



## 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](mailto:bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com)

Fr Richard's email: [richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com)

Clifton Diocesan Website: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

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

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)

### 'LOW' SUNDAY - Octave of Easter



#### **TOUCHING THE WOUNDS**

Why was the Risen Jesus scarred by the wounds of crucifixion and death? Surely they should have been healed? Obliterated?

It was not simply so that the disciples could be sure it was really Him, really alive! Resurrection does not obliterate death - it transforms it: for Jesus and for us. Healing is about growing through our woundedness to a new wholeness, not removing the wounds. For our wounds are the privileged meeting places with the divine, transforming Love. Our wounds become the place of growth, of new becoming and new beginning. We become whom we truly are through our wounds as touched by Love they become well-springs of healing and wholeness - source of our resurrection and new life.

And Thomas the doubting Apostle must touch the wounds - not only so that he will believe at last, but so that the Church formed upon the foundation stones of the witness of the Apostles, will know that it must always touch the wounds of humanity, the scars of the world, the cries and tears of the Earth, if we are to know the Risen Jesus and become part of His Rising in today's world. With love and courage to be Jesus touching the wounds!

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

**Mass with the Catholic handicapped Fellowship at 3.00pm - all welcome**

***The Risen Jesus said to Thomas - Do not be afraid to touch my wounds and believe! and He says to the Church - Do not be afraid to touch my wounds in my my wounded world!***

**MONDAY: No Liturgy**

**TUESDAY: No Liturgy**

**WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy**

**THURSDAY: Adoration 11.30am Mass 12.00 noon**

**FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12noon**

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

***Sacrament of Reconciliation: NONE TODAY***

***Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and 4.00-4.30pm***

**12/04/2026** [1] '**Low Sunday**', the Octave Day of Easter: we celebrate the wonder of this Feast of Feasts throughout the week. In the early Church this was the only other day that Baptism was celebrated - an overflow if there were too many to be baptised during the Vigil itself. The Word of God speaks to us of that **first Christian Community in Jerusalem that was so close and loving** that its life together that 'great signs and wonders were worked among them' and healing flowed from them into their city. They witnessed to the Risen Lord, the source of New Life! They were a community overflowing with healing and life empowering the witness of Peter and the other Apostles. The conversion of St Thomas from his doubt to profound faith came about because he returned to the Community of the Resurrection and discovered Jesus alive in the midst of them! Does this describe our parish, our Church?

[2] **Mass with our Catholic Handicapped Fellowship community and friends at 3.00pm.** All are welcome to attend this mass, of course!

### ***THIRD SUNDAY of EASTERTIDE 'Vocations Sunday'***

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

**Mass with LGBTQ+ Community & Friends at 3.00pm - all welcome**

**MONDAY: No Liturgy**

**TUESDAY: Feast of St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury & Theologian (1033-1109)**

**No Liturgy**

**WEDNESDAY: No Liturgy**

**THURSDAY: Feast of St George, Martyr & Patron of England**

**Adoration 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12.00 noon**

**FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30am Service of Word & Communion**

**SATURDAY: Feast of St Mark the Evangelist**

**Adoration 11.30am Service of Word & Communion at 12.00 noon**

**Mass in Shona with Zimbabwean Community at 1.30pm**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation None today**

**19/04/2026** [1] On the **Third Sunday of Easter** we celebrate the Risen Jesus whom we meet in the Breaking of the Bread, in the Eucharist and the community

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that gathers around the Eucharistic Christ. Jesus is the great listener, encouraging the disciples to 'tell their story' and heals their grief. The Risen Christ accompanies each of us and the whole Church as we journey in faith, love and witness.

[2] **GOOD SHEPHERD (VOCATIONS) SUNDAY** - **Sunday 26th April** - Day of Prayer for Vocations We are asked to pray for a deepened sense of vocation in each of our lives and in our parish community. Each one of us has a unique vocation from God; each of us is called to proclaim the Good News and serve the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace; each of us is called to care for our environment and seek to heal the abuse of our good Earth so that future generations will be able to thrive on this planet. Vocations to marriage, to ordained ministries and to the religious life are all necessary to the mission of God's Church. Pray for new expressions of ordained ministry!

**THOUGHT FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER BREAKING THE BREAD!**

He walked by their side, He listened with love and compassion, He talked with them sublime Truth - and still they did not recognise Him, even while 'their hearts burned within them!' But then they sat at table and He broke bread - and then they knew! It all began to fall into place and make sense at last! 'The Breaking of Bread' - the oldest name for Eucharist or the Mass. Breaking Bread that speaks of His broken body, given for us. Breaking Bread that speaks healing to our brokenness. Breaking Bread that speaks of sacrifice - and unity! Breaking Bread that speaks of the hungers of the world: for food of the body, for the nourishment of meaning in our lives, for a unity that would bring peace to the Earth, for a New World and a New Creation. We break the Bread of the Poor and recognise Jesus Risen and alive among us, among the poor; we break the Bread of Freedom and recognise Him Alive in every human struggle for liberation; we break the Bread of Life and recognise Him who gives Life in all fulness! HE IS ALIVE! ALLELUIA!

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION 12/04/2026** We pray today for the work and **Mission of the Wild Goose Café and the 'In Hope' Ministries**. We appreciate John Flannery who for many years was a faithful volunteer, helping to provide hot meals to the homeless and the impoverished of our Inner City. This ecumenical Ministry draws Christians from many traditions in humble service of some of the most disadvantaged of our city. This includes a Women's Homeless Shelter and many life-skills courses helping individuals towards more independent and stable living. If you wish to volunteer in support of the Wild Goose Café and its ministries, please contact In Hope Ministries directly for more information.

**19/04/2026** We pray today for the Ministry of our Young People's Choir and the monthly Youth-led Mass. It has given the parish family so much joy to see this ministry develop in recent months with the enthusiasm and skill of our younger parishioners. We look forward to developing not only Youth Ministry but the Ministries of our young people on whom both the present and future of the Church depend. If you want to get involved, please contact Benedicta (07405344690)

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** We pray for the parishes in communion for mission of St Osmund and St Gregory & English Martyrs, Salisbury, with Sacred Heart, Tisbury and All Saints, Wardour, served by Fr Anthony Parish, Fr Joseph Meigh, Deacons Stephen Godwin, John Detain, John Proctor,, Parish Administrator Desiree Coups and all their communities.

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**COLLECTIONS Easter Offerings** £987.46 Many thanks for your generosity  
GA: £85 + Loose £5 + Card Reader £00 + S.O. £206.35 = £296.25 - thanks!

**CAFOD FAST DAY & Holy Thursday** £827.35 **Caritas** £339.52 **Holy Places** £239.74  
thanks

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

25th April Meet the Curia Day at St Brendan's College  
29th April Parish Pastoral Council after 6.30pm Mass  
30th April Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on Zoom)  
6th May Clergy and PSR's Safeguarding Training 9.30am to 3.00pm  
12th May School Governors at 5.00pm  
24th May **FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOILY SPIRIT! RENEW US ALL**  
27th May Parish Pastoral Council after 6.30pm Mass  
4th June Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on Zoom)  
7th June **FIRST EUCHARIST SUNDAY & FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI** - 10am Mass  
4th July Diocesan Celebration Day at Downside Abbey 10.00am - 4.30pm

**MONTHLY YOUTH-LED MASS** Thank you to our young people for leading the Mass last Sunday when our Bishop was with us - you were exceptional and we are so proud of you all. Next Youth-led Mass on Sunday 19th April.

**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, Brownhill, nr Stroud GL6 8AL. Please contact them directly - details in the porch.

**St Joseph's Parish in Fishponds are delighted to welcome the Renewal Gospel Choir to St Joseph's Church on Friday, 17th April** for what promises to be an inspiring and uplifting evening. Proceeds from the concert will help support the refurbishment of the Parish Hall, benefiting the whole parish community. Tickets are available now at just **£10** from the **Parish Office** ([Bristol.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Bristol.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com)) or directly from **Brian Maby (07770 232031)**. Payment can be made by cash, via the Dona machine, or by bank transfer (**A/C Name: St Joseph, Bristol; A/C No: 66286433; Sort Code: 52-10-03; Ref: RC**). Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start, and car parking will be available on the school playground. It would be wonderful to see many friends as possible come together for this special evening of music and praise. **[Renewal Choir – Igniting the Passion Within](#)**

**AREA HOUSE MASSES** To gather parish members dispersed around Bristol, to bring the Eucharist to the community and to build small local communities, we are holding regular Area Masses. After such Masses we have simple refreshments - tea/coffee, biscuits (may be cake), but no more. Please contact Richard if you will host a Mass. Any Volunteers for the next few Area Masses? Please contact Richard

**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 how to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. Info/surveys [www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys)

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**GOD'S CALL TO SERVE THE LIFE AND MISSION OF YOUR PARISH** Our parish, together with nearly all churches and voluntary organisations around the country, has not yet recovered fully from the effects of the Covid Pandemic. A significant number of our community are not coming to Mass here for a variety of reasons. It is a joy to welcome new families and individuals who have found their way to St Nicks. However we need to draw more members into being part of the many ministries and tasks of the parish. **Whether it is the Welcoming Ministry, Church Cleaning, the Foodbank, Catechists, Parish Office Ministry too few are doing too much in support of the parish's life and mission.** We are all called by our baptism to serve, to sacrifice time and energy to build our parish community and support the Mission of Christ entrusted to us. However difficult, I do ask everyone to reflect whether you can give some time can be given to sustain the parish's life and mission.\

**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@cliffondiocese.com](mailto:lourdes@cliffondiocese.com) to declare an interest

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