



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

Priest's Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 07779677370

Parish Office, Assisi Centre, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 ORE tel: 0117-909-0419

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

'Borderlands' Charity Office: Assisi Centre, St Nicholas Church tel: 0117-904-0479

Parish email: bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com

Fr Richard's email: richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com

Clifton Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

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

Food Bank Manager: Lahiru Gunatilake (07438976736)

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 LENT 'Laetare' or 'Rejoicing' Sunday and 'Mothering Sunday'



JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We journey to the Pool of Baptism throughout Lent - journey to cleansing waters, to healing waters, to life-giving waters, to waters that bring us 'enlightenment'. Many of the Churches of Eastern Tradition still call Baptism 'the Enlightenment'. That is why the baptised person is given a baptismal candle lit from the Easter Candle of the Resurrection Light! For by living deeply our Baptism ('living deeply our new life') we are bearers of Jesus' light into a world darkened by inhumanity, brutality, war and poverty.

Lent is a journey into the Light of Easter: and this Light of the Gospel Light of the Spirit, Light of Christ will challenge all the dark places that lurk in our hearts. To be 'enlightened' is to be challenged to change, to be honest, to allow self-reality to dawn: for only the 'truth sets us free'. Light will always convert us not only into more self-awareness and self-honesty, the only path to holiness, but also will convert us into more 'otherness': our lives will become a gift to others, a light that will guide another to the Waters of New Life and Hope of Freedom. Let us too go to the Pool this Easter.

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

Mass with our LGBTQ+ community and friends at 3.00pm - all welcome

St Paul writes: You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord: be children of the Light, in complete goodness, right living & truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you.

MONDAY: No Liturgy

**TUESDAY: Feast of St Patrick, Missionary Bishop, Patron of Ireland (390-461)
No Liturgy**

**WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Theologian (315-386)
Adoration 6.00pm Mass 6.30pm followed by PPC meeting**

**THURSDAY: Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary
Adoration 11.30am Mass 12.00 noon**

**FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12.00 noon
Lenten Area House Mass at 7.00pm at Flat 12, Lake View, Albany Court,
Alcove Road, BS16 3AG - limited parking but good bus access**

**SATURDAY: Ethiopian Orthodox Eucharist 6.30am-12.30pm & all Day Preaching
Adoration 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon (In Assisi Centre)
Sacrament of Reconciliation (in Assisi Centre) after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm**

TODAY [1] The **Fourth Sunday of Lent ('Laetare' or 'Rejoicing' Sunday)** celebrate Jesus the Light of the World brings us from our blindness to New Sight. The healing of the man born blind expresses the power of baptism and the gradual conversion to Jesus. Are we blind to the presence of Jesus in our lives, in the poor and marginalised? Can we open the eyes of our heart to recognise Him with us?

[2] **We welcome Bishop Bosco, chief shepherd of our diocesan family, who presides at our 10.00am mass, meets the parish community over some food after Mass and then meets with our Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, Community Stewards and the Legacy Management Group in a joint meeting. IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF US MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE HERE AND MEET THE BISHOP AFTER MASS.**

[3] This is also '**Mothering Sunday**' when we give thanks for the gift of our mothers, praying for those of them who have died; we pray too for those sisters whose hopes for a child has not been fulfilled and those who have lost a child in the womb or in early years. **Also our young people will lead most ministries during the Mass.**

[4] Because of the Bishop's visit we are unable to have Stations of the Cross together. Perhaps we can pray the Stations privately this week.

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

NEXT SUNDAY [1] The **Fifth Sunday of Lent** celebrates Jesus the Life-giver - the one who calls each of us by name, out of the tombs of death or 'partly-living' into the fullness of life, the life Jesus gives, the divine life! This life reaches its zenith as we too journey through the birth-passage of death into the Resurrection, an eternity living and loving in God, gazing with wonder upon the endless light God is - our fulfilment!

[2] We celebrate the **Rite of Child Catechumen** with the families preparing for the baptism of their children at Easter. Please pray for them.

[3] **Stations of the Cross** at approximately 12.30pm - praying for all suffering from poverty and the effects of climate change.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray today for our **Parish School of St Nicholas of Tolentino**, led by our Head Teacher Mrs Rachael James. Giving thanks for the excellent and hard work of all the staff in educating and

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IS GOD CALLING YOU TO ORDAINED MINISTRY OR RELIGIOUS LIFE? There will be a **Vocations Weekend 17-19 April** at the Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard, Brownshill, nr Stroud GL6 8AL. Please contact them directly - details in the porch.

WHY LENT? We have joined 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 days of renewal.

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.** If you are willing to host such a Mass in your home, please contact either Richard or the Parish Office Team.

[2] **Try to come to at least one weekday mass each week, and join 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.

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."

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. | More information from email: KeziaH@svp.org.uk

CHARITY DANCE IN AID OF GREAT WESTERN AIR AMBULANCE AND SHOUT (Mentail Health) Friday 20th March 7.30-12.00pm at Bedminster Down ex-Service Club, Winford Grove, BS13 7DY featuring Glen Flynn from Ireland - tickets £12.00

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

"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," Pope Leo writes in the opening paragraphs. "I too consider it essential to insist on this path". God's Option for the Poor leaves us Christians with no option but to follow the Way of Christ, the Way of the Gospel and share God's Option!

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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. For info & surveys look here: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys Survey Flyer Caregivers Survey Flyer Adults

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