



## 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

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 EASTER (Good Shepherd 'Vocations' Sunday)



#### *Jesus, the gateway to a full life!*

A shepherd who really knows each sheep and loves them in their individuality and uniqueness. A shepherd who leads them into the fullness of their lives, who nurtures love and life in them. A shepherd who protects them from the false voices, the siren voices who would lead them not to themselves but into a servitude that diminishes their humanity.

Such is the shepherd, Jesus. Indeed He is the gateway to life - a life filled with joyous self-offering, courageous transcendence, and simple but dynamic loving.

Jesus is the shepherd who guides us safely through the gateway of freedom - the freedom to serve, to love, to proclaim, to give life, to build peace, to create community: the freedom of God!

And he calls, you and me, to be shepherds with his heart to one another, to be life-givers, love-bearers and freedom makers! Will you be His kind of Shepherd, His kind of Love, His kind of Life?

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

**MONDAY:** No Liturgy

**TUESDAY:** No Liturgy

*Jesus says: I am the gate through which you enter safely into Life in all fullness. And I am the Good Shepherd who calls you by name and leads you to rich pastures of God's love*

**WEDNESDAY: Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Dominican, Reformer (1347-1380)**

**Adoration 6.00pm Mass 6.20pm, followed by PPC meeting**

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

**FRIDAY: Feast of St Joseph the Worker**

**Adoration 11.30am Mass at 12noon**

**SATURDAY: Feast of St Athanasius, Bishop & Theologian (296-373)**

**Adoration 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon**

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

**TODAY** [1] **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!

[2] **Joint meeting** of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee, the Community Stewards and the Legacy Management Group after Mass (approx 12.30pm)

**NEXT SUNDAY** [1] The **Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A** celebrates Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, whose sacrifice on the Cross and victory over sin and death in the Resurrection has brought us home to the Father. He is the 'living stone' the 'cornerstone' the 'keystone'. He gives us Life and calls us to align ourselves with Him, building the Church as the Sacrament of God's love and Peace.

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

**THANK YOU FROM CAFOD** Thank you for your generous support this Lent and Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have missionary shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting, praying and giving so families can put food on the table. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at [cafod.org.uk/thankyou](http://cafod.org.uk/thankyou)

**PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION** We pray for our **Ministry of Church Flower Arranging**, led by Minette Semper - a small team of devoted ladies who every Friday enrich our worship with colour and nature in our flowers. They would welcome helpers willing to learn about flower arranging - please contact Minette.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER** We pray for the parishes in communion for mission of St Joseph, Stonehouse and the Annunciation, Woodchester, served by Fr Eugene Campbell, Deacon Bogdan Wasylkiw, Parish Administrator Maggie Wakefield and both communities.

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**COLLECTIONS Easter Offerings** £1093.71 Many thanks for your generosity  
 GA: £00 + Loose £175.66 + Card Reader £83.57 + S.O. £206.35 = £465.58 - thanks!  
**Caritas** £6.00 thanks

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

26th April Meeting of Joint Committees (PPC, PFC, Community Stewards, LMG)  
 after 10am Mass (approx 12.30pm)  
 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  
 8th May First Parents baptismal Preparation Session Assisi Centre 6.30pm  
 12th May School Governors at 5.00pm  
 17th May Rite of Child Catechumen at 10.00am Mass  
 22nd May Second Parents baptismal Preparation Session Assisi Centre 6.30pm  
 24th May **FEAST OF PENTECOST - COME HOILY SPIRIT! RENEW US ALL**  
 27th May Parish Pastoral Council after 6.30pm Mass  
 31st May **Feast of the Holy Trinity - Baptismal Sunday (10am 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 17th May.

**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)

**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.\

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**PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM** Parents seeking the baptism of their children are asked to inform Eustace Tameh or Fr Richard as soon as possible. Next Baptism course and celebration:

**BAPTISMAL SUNDAY 31st May at 10am Mass**

**Preparation Sessions: Friday 8th and 22nd May at 6.30pm (Assisi Centre)**

**Rite of Child Catechumen Sunday 17th May 10am Mass**

**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

**A DAY EXPLORING POPE LEO'S APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION '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. **A DIOCESAN DAY TO EXPLORE THIS KEY TEACHING SHAPING POPE LEO'S MISSION: MAY 30TH AT ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE 9-30 FOR 10.00AM START, CONCLUDING AT 4.00PM - I strongly recommend this to all who can attend.**

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED ALL THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR OUR SUNDAY MASS?**

Would you like to help to prepare for our masses? We need someone (or a few people) who could come a bit earlier on a Sunday and learn where things are stored, what needs to be set out for mass, how to check on supplies and to do all the little jobs connected with the Sacristy. Might you be one of those people? Come and talk to Mary after Mass!

**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!**

**'ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE'**

It is our privilege to host here at St Nicks the Diocesan Ministry among the LBGTQ+ community. It would be a great sign of welcome, valuing 'Gay' Catholics, if more parishioners would come sometimes to our 3rd Sunday a month Mass with our LBGTQ+ friends. Do try to come occasionally and share with us.

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