

## **Feast of the Holy Family - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – the Sixth Day of Christmas**

**“ 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 )**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** With great joy, at this Christmastide, we celebrate the coming of God among us – “robed in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the Incarnate Deity!” He Who made the Universe now sleeps as a helpless Baby in the arms of His Mother, Mary. With the astonished shepherds and the worship of the Wise Men we draw near to the Crib of our Infant King. May the blessings of the Christ Child rain down upon us, our families and friends, over this Christmas Season and may God bless us every one.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 31st December – The Holy Family ) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) Fr. William Cownley (RIP) ( SPCD ); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Bernard Allen ( RIP ) ( Elias Family).

**This week** **Monday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> January – Mary, the Mother of God ) St. Joseph’s 9-30 a.m.

**Fr. Neil** During January Fr. Neil will be taking days off, and lighter duties and resumption of treatment. Thank you for your prayers.

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 7<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany ) **Saturday** 4-00 pm. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) John Morse (RIP) ( Helen & Pat ); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Ann Hanford (RIP) ( The family ).

**Readers: This Sunday** (31<sup>st</sup> – The Holy Family ) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Peter Buckingham. **Next Sunday** ( 7<sup>th</sup> – The Epiphany ) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Sheila Penry (RIP); Our Lady – Yolanda Jones ( RIP ); St. Joseph – Carol Curnow (RIP)

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Jim Insole (2016); Mair Richards (2007); Patrick Gallagher (2009); Peter Navin (2010); Bridget Amos (2017). Vernon Tanner (2002); Virginia Farrell ( 2016); William Dooley (2006); Sharon Bradshaw 92010); Thomas Thomas ( 2011); Kimberly O’Neil (2007). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Patricia Curnow (RIP)** Please remember Patricia in your prayers and the family at this time. Patricia’s Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 12-45 p.m.

**Sheila Penry (RIP)** Please remember Sheila in your prayers who was with us here in Mass last weekend and died on Tuesday. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

**Carol Curnow (RIP)** Please remember Carol in your prayers who died on Tuesday after many months of poor health. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

**Yolanda Jones (RIP)** Please remember Yolanda in your prayers who died peacefully at home on Wednesday. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

Please keep Patricia, Sheila, Carol and Yolanda in your prayers and also their grieving families at this time. ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen***

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**Mass Intentions** Please note that weekend and weekday Mass intentions are now reserved into **March 2024**. Please be thinking ahead by several months if you would like a Mass intention for a loved one on a particular day/date – even so, some dates are reserved a year ahead and if so Mass will be said on the nearest date available to the request. Thank you.

**A gentle reminder (!)** – please observe and respect a prayerful silence before Mass to prepare yourself for the celebration of Mass. Loud conversations are disturbing ( and upsetting ) for those who may come early to church precisely to have a time of quiet reflection (including the parish priest! ) who do not want to overhear personal conversations about family, friends, future plans etc! Plenty of time to exchange news and information after the end of Mass. Thank you.

**Christmas Crib** Donations to the Christmas Crib this year will be divided between the work of Caritas ( Cardiff and Menevia ) and Christians living in the Holy Land ( Friends of the Holy Land and Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre ).

**Many thanks** for the generous Christmas Collection and for the many cards and gifts received. Thank you for your many kindnesses and for your thoughtfulness. Please keep me in your prayers. Many thanks. ( Fr. Neil).

**Grateful thanks** to Dennis for his generous donation of gifts of chocolate to our Altar Servers, children and congregation over the Christmas period. Also many thanks to all those who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for our Christmas celebrations. Please keep celebrating for the full twelve days of Christmas!

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's £383-00 ( plus Direct Debits ) – and for the donation of £262-50 from the Cancer Challenge Singers Concert and for the donation of £300 ( and many other donations ) toward the cost of the Christmas flowers. All donations gratefully received. **St John Kemble** – £27-00. Many thanks.

**Parish Reps.** The Archbishop would like to meet with parish representatives at St. Mary's, Carmarthen, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10-30 a.m. to listen to any feedback from the parishes regarding (i) the proposal to unite the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Diocese of Menevia to form one Diocese, and (ii) responses to the Synod process taking place throughout the Church. We are invited to send two Reps ( from each parish). Please see Fr. Neil.

**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, George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, George McIntyre, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies. And Robert Minty. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**WARNING** Please note, cars parked in front of the garages, opposite the church gates, have been smeared in a sticky oily substance over the door handles and windscreens. Obviously this is a criminal offence and I have suggested to those affected that they report the matter to the police.

**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"*.

**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*

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