

First Sunday in Lent – 18th February 2024

THE SEASON OF LENT

In Lent we enter a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at **6-00 p.m.** in St. Joseph's and on Saturdays at **3-30 p.m.** in St. John Kemble. On **Friday 22 March at 7-00 p.m.** there will be a performance of the Clydach Passion Play, "**The Road to Calvary**" here in St. Joseph's, as we enter into Holy Week. Please make a note in your diary. We pray that this Holy Season may be a special time of grace for us.

Churches Together in Neath LENT SERVICES 2024 "**Watch & Pray**" All services start at 2-00 p.m. Monday 19th February – Orchard Place; Monday 26th February – Neath Methodist; Monday 4th March - **St. Joseph's**; Monday 11th March – St. David's Vestry; Monday 18th MARCH – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Lent Alms This year to be divided between supporting Christian communities in the Holy Land and the work of Caritas in the Diocese of Menevia & the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Lent Alms Box is on the table by the Lady Chapel.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (18th February) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. 4-00 pm. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Alan Cameron (RIP) (David & June Vaudin); Sunday 10-30 a.m. John Hickey (RIP) (Isabel & Peter Buckingham).

Weekday Mass Wednesday 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) William Hardie (RIP) (Doug & Karen); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Fr. Sandy Brown (RIP (SPCD); Friday (23rd) 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (25th February) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Jean Wallace (RIP) (Anne-Marie O'Donnell);. **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. M.T. Abraham (RIP) (Lena & family).

Readers: This Sunday (18th) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday (25th)** 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Barbara Howell (RIP); Our Lady – Mila Frances & Maggie Therese (Sp. Int.); St. Joseph – Roy Evans (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; peter Derrick (2006); Julia Mary Watkins (2011); Bridget Sagatis (2009); Bridget Mullane (2009); Howell Gwynn (2016). Roland Webb (2020); Hilary Hopkin (2023); David Palfrey (2014); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Rose Williams (RIP) Please remember Rose in your prayers and the family at this time. Rose's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's on Thursday 29th February at 11-30 a.m. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

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.

Reception into the Catholic Church Please keep in your prayers those who have expressed the desire to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. We meet together each Sunday after the 10-30 a.m. Mass for short sessions of catechesis and prayer. If you also are praying about this possibility, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

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Mass Intentions Please note that weekend Mass intentions are now reserved into **JULY** and during weekdays into **MAY** and other dates have been reserved as far as December. 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.

First Holy Communion. We hope to have a First Holy Communion Mass in the summer. Please obtain an application form from Carolyn, Elaine or Mary. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion. Classes will begin at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the 10-30 a.m. Mass this Sunday 18th February (First Sunday of Lent)

Right to Life Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving. Please collect a postcard from the back of the church. The debate is about to take place in parliament and cards need to be posted in the next few days.

Jubilee Year 2025 Pope Francis has asked that 2024 should be a Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee Year 2025. Events and programmes to be announced.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje September 24th to 1st October 2024. Flight from Bristol. Cost £700. Please contact Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald on 01792 987059.

St. Joseph's Parish Guild (i) **Monday 4th March** at 7-00 p.m. in the Hall – Welsh Cakes & Cawl. Tickets £5 from Nora and Sheila. (ii) The Hall Committee has a vacancy – if you are interested and/or want to know more, please contact Brenda Grant (Chairperson) on 0781 7656157. We meet every 4 to 6 weeks and are an active group working hard as a team to keep the hall well-maintained and a good venue for functions. (iii) If any parishioner is interested in booking the Hall for a parish or private function please contact Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or mobile 07708105147 .

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £449-05 (plus Direct Debits); St John Kemble – £41-00 . Many thanks.

Second Collection This Friday (23rd) is the CAFOD Lent Fast Day and our second collection next Sunday is the – the Annual Lent CAFOD Collection. Please pick up a CAFOD News sheet with this newsletter for further details.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 4-45 p.m. in the Hall. New members very welcome. Please come along.

Parish Coffee Morning Every Thursday from 10-00a.m. to 11-00 a.m.

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, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, George McIntyre, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Robert Minty and David Hoy. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

“ 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

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