

## **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2026**

**“ 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 ). Come, Holy Spirit!**

**Mass this Sunday** ( 2<sup>nd</sup> August ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Alan Jones (RIP) ( Cathy Thompson); 10-30 a.m. Helen Merchant ( RIP ) ( Mike & Viv Merchant ).

**Weekday Mass Times** ( Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August ) ( St. Joseph's ) 9-30 a.m. Ann Hanford (RIP) ( The family); 11-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Sr. Josephine & Sr. Rose ( RIP); Thursday (6th) ( St. Joseph's ) 9-30 a.m. Jacob Joseph (RIP) ( Geethu & Paul);

**Mass next Sunday** ( Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Alan Boland (RIP) ( Marion & Jane ); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Noah Hikary ( Sp. Int. ) ( The Family).

**Eighteenth Sunday - Psalm Response** “ You open Your Hand, and fulfil us, O Lord ” ( Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 2 )

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 2<sup>nd</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas. Next Sunday (9<sup>th</sup>) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne.

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Marshall and Chris Abell (RIP); Our Lady – Bernard Evans; St. Joseph – Colin Mulligan ( Sp. Int. ).

**Richard Jackson (RIP)** Please remember Richard in your prayers and Mary and the family at this time. Richard's Funeral Service takes place at Margam Crematorium on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**Anniversaries** Anita O'Donnell ( 2021); Eileen Campbell ( 2010). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them May they rest in peace. Amen*

**Month of August** Except for weekend and weekday Masses Fr. Neil will be taking days off in August.

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's £313-70 ( plus Direct Debits ). St. John Kemble £47-00. Many thanks.

**Parish Discussion Group** There will be no meeting this Monday ( 3<sup>rd</sup> August )

**Piety Shop** We are hoping to re-open the Piety Shop for quarter of an hour before Mass on Saturdays ( 5-30 to 5-45 p.m. ) and Sundays ( 10-00 to 10-15 a.m. ). We would like to form a rota of volunteers to cover these times. Please have a word with Mary Isaac ( 07399 565232 ) or Brenda Grant ( 07817 656157 ).

**Ministry of Welcome.** To further develop our ministry of welcome, “meeters and greeters” will welcome and hand out our newsletters to visitors at the start of Mass. If you would like to be involved please add your name and phone number to the list at the back of the church. Thank you. ( Parish Mission Study Group ).

**St. John Kemble** With a falling commitment to our Wednesday Mass and “get-together” afterwards ( only three last Wednesday ) we need to think whether there is enough support to continue meeting on Wednesdays.

**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, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders and Luke, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, David Vaudin, Agnes Collins, Angela Healey., Mark Thomas, Siobhan Fitchett, Jane Smith, Donie O'Connell, Dennis Huxtable, Colin Mulligan, Sheila Morgan, Mary Bowen, Kay Mead, Deacon Jim, Dennis Gorman. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

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## **PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY**

Lord, as I step out into this day in all the frailties and imperfections of my nature, I do not know what this day will bring. I do not know if You will bring me to the end of this day. I thank You for the life You have given me thus far, and I ask Your forgiveness that I have presumed upon, abused and violated Your many graces and mercies to me.

As I step out into this day, grant me, I pray, the grace of a deeper and deeper surrender to Your Will, a letting-go of the world, and to see Jesus always in front of me as the ultimate Goal beyond all the events of today. Grant me the grace to rest securely and serenely in Your Presence, and not to be overthrown and confused by the sudden changes of life. I am a frail earthen vessel, a phial of blood, a clod of earth. Help me toward a greater respect for my fragility – that I “hang like a drop of dew upon a blade of grass” entirely dependent upon Your Will and Favour.

Help me to live from each heart-beat and not to presume beyond it. Help me not to “grab” at what surrounds me and yet always to work harder in doing good, and with a greater commitment. May my walk today be, in every step, a pilgrimage in Thee. I do not know what storms may break upon this day or how troubled a sea it may be. Bless the source and the spring of this day, and bring me safely into the harbour at the eve of the day – that I may safely anchor in the haven with Thee. Glory to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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*O Mary, Most Holy, who in the Immaculate Conception became the Temple of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.*

***May the Holy Spirit come soon, And renew the face of the earth.***

*O Mary, Most Holy, who in the Mystery of the Incarnation became the Mother of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.*

***May the Holy Spirit come soon, And renew the face of the earth.***

*O Mary Most Holy, who while praying together with the Apostles in the Upper Room were baptised with fire and the Holy Spirit, pray for us.*

***May the Holy Spirit come soon, And renew the face of the earth.***

*Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord and renew the face of the earth! May Your Spirit come, O Lord, and may He transform us interiorly with His gifts. May He create in us a new heart so that, in all things, we may please You and accomplish Your Holy Will, through the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the prayers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

***Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Come, Holy Spirit***

### **Prayers to the Holy Spirit**

“ O Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I must do and command that I do it. I promise to submit to everything You ask of me and to accept all that You allow to happen to me. Just show me what is Your Will” ( Cardinal Mercier).

“ Holy Spirit, guard the entrance to our hearts. Let no unworthy desire enter in. Keep watch at the door of our minds. Let no unworthy thought pass through. May our souls be worthy of You, Most Holy Spirit, so that we may rejoice in Your Presence, and glory in the comfort of Your peace. Amen”

**Altar Relics at St. Joseph's - St. Speciosus** and his brother St. Gregory were contemporaries of St. Benedict and among his first disciples. They founded the Benedictine community at Terracina between Rome and Naples on the Mediterranean coast. Speciosus died in ( approx.) 555AD and his feast day is 15<sup>TH</sup> March. Interestingly, in the Eastern Orthodox calendar the feast day of his brother, St. Gregory, is 12<sup>th</sup> December which is the date on which St. Joseph's was consecrated. **St. Clement Hofbauer** ( d.1820 ) Bishop of Moravia who spent twenty years in Poland, the first to establish the Redemptorists north of the Alps – ( is it a co-incidence that his feast day is the same as that of St. Speciosus - 15<sup>th</sup> March ?). Hopefully further information may come to light. **St. Speciosus, pray for us! St. Clement, pray for us!**