

## Palm Sunday – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Through the Forty Days of Lent we have been making our way towards Holy Week and Easter following the Stations of the Cross and participating in the Self-Offering of Christ, through our smaller acts of sacrifice and self-denial. Today, Palm Sunday, we arrive with Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem and with Him enter the Holy City. On Thursday we gather in the Upper Room for the Mass of the Lord's Supper and follow to the Garden of Repose. On Friday we gather at the foot of the Cross – "we adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world" and await, through Holy Saturday, the Glorious Resurrection of Christ on Easter morning – "He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!". May this Holy Week be a time of renewal and grace for us all.

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 this Sunday ( 2<sup>nd</sup> April PALM SUNDAY ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's ) Marion O'Grady (RIP) ( Brendan ); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Stuart Michael (RIP) ( Cathy & Carl ) PLEASE ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS**

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### HOLY WEEK

(As in previous years our Holy Week celebrations this year will be simplified)

Monday 3rd April 7-00 p.m. Churches Together in Neath Holy Week Service. All welcome.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 11-00 a.m. **CHRISM MASS** – The Cathedral. All welcome.

Holy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7-00 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper** Brian Jones (RIP) ( Karen & Doug )

Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2-00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

6-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Stations ( and Veneration ) of the Cross

5-30 to 7-00 p.m. ( St.Joseph's ) Church open for private prayer ( Stations of the Cross)

Holy Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 8-00 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass**

Easter Day 9<sup>th</sup> April 9-00 a.m ( St. John Kemble )

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

**Parish Coffee Morning – No meeting this coming Thursday.** Resumes on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Readers: This Sunday ( 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Palm Sunday ) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. Next Sunday ( 9<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday ) 10-30 a.m. Barbara Hunt. Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the reading beforehand.**

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Mavis Jones; Our Lady – Donie (Recovery); St. Joseph – Christopher Davies (RIP).

**Parish Guild Meeting** this Monday (3<sup>rd</sup>) at 2-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

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

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; John Campbell (2004); Mary Protheroe (2016); Maureen Maher (2016); Ann Gough (2018); Bridget Davies (2012); James Peoples (2008). *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 on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Afolabl. The date of the First Holy Communion Mass will be dependent on progress ( and attendance ) at the classes.

**Easter Flowers** Donations toward the cost of decorating the church with flowers for Easter gratefully received.

**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.) **No meeting this Monday**. Warm Hub will resume on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 £381-87 ( plus DD ) – Lenten Alms £443-06 ( Many thanks for this generous donation to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal). St. John Kemble £42-00. (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.

**S.P.U.C. National Prayer Campaign.** Please take with you the **ELEVENTH** in the series of the prayer cards, **THE ANNUNCIATION – " A Prayer for those in Crisis Pregnancies "** and join with this six month national prayer campaign

**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.

**TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL** - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323  
Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)