

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) – 24th April 2022

Easter Message

We give thanks to God that as we come through Lent and Holy Week into the Light and Glory of Christ's Resurrection we seem also to be emerging from the more severe aspects of the pandemic after two very challenging years during which so many, perhaps the majority, have caught the virus (beyond our wildest imaginations and fears just a few years ago) and, sadly, over 100,000 people have lost their lives to the virus (and over five million across the world). It maybe that we are just in respite and a short time of remission, in which case we have the opportunity to draw strength from this period of calm and renewed health and to fortify ourselves against any return of the virus (to our shores) remembering that the virus is continuing to spread not only all around the world but also here in Britain. We remember the words of Jesus, "**In the world you will have tribulation but fear not! I have overcome the world!**" In His Glorious Resurrection from the Dead, Jesus directs us beyond this passing world of transience and change to the deeper realms of life and to eternal verities and truths. At this Eastertide, may we all be given the grace of a renewed and strengthened faith through a deeper consecration of our lives to the Risen Jesus. May God grant us all a very happy and blessed Easter!

Mass Intentions this Sunday: (24th April - Divine Mercy Sunday) **Saturday** (St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Our Confirmation Candidates (Sp.Int.); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Gwyneth Larcombe (RIP) (Elias Family).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Wednesday (27th) 9-30 a.m. (St.Joseph's) Albert and Bridie Shackleton (RIP) (Mary Addis); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) M.I.C.F (RIP); Friday (29th) 7-00 a.m. CONFIRMATION MASS

CONFIRMATION MASS On Friday at 7-00 p.m. we welcome Archbishop George to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. A pew is reserved for each confirmation candidate. We have 17 candidates plus four joining us from Llandeilo. This means that 21 pews are already reserved, which means that (with the candidate and their sponsor in the pew) there will a further (approx.) 5 or 6 places in the reserved pew. Extra family/friends may occupy the remaining 15 pews. If you do not have a seat reserved in the pew of one of the candidates, please come early to be sure of a seat! (There will also be room in the Lady Chapel and at the back of the church).

Please remember in your prayers those preparing for Confirmation – Zaira and Joshua Zambrano, Carys Smitham, Tommy Parel, Maria Grabczewski, Oisín and Cian Fitchett, Eve Abell, Daniel Rowlands, Mia Faure, Joseph Payne, William Heslop, Callum Lavin, Martin and Malrya Tomy and Bethany Clifford, Sophie Wheatley. And from Llandeilo, Nirah, Brycen, Juri and Isaac. We shall have a brief rehearsal for candidates and sponsors immediately after the 10-30 a.m. Mass this Sunday.

"Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, Thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live. Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou this soul of mine, Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray" Come, Holy Spirit!

A prayer offered to the Holy Spirit – especially for all our Confirmation Candidates. " 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 next Sunday (1st May –) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. Gaynor & David (Sp. Int.) **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Russel Palfrey (RIP) (Linda);

Readers: This Sunday (24th April) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas. **Next Sunday** (1st May) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne.

Please Note (Mass Intentions). **Saturday and Sunday Masses** are already reserved for a particular intention until the middle of **JULY** (and **Weekday Masses** until the middle of **JUNE**). Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

Candles The Sacred Heart – Confirmation Candidates; Our Lady - Ukraine; St. Joseph – Anne Butler (RIP)

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anita Gore (2019); Annette Powell (2005); Russell Palfrey (2015); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Tuesday Marian Prayers & Rosary No meeting this Tuesday. The Legion of Mary Prayers & Rosary will move from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday evening at 6-00 p.m. starting on Wednesday 4th May. New members very welcome

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".*

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes 25th – 30th July 2022. A full programme, al transport, travel and full board are included in the package, Further details to follow. See www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com

Donations toward the cost of flowers and shrubs in the church grounds gratefully received. Many thanks.

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, Peggy Swan (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Andrew Jenkins, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. Owen O'Connell. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Holy Baptism Please keep in your prayers leuan Rees who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism next Sunday afternoon.

Easter Collection, Cards and Gifts Many thanks for the very generous Easter Collection and for cards and gifts received – all of which very gratefully received. God bless you all and thank you

Monsignor Michael Lewis (the Chancellor of the Diocese) was seriously injured in a car accident returning home from the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral and remains in the intensive care unit in the Heath Hospital in Cardiff. Please remember him in your prayers.

The Sacrament of Confession Fr. Neil will be available to hear confessions from 5-30 p.m. before the Saturday Vigil Mass. Please arrive in plenty of time. Confessions can be either face-to-face or use the privacy of the cubicle. **Confession can also take place at other Mass times (including weekdays).**

The Church Kneeler If you so wish, you may kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand. **N.B. Please note** – to all communicants – after the priest says "The Body of Christ" to say "Amen" which means "it is so" which is an affirmation of faith and thus, **throughout the Mass** "Amen" and **all congregational responses should be confidently expressed** - not hesitantly and quietly!

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323

N.B. The phone in the Presbytery is now re-connected. Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk