

## EASTER SUNDAY – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Easter Message

We give thanks to God that as we come through Lent and Holy Week into the Light and Glory of Christ's Resurrection we seem also to be emerging from the more severe aspects of the pandemic after two very challenging years during which so many, perhaps the majority, have caught the virus ( beyond our wildest imaginations and fears just a few years ago ) and, sadly, over 100,000 people have lost their lives to the virus (and over five million across the world ). It maybe that we are just in respite and a short time of remission, in which case we have the opportunity to draw strength from this period of calm and renewed health and to fortify ourselves against any return of the virus ( to our shores ) remembering that the virus is continuing to spread not only all around the world but also here in Britain. We remember the words of Jesus, "**In the world you will have tribulation but fear not! I have overcome the world!**" In His Glorious Resurrection from the Dead, Jesus directs us beyond this passing world of transience and change to the deeper realms of life and to eternal verities and truths. At this Eastertide, may we all be given the grace of a renewed and strengthened faith through a deeper consecration of our lives to the Risen Jesus. May God grant us all a very happy and blessed Easter!

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 17th April – **EASTER DAY** ) Saturday 8-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's ) Parish & People; **Sunday** 7-30 a.m Maureen Pitt (RIP) ( Sharon Morgan & family ); 9-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Catherine Newcombe (RIP) ( June & family);10-30a.m. Marjorie Grant (RIP) ( SJPG ).

**Readers:** **This Sunday** ( 17<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day ) 7-30 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Babs Hunt. **Next Sunday** ( 24<sup>th</sup> April ) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas.

**Mass Intentions next Sunday:** ( 24<sup>th</sup> April ) **Saturday** ( St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Our Confirmation Candidates ( Sp.Int. ); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Gwyneth Larcombe (RIP) ( Elias Family ).

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) 9-30 a.m. Kitty Gallaway (RIP) ( Joe & Lorna); 11-00 a.m. Kevin Halloran (RIP) ( Abell Family); Thursday ( 21<sup>st</sup> April ) Sheila Burns (RIP) ( Donie, Pat & family); Friday ( 22<sup>nd</sup>) Arthur Gwyn (RIP) ( Linda and John Slattery & family).

**Please Note** (Mass Intentions). **Saturday and Sunday** Masses are already reserved for a particular intention until the middle of **JULY** ( and **Weekday Masses** until the beginning of **JUNE** ).Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date ( or nearest date ). Thank you.

**Candles** The Sacred Heart – Frances Kelly (RIP); Our Lady - Gloria Davies (RIP); St. Joseph – The Consecration of Russia & Peace in Ukraine.

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vincenzo Colomazza (2010); Manuel Grimaldi (2000); Kathleen Jarrett (2017); Joseph Doolin ( 2016 ); Linda Lay (2010); Gary Derrick (2020); Gwyneth Evans (2016). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**UKRAINE Our Lady of Kiev** is probably the most famous Icon of Our Lady ( **please see the Hymn Sheet and the Icon in front of the statue of Our Lady** – you may wish to light a candle ) was made in 1132. It is a masterpiece, comparable for its beauty and psychological depths to the Mona Lisa and is the first great work in the Ukrainian School of Iconography. The Icon displays the great tenderness of Our Lady for her Divine Child. The Virgin's head touching the baby is a gesture of deep affection and the icon set the standard for Ukrainian icon painters which has never been surpassed. Providence has preserved the icon through centuries of war and ( ironically ) it was removed to Moscow in 1395.

**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*".

**The Sacrament of Confirmation** Please remember in your prayers those preparing for Confirmation – Zaira and Joshua Zambrano, Carys Smitham, Tommy Parel, Maria Grabczewski, Oisín and Cian Fitchett, Eve Abell, Daniel Rowlands, Mia Faure, Joseph Payne, William Heslop, Callum Lavin, Martin and Marya Joseph and Bethany Clifford, Sophie Wheatley. The Confirmation Group meets after the 10-30 a.m. Mass. There will be no meetings on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday – but a **full rehearsal** of the Confirmation Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April .

**Note for the diary!** - Archbishop George Stack will be with us shortly on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April** (7-00 p.m. ) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Four confirmation candidates from the Parish of Llandeilo will join with our 17 candidates which means that 21 pews will be reserved for each candidate, their sponsor and a few family/friends also in the pew. Extra family/friends may occupy the remaining 15 pews. If you do not have a seat reserved in the pew of one of the candidates, please come early to be sure of a seat! Please keep all the candidates in your prayers for the special day.

**A prayer offered to the Holy Spirit** – especially for all our Confirmation Candidates. “ 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 ).

**Donations** toward the cost of decorating the Church with flowers at Easter - and also toward the cost of flowers and shrubs in the church grounds gratefully received. Many thanks.

**The Rosary and Marian Prayers of Devotion** Every Tuesday at 2-00 p.m. in the Lady Chapel ( for about half-an-hour). All welcome.

**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, Peggy Swan ( Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Andrew Jenkins, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Donie O'Connell, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. Owen O'Connell. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**Monsignor Michael Lewis** ( the Chancellor of the Diocese ) was seriously injured in a car accident returning home from the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on Wednesday and is in the intensive care unit in the Heath Hospital in Cardiff. Please remember him in your prayers.

**The Sacrament of Confession** Fr. Neil will be available to hear confessions from 5-30 p.m. before the Saturday Vigil Mass. Please arrive in plenty of time. Confessions can be either face-to-face or use the privacy of the cubicle. **Confession can also take place at other Mass times ( including weekdays ).**

**The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes** 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022. A full programme, al transport, travel and full board are included in the package, Further details to follow. See [www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com](http://www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com)

**The Church Kneeler** If you so wish, you may kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand. **N.B. Please note** – to all communicants – after the priest says “The Body of Christ” to say “**Amen**” which means “it is so” which is an affirmation of faith and thus, **throughout the Mass** “Amen” and **all congregational responses should be confidently expressed** - not hesitantly and quietly!

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St.Joseph's - £302-25 ( plus Direct Debits ); St.John Kemble – £39-00. Many thanks. **N.B. Envelope Boxes** – now available for collection at the back of the Church.

**TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL** - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323 **N.B. The phone in the Presbytery is now re-connected.** Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)