



Eglwys Gatholig Sant Joseff, Castellnedd. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Neath.


Parish Priest – Fr. Neil Evans
St. Joseph's Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath. SA11 1TG. Tel: (01639)643323
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Permanent Deacon: Rev. Jim Caddick


St. John Kemble Catholic Church : Llewellyn Street, Glynneath. SA11 5AE.
Serving the Catholic Community of the Neath Valley


Times of Holy Mass for the coming week


| Day | Time and Place | Intention |
|--|--|---|
| Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> | 4:00 pm Saturday Glynneath 6:00 pm Saturday Neath 10.30am Sunday Neath | Parish & People Desmond Comerford RIP (Family) Margaret Allen RIP (Family) |
| Monday 21st December | NO MASS | |
| Tuesday 22nd December | 6.30 pm Neath | Tina Hopkins R.I.P (SD) |
| Wednesday 23rd December | 9.30 Neath 11.00 Glynneath | Michael O'Kane R.I.P. (Jane & John Smith) Leon Alder R.I.P. (N.N.) |
| Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve | 4.00 pm Glynneath 6.00 pm Neath 11.30 pm Neath 12.00 pm Neath | Parish & People Margaret Hill R.I.P. (Brendan O'Grady) Carols Nancy Scotson R.I.P. (P.m.) |
| Friday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i> | 10.30 Neath | Kitty & Helen (Spec Int) |
| Saturday 26th December | | |
| Sunday 27th December <i>The Holy Family</i> | 4:00 pm Saturday Glynneath 6:00 pm Saturday Neath 10.30am Sunday Neath | Annie Boyle (Owen & Anita) Sr. Gabriel (Spec Int) (Y & N) Parish & People |


 **Confessions**
Neath : on request Glynneath: on request


 **Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament**
After Friday Morning Mass.


 **Readers for this week: 19th/20th December 4th Sunday of Advent**
Saturday Evening: Luke Murphy, Caoimhe Murphy
Sunday Morning: Paddy Clifford, Jack Staddon
Readers for next week: 26th/27th December The Holy Family
Saturday Evening: Nora Reynolds, Laurence MacPherson Jones
Sunday Morning : Babs Hunt, Alice Williams

 **Church Cleaning Team 1**


Thank you for your generosity in the last offertory collection 
Neath: 13.12.15: £474.98 Levy: £98.00
Glynneath: 12.12.15: £67.70

 **Please pray for those in our parish who are sick and housebound, especially:**
Kath Wellington, Eileen Williams, Benita Whittington, Rosa Tristram, Audrey Gammon, Peter and Hazel Huxtable, Marjorie Grant, Olive Davies, Leo Linney, Mike O'Hea, Gladys Gallagher, Gaynor Pickrell, Lilian Lowry, Ana Maria, Gerry Rennick, Mary Holmes, Yolanda Jones, Peggy Evans, Bernard Madden, Harper Marie Beasley, David Jukes, Peter Healey, Tim O'Neill and Anita Gore.

 **Of your Charity, pray for those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**
Desmond Comerford, Tom Thomas, Jacqueline Joseph, Ena Hynes, Grace Phillips, Vernon Doyle, Paddy O'Reilly, Rose Hoptroff, Bernard Allen and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them – may they rest in peace. Amen.

 Sacred Heart Lamp is lit for:
P.M.H.

 Our Lady's Lamp is lit for:
Tom Thomas R.I.P.

 St. Joseph's Lamp is lit for:
Corodescu family

CROESO—WELCOME! To all visitors. We hope you enjoy your stay in the area.

Christmas Message: With great joy we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus was not born into a fairy tale nativity scene but into a harsh world of homelessness and Roman occupation. Similarly, we also do not have to “imagine” a fairy tale Jesus, inhabiting myths and legends. In His risen power Jesus awaits an invitation into the reality of our day to day lives. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me”.

Let our response be that of the hymn writer, “O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel”.

Deacon Jim and I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for 2016.

Tea and Coffee: is served in the Hall after Mass on Sunday. Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat!

Exposition: Friday morning after Mass.

First Holy Communion: The following names have been received for First Holy Communion: Bethany Tristram, Callum Lavin, Daniel Jones, Iori Davies, Bethany Clifford, Kieran Cameron, Eve Abell, Kyla Evans. Please keep them all in your prayers. Classes will begin in the New Year.

Confirmation: Similarly, please keep each of the following in your prayers: Hannah Parel, Elma Parel, Emelia Evans, Patrick Comerford-Davies, Iori Comerford-Davies, Niamh Bray, Ciara Bray.

Adult Confirmation and Reception into the Catholic Church: If any adult is hoping to become a Catholic, or to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

Directory and Year Book 2016: for the Province of Cardiff, Wales and Herefordshire are now available from the piety shop at a price of £3.

St Joseph’s Parish Finances: Many thanks for two further “anonymous” donations of £1,000 to the Parish Fund and £6,000 to the Boiler Room Fund. The £7,100 thus far received will be ring-fenced. We need to raise a further

£2,900 to reach our target of a £10,000 reserved fund for the boiler room. Many, many thanks for all donations received..

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!” You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

School News

Well what a fantastic end of term we have had!! The children entertained families and friends with performances of A Miracle in Town and Santa and the Beanstalk. As always they rose to the occasion and were all amazing. The school was a sea of colour on Friday 11th as everyone put on their Christmas Jumpers to raise money for CAFOD.

Years 1 & 2 visited Father Christmas at the Cimla Equestrian Centre. Our Nursery and Reception visited him and Mother Christmas at Abbot’s Kitchen.

We feasted on a delicious Christmas Dinner prepared by Mrs Baker and Mrs Jones.

Mrs. Brooks and all the Staff would like to thank you for your support.

We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas. Nadolig Llawen

Diary Dates; January

Monday 4th January INSET Day

The Parish Hall: Is available for hire at very reasonable rates. If you would like to book the hall, please contact Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or 07708105147.

Parent & Toddler Group: meet in the hall every Wednesday morning from 9:30 -11:30. New members welcome! !



Would you like to have a 7 day candle burn for an intention in the Church? We now have candles near the statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady and St Joseph, that you can request to be lit for an intention that can be published in the newsletter each week. Apart from being an age old devotional practice, the donated money can help raise funds for our Church. The envelopes are available at the back of the Church.