



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

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

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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

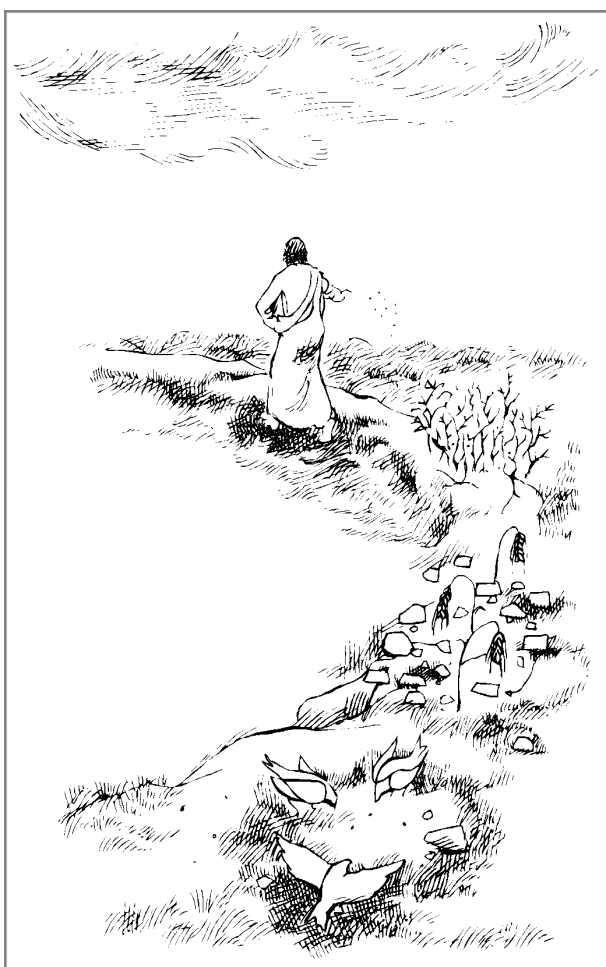
Food Bank Manager: Lahiru Gunatilake (07438976736)

Parish Administration & Hall/Room Bookings: Debbie Forge & Office Team (0117-909-0419)

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

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A



Seeds of the Gospel

In our hi-tech world and our urban environment, we easily lose touch with the natural world, the rhythm of seasons, of ploughing, sowing, waiting, nurturing, growing and harvesting. Everything comes to us packaged and prepared and we just purchase and consume. Jesus and our forbears lived close to the land, knew how to live in harmony with the soil, the rivers, the trees, the fields, the sky, sun and rain. They nurtured the earth and were nurtured by the earth.

We have however sown seeds of ignorance and exploitation. We continue to destroy our rain forests, produce vast quantities of ocean-killing plastics, exhaust the land and pollute the air. However we are no longer ignorant of this reality.

What new seeds will we sow? Instead of exploitation, can we sow seeds of communion? Instead of seeds of destruction can we sow seeds of friendship and reverence for the earth and its creatures - our sisters and brothers upon our beautiful planet. These are the seeds of the Gospel the soil of the Earth needs today! Will we sow these seeds? Will we change our lives?

SUNDAY: PARISH MASS with APPEAL FOR MSP MISSIONS at 10.00am (Live-streamed)
(Mass for Slovenian Pilgrims at 8.30am)

Jesus says: The Kingdom of God is the Good Seed sown upon the Earth; it is like the tiny seed of faith in each of you that together grows into the life-giving tree of love and welcome

MONDAY: No Parish Liturgy - *(Mass for Slovenian Pilgrims at 8.30am)*

TUESDAY: No Liturgy

WEDNESDAY: No Parish Liturgy

Funeral Mass for Canon Michael English (St John's Bath at 12noon)

THURSDAY: *Feast of St Bonaventure, Bishop & Franciscan Theologian (1218-1274)*

School Leavers & End of Year Mass at 9.30am - all welcome

Adoration at 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

FRIDAY: Adoration 11.30am Mass at 12noon

SATURDAY: Adoration 11.30am Mass at 12.00 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation after 12 noon Mass and 4.00-4.30pm

TODAY [1] With the **Fifteenth Sunday of Year A** we celebrate Jesus the Seed of Gd's Word and Love sown into the fertile soil of our lives of faith. Matthew gives us Jesus great parable to the Sowing of the Seed. We are all called to be 'sowers of the Seed' of Jesus Word and Love into the soil of our world, the soil of every human heart. Do we welcome His Word and allow that Word to grow within us and shape our lives? Do we sow the Gospel into our world and it structures?

[2] **We welcome Fr Francis Ezennia MSP**, parish priest of Lawrence Weston and Shirehampton, to preach the **Annual Missionary Appeal** on behalf of his Congregation - the Missionaries of St Paul of Nigeria. I will be celebrating the masses in Shirehampton and Lawrence Weston while you all make Fr Francis at home here at St Nicks!

[3] We also **welcome a group of 29 Slovenian Pilgrims**, with their Franciscan priests, Fr Pavle Jakop OFM and Fr Vid (Franc) Lisjak OFM. They are celebrating Mass at St Nicks at 8.30am.

NEXT SUNDAY [1] On the **Sixteenth Sunday of Year A** we celebrate Jesus, servant and proclaimer of the Kingdom of God. He speaks of the Kingdom as seeds growing with us to bring about a great harvest of justice and tree of welcome and love. Our parish is called to that tree that gives shelter and warmth and the discovery of freedom in Christ. Are we the yeast within our society - our inner city - that gives wholesome and life-giving bread to all?

[2] Thank you for your generosity in responding to Ricardo's moving words after Mass on the 5th July. We are holding **another Retiring Collection for the victims of the devastating Earthquakes in Venezuela**, and the money will be channelled through CAFOD. Thank you again.

PRAY FOR THIS WEEK'S PARISH MINISTRY OR MISSION We pray for the **Lay Ministry of the Eucharist**. Our Lay Ministers of the Eucharist enable us to receive the Precious Blood of the Lord each Sunday Mass and lead Services of Word and Communion when Richard is away. This nurtures the prayer and worship life of the community especially when a priest is not available. Lay Ministers of the Eucharist also ensure that all our housebound and long-term

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sick can receive the Healing Christ of the Eucharist in their own homes on a weekly basis. We are needing to train and commission a few more lay ministers to continue this invaluable ministry and touches the praying and sacramental heart of the parish..

DIOCESAN PRAYER We pray for the parish in communion for mission of St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton , served by Fr Francis Eyo MSP and all their community.

BISHOP BOSCO - ON SICK LEAVE This week Bishop Bosco was taken ill with a heart condition. We have and will continue to pray for him. He has successfully received treatment and is now discharged from hospital. He will be taking some leave to recover and with then gradually return to his ministry among us. He has thanked us all for our prayer and expressed great gratitude for the care and skill he received at the heart Institute of the BRL. Please continue to keep him in your prayer.

COLLECTIONS **MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR PARISH'S MISSION**

GA: £00 + Loose £218.92 + Card Reader £63.75.00 + S.O. £206.35 = £489.02

CAFOD VENEZUELAN APPEAL £401.50 - many thanks!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 16th July School Leavers & End of Year Mass at 9.30am - all welcome
- 6th Aug **Feast of the Transfiguration and Hiroshima Day, prayer for Nuclear disarmament**
- 6th Aug Parish Finance Committee at 7.30pm (on Zoom)
- 16th Aug **Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady (celebrated on Sunday)**
- 23rd Aug Journey of Faith 'Come and ~See' meeting after 10am Mass
- 30th Aug Baptismal Sunday - names to Richard or Eustace now please
- 4th Sept First Confirmation Meeting Assisi Centre at 5.30pm
- 6th Sept **Patronal Feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino - Day of Rededication and Celebration**
- 4th Oct Parish Synod Meeting 12.30-2.00pm - **for everyone please book it**

CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONFIRMATION

At last we are now able to prepare our young people (aged 13 +) for the vital Sacrament of Confirmation. **It is the Church's wish that Confirmation is delayed until an age when our young people can decide for themselves to take this step of commitment as disciples of Christ.** Parents can encourage, but must not make this decision for their children. We wish to gather the names of your g people who would like to explore the possibility of receiving Confirmation. We will have a meeting with them on **Friday 4th September at 5.30pm** in the Assisi Centre and begin a Programme of Preparation (along the lines of the Journey of Faith) in October. We hope to arrange a date for Confirmation in February/March. Young People, please approach Richard or Mary as soon as possible.

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THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

If you or someone you know might be thinking about becoming a Catholic, or simply want to know more about our faith, then the **Journey of Faith Group** is for them. Or if you are already a Catholic but have not been Confirmed in the Holy Spirit, or simply what to deepen your faith, then this group is also for you. Please contact Richard or Mary Hopper. **We will have a 'Come and See' meeting after Mass on Sunday 23rd August**

URGENT NEEDS OF OUR FOODBANK

THIS IS AN UGENT APPEAL Food and Toiletries needed - We need fresh meat (which can be frozen), bread, eggs, fruit and vegetables; pasta, rice, breakfast cereals, milk, sugar, tea/coffee, pasta sauces, and tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish, baked beans etc. Some vegan foodstuffs also needed as well as some pet food. And washing powder, cleaning materials and toiletries. Please bring them to the Offertory on Sundays - larger deliveries by arrangement with Lahiru our foodbank manager, (mob: 07438976736). **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

FREE SURVIVORS & INFORMATION EVENT - 11th August 2026

Hosted by the South West Ecumenical Safeguarding Forum in Partnership with First Light. Please share the information about this event within your parishes and networks. More information and registration is via Eventbrite.

The South West Ecumenical Safeguarding Forum (SWESF) is a regional collaboration across the South West of England, focused on safeguarding within Christian churches and faith settings. First Light is a specialist UK charity that supports and empowers people affected by abuse, including domestic abuse, sexual violence, and church-related abuse. If you have been affected by abuse, you are warmly invited to attend this supportive and informative event. [Free Survivor Support & Information Event Tickets](#).

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 celebration:

BAPTISMAL SUNDAY 30th August at 10am Mass

NEWS OF THE PRESBYTERY

After two long years finally we got the diocese to agree to leasing our empty presbytery to Ashley Community Housing for the housing of homeless refugees. The lease is for three years and is renewable. The lease was completed on Wednesday and Richard handed over the keys. The former presbytery will now be called 'Tolentino House' and ACH are in the process of doing the necessary refurbishment work for it to comply with multi-occupancy property. New residents should be occupying it within next 6-8 weeks. Its use for housing homeless refugees accords beautifully with our mission as a parish and I look forward to welcoming your new neighbours!

URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Minette has been leading the flower-arranging team for many years. Sadly she needs to step down from this ministry. If no-one steps forward to help we will have no fresh flowers in the Church. We thank Minette for her faithful service. Please see her or Richard to help.

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