

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – 4th JANUARY 2026

CHRISTMASTIDE

We continue to celebrate the full twelve days of Christmastide as we approach the Feast of the Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men presenting their gifts at the crib of Him Who is born King of the Jews and the Light to lighten the Gentiles. As we look to the year ahead we pray that we all may find ourselves increasingly surrendering ourselves to this Holy Child and His Holy Mother as we pray that through her maternal prayers and intercessions we may enter ever more deeply into the Resurrection life of her Divine Son guiding us through the joys and challenges of the year ahead.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (Sunday 4th January) Saturday 4-00 p.m. St John Kemble - Fred Hipsley (RIP) (Everyone at St. John Kemble); 6-00 p.m. St. Joseph's – Marshall & Chris Abell (RIP) (Pat & David John). 10-30 a.m. Parish & People.

Weekday Mass Times Tuesday (6th January) 6-00 p.m. (**Feast of the Epiphany**) Chris Burbidge (Sp.Int.); Wednesday (7th) St. Joseph's 9-30 a.m. Ann Hanford (RIP) (The Family); St. John Kemble 11-00 a.m. (**Votive Mass of Epiphany**) Elaine Reynolds (Sp. Int.) (Henry & family).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (Sunday 11th January – The Baptism of Jesus) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Angela Healey (Sp.Int.) (All at St. John Kemble); 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Siobhan Fitchett (Sp.Int.) (June & David Vaudin); 10-30 a.m. Parish & People.

Second Sunday of Christmas- Psalm Response “ The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us ” (We are now in Year A and Week 2 in the Breviary/Missal)

Crib Collection To be divided between **Aid to the Church in Need** and **Caritas** (the homeless in) Cardiff-Menevia.

Readers: This Sunday (4th January) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans. Next Sunday (11th January) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas.

Candles: Sacred Heart - John & Jane Smith (Sp.Int.); Our Lady – Donie O'Connell (Sp. Int.); St. Joseph – Dennis Huxtable.

Anniversaries Thomas Thomas (2011); Kimberly O'Neil (2007); “Ina” Hooper (2025); Eileen Williams (2016); Leo Linney (2019)..

Catechesis We shall be re-starting our “ten minute” catechesis sessions next Sunday (11th January) after the 10-30 a.m. Mass. If you are thinking of becoming a catholic or have recently come back to the Church and have questions, we meet together before joining others for tea & coffee in the Hall afterwards.

Christmas Collection - and Birthday Party! Many thanks for the very generous Christmas Collection and for the many cards and gifts received over the Christmas period, all of which is very much appreciated. Thank you also for the surprise Birthday Party in the Hall after Mass last Sunday morning – to all who helped to arrange it and to Des for the amazing birthday cake! - and for the many cards and gifts. Many thanks! (Fr. Neil).

The Parish S.V.P have been overwhelmed by your generosity this Christmas – including Des baking a cake for competition. We have been able to give presents to housebound parishioners and help local charities and to fund our buffalo project. Thank you. (The SVP).

Last Sunday's Collection: (28th) St. Joseph's £364-94 (Plus Direct Debits); and many thanks for the generous donation of £2,000 to parish funds. All donations gratefully received. St. John Kemble £77-00. Many thanks.

Fr. Neil will be slowing down and taking time off during the month of January.

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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