastoral Council Vision Day 10am-3pm Lawrence Weston convent

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 Lenten Reconciliation Service - Bristol Area

at Christ the King, Thornbury 7pm

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!**

4th July Diocesan Celebration Day at Downside Abbey 10.00am - 4.30pm

**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 as we share some food, followed by 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.**

**CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY - 27th FEBRUARY** The True Fast as the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah (ch 58) is to break the power of injustice and feed the hungry of our world. Please support very generously the CAFOD Lenten Fast Day and contribute money saved from fasting (and give more?) in the retiring collection next Sunday. **Why not make every Friday a Lenten Fast Day and to give weekly through the CAFOD envelopes as part of your Lenten journey 'breaking the yoke of poverty'**

**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. **WE WILL BE HAVING CHILDREN'S LITURGY EACH SUNDAY IN LENT - BUT PLEASE WE NEED MORE HELP URGENTLY - CONTACT MARY OR RICHARD.**

**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 March, when Bishop Bosco will be with us and on Sunday 19th April.

**NEWS ABOUT THE WILLOW TREE IN OUR CAR PARK** Our willow tree 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! So sadly it has to be

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removed so **the car park will be unavailable on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February while this work is being carried out.**

**WHY LENT?** We enter this privileged time of personal and community renewal which we call Lent. We join with Christ Jesus' 40 Days in the desert to journey with Him through the desert of silence and prayer, of deprivation and hunger, of thirst and yearning. Why? To grow to become more like Jesus in generosity of spirit, openness of heart, deeper communion with God, a readiness to give of ourselves to the Mission of the Gospel. These 40 Days express our communion with all catechumens of the Church journeying to the great moment of Baptism (or reception into Full Communion with the Church; these 40 Days are our journey to the renewal of our Baptism at Easter when we say again our 'YES' to being plunged into the Mystery of Christ and become truly Christ People, filled with His Spirit and knowing ourselves to be 'Beloved of the Father'. Let us embrace these most precious days of renewal.

**PREPARING FOR LENT - A SEASON OF RENEWAL** [1] 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.

[2] **Try to come to at least one weekday mass each week, and joint the Stations of the Cross on Sundays after Mass**

[3] **Diocesan Lenten Reconciliation Services with Bishop Bosco** - The Bristol Area Service is at 7.00pm on **Thursday 24th March at Christ the King Church, Thornbury, Castle Street, BS35 1HA** - all very welcome with many priests available.

[4] **Lenten Retreats** a) Feb 20-22 at Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard, Brownshill, nr Stroud GL6 8AL (Also quiet day March 5th; Vocations Weekend 17-19 April)  
b) Feb 20-22 at Stonyhurst Christian Heritage Centre, a Carmelite Spirituality Retreat on St John of the Cross apply on-line: [christianheritagecentre.com](http://christianheritagecentre.com)

### **THE TRUE FAST - ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS**

***"Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent - so you can listen."***

**PUBLIC HEALTH WORKSHOP AT ST NICKS** Join us on the **22nd of February after Sunday Mass** for a meeting to help make it easier for everyone to find and understand their blood test results online. We will be discussing some examples of words that are used by doctors to explain blood test results. The meeting will last one and a half hours and refreshments will be provided. We will meet at St. Nicholas of Tolentino church and you will get a shopping voucher as a thank you for your time." This workshop is designed for about 10 people - please contact Cynthia Ochieng for more information.

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**WORK EXPERIENCE OFFER FOR 1ST AND 2ND YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young adults. All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office for the week are covered. It will be focussed on CAFOD NATIONAL OFFICE, ROMERO HOUSE, LONDON SE17JB. More information from email: [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**Pope Leo XIV has released the first document of his pontificate, an Apostolic Exhortation called *Dilexi te* – 'I have loved you'.**

Underpinned by Scripture, Catholic social teaching, and the teaching of his predecessors, *Dilexi te* focuses on the Church's love for the poor and God's special concern for those living in poverty. It affirms the ways in which the magisterium should inform our pastoral practice in accompanying the poor and vulnerable to serve the common good. In continuity with Pope Francis's final encyclical, *Dilexit nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ, Pope Leo makes a clear link between this document and the new Exhortation:

"I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor," he writes in the opening paragraphs. "I too consider it essential to insist on this path.

**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)

[Survey Flyer Caregivers](#)   [Survey Flyer Adults](#)

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