



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

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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

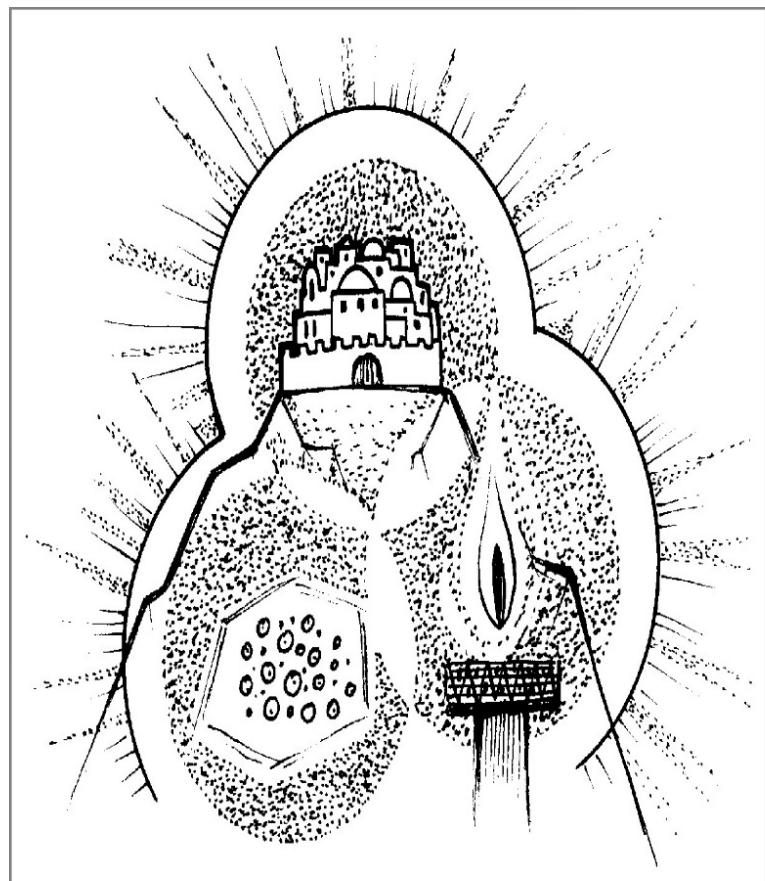
Safeguarding Reps: Mary Hopper (01275-830788) & Paul Bradshaw-Price

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)

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A**



#### **Light and Salt!**

Without Light the very possibility of life is eliminated - even the unscientific authors of Genesis knew this! Light is the very first essential, the very first created reality. We disciples of Jesus are before all else to offer the world around us Light - of truth, of wisdom, of justice, of spirituality, of prayer, of prayer. It is the fundamental purpose of our lives - to be His Light!

Without Salt there is no health, no taste - salt purifies and heals. We disciples of Jesus are sent by Him to our society and our world community to bring healing into every brokenness, to purify every corruption of the human spirit and society, and by the transparency and depth of our lives to offer to all the very taste of God's love and presence.

Let us be a 'city of light on the hill-top' - a beacon of hope! Let us salt the earth with our love - His Love!

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

**MONDAY: No Liturgy**

**TUESDAY: St Scholastica, cofounder of Benedictine Sisters (died 543) No Liturgy**

***The Lord says: 'Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless poor, raise up the oppressed - and you will be the salt of the earth and the light of the world!'***

**WEDNESDAY: Our Lady of Lourdes - World Day of the Sick**

Adoration: 6.00 pm Mass with Anointing for Healing at 6.30 pm

**THURSDAY: Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 midday**

**FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 midday**

**SATURDAY: St Cyril, monk (826-69) and Methodius (815-85), Bishop**

Adoration 11.30 Mass 12.00 midday

Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

**TODAY** [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?

**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] With the **Sixth Sunday of the Year A** we celebrate Jesus, our Wisdom who transforms and fulfils the Law to be solely the Law of limitless Love: a 'Law' beyond Law because it invites us the love as God loves! This is the 'hidden wisdom of God' and the wisdom that draws us to full maturity in Christ.

[2] This is the **Day of Prayer for the Unemployed**, especially those such as our asylum sisters and brothers who are denied the Right to Work - denied their human right to work, denied their identity as co-creators with God!

[3] **Mass with LGBTQ+ community and friends** at 3.00pm - all very welcome

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for the **Ministry of our Parish Office and its Team**. Our Administrator is on Maternity leave and we are hoping to appoint a Cover administrator. The Office handles most of the day to day administration of the parish (vital work) as well as outreaching to the wider community. Many thanks to Benedicta, Kerry and Margaret who volunteer and enable the parish to serve the wider community on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings (10.00am to 1.00pm). We wish to open the Office Monday to Friday but need more volunteers to support this. Please contact Margaret or Richard to support this vital mission to the marginalised and impoverished of our inner city area.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** We pray for parish in communion for mission of the Abbey church, Downside, with St Benedict, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, served by Dom Martin Gowman OSB and both their communities.

**COLLECTIONS**

GA: £10.00 + Loose £325.98 + Card Reader £186.35 + S.O. £206.35 = £728.68 - thanks  
**Caritas** £200.00 **Racial Justice** £35.00

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## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**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!

## **PART-TIME PARISH ADMINISTRATOR (Maternity Cover to 31<sup>st</sup> 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

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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://St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Bristol) 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**.

**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@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.

### **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

**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] **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.

[3] **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)

**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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