

Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December 2022

Today, with great joy, we celebrate the Birth of the Eternal Word made Flesh in the Womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and pray that, at this Christmastide, that same Eternal Word might again descend from heaven into our own homes and hearts – “O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee”. He is the Light of the World and we pray that the Light of Christ may illuminate all our Christmas celebrations and that we may know that peace in our lives of which the Angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth”. May God grant to us all a happy and holy Christmastide

Prayer for Ukraine (from the Bishops 'Conference) *“Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, For their government and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son, Suffering on the Cross at Calvary. Give them strength and courage, Through faith, hope and justice. May we, in our turn, Support them through prayer and generosity, That lives may be saved, the injured healed, that the dead may rest in peace, And that war will end in peace”.*

Christmas Mass Times: Saturday 24th December (**Christmas Eve**) 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Joan, Harry & Bryan (RIP) (Babs); and 10-00 p.m. (St Joseph's) Kevin Halloran & Annie Halloran (RIP) (The family); **Christmas Day** (Sunday) 10-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) Bernard Allen (RIP) (Elias family)

Weekday Mass Intentions: Wednesday (28th) (St. Joseph's) 9-30 a.m. Anne-Marie McAteer (RIP) (the family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Peggy Swan (RIP).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (1st January 2023 – **Mary, Mother of God**) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Maureen Pitt (RIP) (Lesley Owen & family); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Stuart Michael (RIP) (The family).

The Christmas Collection is a gift to the Parish Priest. Many thanks.

Readers: This Sunday – Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th) 6-00 p.m. Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-00 a.m. Volunteer. **Christmas Day** (Sunday 25th) 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel; **Next Sunday** (1st January) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Peter Healey (RIP); Our Lady – Michael & Edna McAteer (RIP); St. Joseph – Mike O'Hea (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Bernard Allen (2003); Lilian Lowryl (2015); Patricia Winter (2003); Arthur Wheatley (2007); Lucy Wiltshire (2009); Jim Insole (2016); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

St. Joseph's Sixth Form Many thanks to the Sixth Form for their very generous gift to the parish of Wood Christmas Tree Decorations of the Crib Scene. Please take one (for each family) from the box at the back of the church.

S.P.U.C. National Prayer Campaign. 27th October to 27th April. “ 10 Million prayers “ to mark the 55th Anniversary of the Abortion Act, remember the 10 million lives lost in Britain since 1967 and to unite in prayer and build together a Culture of Life. **Please take with you the FIFTH in the series of the prayer cards, “ Prayer for Families by St. John Paul II”** and join with this national prayer campaign.

Fatima Pilgrimage Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald is organising a pilgrimage to Fatima from 10 to 15 May next year 2023. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Margaret on 01792 987059

Parish Coffee Morning – Thursday from 10-00 – 11-00 a.m. Resumes – **Thursday 4th January** All welcome!

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's – £320-01 (plus Direct Debits) – Sick & Retired Clergy £353-72. Many thanks. School Christmas Concert – 121-67. Jewellery sale in memory of Ann Morruzi - £170-00. Many thanks. St. John Kemble - £31-00; Sick & Retired Clergy - £15-00. Many thanks.

Health & Safety Committee Just before the pandemic, all parishes were asked to address the large number of Health & Safety regulations which we need to comply with to validate our Diocesan Insurance Policy and to ensure the safety of everyone coming on to the church/hall premises. We have now been advised that, post-pandemic, it is now time to get on with addressing these issues. We are very grateful to Richard Hopkins and Geraint Jones, whose work as our Health & Safety officers was immediately interrupted by the pandemic, for taking on some of these responsibilities but it is a big responsibility and if you have practical expertise in particular skills (electrical, plumbing. Building, "health & safety" ! etc) and/or are able to help, this would be much appreciated. It is hoped that such a committee would form the foundation of setting up a Pastoral Council for the parish.

FOOD BANK Please leave donations to the Neath Food Bank at the back of the church - the products Food Banks need most: Tinned veg (peas and sweetcorn); tinned tuna and mackerel; brown,basmati and long grain rice; pulses (eg: kidney beans and chickpeas); grains (eg: couscous); easy cook noodles; tinned fruit (eg: pineapple slices); wholegrain cereals (eg: wheat biscuits); oat drinks and UHT milk. THANK YOU!

S.V.P If you or someone you know are in any kind of need, please contact a member of the SVP which will be in the strictest confidence. A list of members can be found at the back of the church on the SVP information board.

Deanery Confirmation Mass (?) It is hoped, possibly, to hold a Deanery Confirmation Mass next year at Our Lady of Margam. If you may be interested please have a word with Fr.Neil.

Parish History Booklet Copies of the reprint of the History of the Parish are still available if you would like to pick up a copy from the back of the church - £5-00

Mass Intentions Please note that weekday Mass Intentions are now reserved in to the New Year and for the Saturday/Sunday Masses into March. If you would like loved ones to be remembered on a particular date, please think ahead remembering that others may already have reserved your preferred date from the year before. A reserved weekend Mass intention will always be several weeks/months ahead of a weekday request.

The Sick and Housebound Please continue to remember in your prayers all those who are sick and housebound, those in hospital and in our local care homes. Especially at this time, Kathryn Woolley (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Julie Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Geraint Jones. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

*"More honourable than the Cherubim,
And infinitely more glorious than the Seraphim,
Thou, who without corruption, didst bear God the Word,
Thee, true Mother of God, we magnify"*

" Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a New Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Come Holy Spirit, in Your power and might to renew the face of the earth". (Pope St.John XXIII).

PRAYER AFTER MASS *St.Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323
Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk