

EASTER SUNDAY - 9th April 2023

Easter Message

Today we rejoice that Christ is risen from the dead, "He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!". Having entered the jaws of death as a willing Victim and Sacrifice, the Resurrection of Christ asserts, displays and triumphantly manifests to the whole of Creation that death is conquered and that Christ is victorious over our ancient enemy – "and the last enemy to be destroyed is death!" (1 Corinthians 15 v 26). "For as in Adam all die, even so, in Christ shall all be made alive" (v 22). The Risen Jesus stands at the entrance to our hearts waiting to be invited in, " Behold! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and invites me in, I will sup with him and he with me – he who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered, and sat down with my Father on His throne" (Revelation 3 v 20f). Today Jesus invites us to share His victory and to share His throne! May we open our hearts to receive Him in all His Resurrection power at this glorious Eastertide!

Mass Times this Week

Holy Saturday 8th April 8-00 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass**

Easter Day 9th April 9-00 a.m (St. John Kemble)

10-30 a.m (St.Joseph's) Michelle O'Brien (RIP) (Joe & Lorna)

Wednesday (12TH) 9-30 a.m (St.Joseph's) Michelle O'Brien (RIP) (Philip & Patrick O'Brien); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Terry Barry (Sp.Int.)

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"*

" 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).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (16th April - Divine Mercy Sunday) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Joe Brennan (RIP) (Mary Walker); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Annie & William Cochran (RIP) (J. Evans) **PLEASE ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS**

Readers: This Sunday (9th April – Easter Day) 10-30 a.m. Barbara Hunt. Next Sunday (16th April) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Peter Buckingham. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the reading beforehand.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Deceased Members of the Taggart Family; Our Lady – Liz & Roger Fluck (Good Health); St. Joseph – Dorian May Evans (RIP).

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Please note that Mass Intentions are already reserved for nearly every weekend Mass into July and weekday Masses into June

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Bentia Whittington (2020); Dorothy Palfrey (2006); Mario Berni (2009); Raffaella Aprea (2007); James O'Donnell (2007); Edna McCarthy (2011). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

Pilgrimage to Lourdes From 28 June to 7 July – two spare places. Please see Deacon Jim.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL If you have a child over 2 years of age or are new to the area and are looking for a school – look no further! St Joseph's has a loving, caring ethos to bring out the full potential of your child. Please contact the school on 01639 635099 for further details.

Altar Servers Please keep Thusha, Tommy, Brendan and Johnny in your prayers in this important ministry on the Altar.

First Holy Communion Classes will begin at 9-30 a.m. before the morning Mass next Sunday - **Sunday 16th April**. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion. Four Application Forms have been received. Please keep in your prayers – Ieuan Rees, Noah Wheatley, George Challenger, Henri Afolabi. The date of the First Holy Communion Mass will be dependent on progress (and attendance) at the classes.

Parish Hall Are there any parishioners with an hour to spare. We are looking for someone with expertise and enthusiasm for D.I.Y. to help out with some small repairs? Please contact Brenda on 01639 636326 or 07817656157.

Warm Space Hub (Mondays 11-00a.m. to 2-00 p.m.) Warm Hub will resume on the 17th and 24th of April.

Youtube Please check out, "The Biblical Roots of Ash Wednesday" (Dr. Pitre) and other items of interest at "Catholic Productions". See also " Eucharistic Amazement: The Bible and the Mass" (Scott Hahn) at FOCUS Catholic.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £349-65 (plus DD); St. John Kemble £55-00. (Many thanks).

Envelope Boxes Now available from the back of the church. Please note, you may have a different numbered box than last year. If you would like to donate via the envelope scheme please have a word with Robert Grant.

Welsh National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady, Cardigan. Sunday 21 May from 1-30 p.m. to 5-15 p.m. with Archbishop Mark. Please see poster for further details.

S.P.U.C. National Prayer Campaign. Please take with you the TWELTH (and final) in the series of the prayer cards, **THE RESURRECTION** – " Prayer for those who have lost a child to abortion" as we conclude this six month (27 October – 27 April) National Prayer Campaign – " 10 million prayers for 10 million lost lives"

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, Pat Day., Fr.Neil, Donnie O'Connell. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

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.

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