

Second Sunday of Advent – 8th December 2024

“ 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 (8th December – Second of Advent) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph’s) Margaret Costello (RIP) (Brendan O’Grady); 10-30 a.m. Thanksgiving (Hikary family).

Weekday Mass Times Monday (9th) The Immaculate Conception (Solemnity) 9-30 a.m. May Gregory (RIP) (Lorna & Joe); Wednesday (11th December) 9-30 a.m. [St. Joseph’s) Peter Thomas (RIP) (Loynes and Thomas Families); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Frank Nedza (RIP) (Nancy); Thursday (12th) 9-30 a.m. Bernice Glover (RIP) (Lorna & Joe); Friday (13th) 9-30 a.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) (Adrian & Paula).

School Carol Service This Tuesday (10th) here in church at 6-00 p.m. All welcome!

Mass Intentions next Sunday (15th December – Gaudete Sunday) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Natalie Cosgrove (RIP) (Brendan O’ Grady); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Michael McAteer (RIP) (The Family) – followed by Children’s Party in the Hall afterwards and drawing of the Christmas Raffle Tickets.

Christmas Mass Times. Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th) 4-00 p.m. St. John Kemble; 6-00 p.m. St.Joseph’s; 10-00 p.m. St. Joseph’s (“Midnight Mass”). Christmas Day (Wednesday 25th) 10-30 St. Joseph’s.

Readers: **This Sunday** (8th December) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes. 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne. **Next Sunday** (15th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker. **Please sign up to read at the Lessons & Carols on Sunday 22nd at 6-00 p.m.**

Readers Please come early so that you have the opportunity before Mass to look at the readings beforehand. If you are unable to keep your place on the rota please arrange for someone to take your place (!!).

Candles: Sacred Heart – Edna & Michael McAteer (RIP) ; Our Lady – Special Intention (C.M.); St. Joseph – Terry Woolcock (RIP).

Anniversaries Patrick O’Connell (2006); Kathleen Mahoney (2009); Regina Pearl (2012); Peggy Swan (2022); Clare Pike (2006); Deta May (2001); Vincenzo DiDio (2009); Michael Sheridan (2019); Audrey Gammon (2017); Kevin Halloran (2021). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Monica Jenkins (RIP) Please remember Monica in your prayers and the family at this time. Monica’s Funeral Mass will take place here at St. Joseph’s this Thursday 12 December at 11-45 a.m.

Betty Green (RIP) Betty taught at our school from 1966 (Pendril Street) to 1980. Her funeral took place in St. Benedict’s, Sketty and the burial at Llantwit cemetery on Tuesday. Please remember Betty and the family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The New Lectionary Explained. From Advent Sunday we reading from the translation of the New Lectionary – please take a copy of the leaflet explaining the changes from the back of the church.

The Jubilee Year Advent Sunday marked the beginning of the Year of Jubilee (2025) entitled “Pilgrims of Hope”. Please take a **FREE COPY!** of the” Companion Booklet – The Jubilee” (over 90 pages!) with prayers and information about the Jubilee Year – from the back of the church.

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New Missals The three-year red hardback editions of the new Missal have now arrived and are available for collection from the Sacristy. Please place payment (£18) in the box and tick that you have paid. Thank you.

Diary Dates! (i) **Next Sunday 15 December** – Childrens’ Party (for everyone!) after the 10-30 Mass – **please sign the list at the back of the church** of children attending and donations of food.

(ii) **Sunday 22 December** at 6-00 p.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols in church followed by refreshments in the Hall. – **please will readers sign the list at the back of the church.** Thank you.

Christmas Raffle Draw will take place next Sunday (15th) at the Christmas Party in the hall. Please return all stubs & raffle money to the box at the back of the church **A.S.A.P.** (!) or no prizes will be won!! Many thanks to Peter for organising the raffle and to all who have so generously donated prizes.

St. Joseph’s Senior Citizens Christmas Party **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** For the first time since the pandemic we are inviting the senior citizens of our parish communities to a Christmas Party at St. Joseph’s Comprehensive School Port Talbot on **Wednesday 18th December from 2pm to 4 pm**. The event is entirely organised and funded by the Sixth Form students at the school and we would really like to give you the opportunity to share an afternoon of food drink and festive entertainment with us. If you would like to join us, please let us know by calling 01639 884305. (Thank you to the school sixth form for arranging this for the parishes).

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Forms will be available in the New Year for those wishing to be considered for either of these two Sacraments. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments.

Advent Youth Retreat at St. David’s College Cardiff on Saturday 14th December open to those age 12 to 19. It will be led by Fr. Matthew Roach-Saunders and Archbishop Mark will celebrate Mass. Please register at <https://forms.gle/aScks4e3Jm8R7SR16> or for further information contact Alun John, Communications Manager for the Archdiocese on 029 2037 9487 or alun.john@rcadc.org If you are interested costs and pocket money will be covered by the parish – let Fr. Neil know.

New Boiler in the Church Hall The installation is due to take place from Monday to Friday this week. The boiler will be transferred inside to the storeroom. All donations gratefully received. Please note that there will be **no tea/coffee in the Hall this Thursday.**

Last Sunday’s Collection: £376-53 (plus Direct Debits). - Candle money - £80-00. St. John Kemble - £195. .Many thanks.

Christmas Flowers Donations toward the cost of decorating the church at Christmas gratefully received. Please see Chris, Babs or Paula. Also, at St. John Kemble donations please to Bella. We are very grateful to our flower arrangers in both churches for so beautifully decorating the church each Sunday. Many thanks.

The Church Hall is available for private heir. If anyone is interested in booking the venue please contct Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or 07708105147

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, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O’Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, David and Nora Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Susan Evans, Paul Leaker, Sid Leaker. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

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.*

