

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd July 2023

“ 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 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*”

Mass Intentions this Sunday (23rd July) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. (St. Joseph's) Betty Hopkins (Sp.Int.) (Lorna & Joe O'Brien); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Roger Fluck (RIP)(Deacon Jim & Marie)..

Weekday Mass Intentions Wednesday (26th) 9-30 a.m Pat O'connell & family (Sp. Int) (Elias family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Fr. Nicholas Jenkins (RIP) (SPCD); Thursday (27th) 9-30 a.m. Roger Fluck (RIP) (John & Linda Slattery); Friday (22nd) 9-30 a.m. The Mahoney Family (Sp. Int.) (Geraldine & Eileen).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (30th July) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m.(St. Joseph's) Lorraine & Mike Maloney (Sp.Int.); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Johnny & Aggie Gregory (RIP) (Lorna & Joe O'Brien).

Readers: This Sunday (23rd) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. Next Sunday (30th) 6-00 p.m. Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Fr. Bill Lloyd (RIP); Our Lady – Tess Court (RIP); St. Joseph – Peter Piles (RIP.).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Wendy Beard (2017); John Sweeney (2009); John Watkins (2016); Lorenzo Linciano (2014); Anthony Roberts (2002); Mary Pughsley (2022); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they 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.

Defibrulator The Defibrulator has now been installed. Thank you to all those who have signed up for one of the training sessions. We hope to offer one of three possible time slots for this training session to be held in the Parish Hall – dates to be announced. Thank you to all who have generously donated to the purchase which has raised the magnificent sum of £1,917-56. Many thanks.

Parish Safe-Guarding. Safe guarding of children and vulnerable adults is of the highest priority. We are very grateful to Mrs Anne Guest who has taken on the role of Parish Safe-Guarding Officer. Anne will be reviewing and up-dating the paperwork of all those who work with (or visit) children and vulnerable adults on behalf of the parish. If you have any concerns about safe-guarding issues, Anne can be contacted on 07741283098.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 6-00 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

Reception in to the Catholic Church A few people have expressed an interest in being received in to the Catholic Church. If you are thinking about this please have a word with Fr. Neil.

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Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £316-89 (plus Direct Debits), St John Kemble – 8 July £45-00 plus £15-00 Apostleship of the Sea. 15 July £25-00. Many thanks.

Church Floor We hope to arrange for the sanding and polishing of the wooden floor of the church and the installation of new carpets. We are very grateful for the donation of £1,000 toward the cost of the carpet and the three quotations we have received for the sanding & polishing of the floor are all in the region of £7,000. We hope the work can be carried out the week beginning the 21st August and we are very grateful for the further donation of £40 towards the cost of this project. Further donations gratefully received.

Fr. Neil will take four weeks off from parish duties from Thursday 10 August (the date of the hernia operation) until Monday 4th September. Cancer treatment resumes on Tuesday 1st August. Thank you for your prayers – much appreciated.

Feast of St. John Kemble The Mass will now be deferred (from 22 August) until September at which we will receive Grant into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Please keep Grant in your prayers.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal It is hoped that this year these boxes can be forwarded by October so please start gathering (new) items together in plenty of time. Further details from the S.V.P. to follow.

World Youth Day. Please keep in your prayers the young people travelling out to Lisbon from 26 July to 7 August for World Youth Day. (Belated) congratulations to Kath Crossman on raising £2,000 in a sponsored bicycle ride along the Camino to Santiago Compostella during the Easter holidays. Hopefully, perhaps some of our own young people will consider travelling to the next WYD (?) and from the parish we can sponsor and raise funds to help them to do so.

Garden Stations of the Cross We are grateful to those thirteen families and individuals who have expressed the wish to donate a Station of the Cross in memory of loved ones. These will be erected after the playground border has been properly prepared with flowers and shrubs – possibly by the summer of 2024. The cost, as yet, is uncertain depending on the size and design. If you would like to gift a bench please have a word with Fr.Neil. Many thanks.

FOOD BANK Please leave donations to the Neath Food Bank at the back of the church - the products Food Banks need most: Tinned veg (peas and sweetcorn); tinned tuna and mackerel; brown,basmati and long grain rice; pulses (eg: kidney beans and chickpeas); grains (eg: couscous); easy cook noodles; tinned fruit (eg: pineapple slices); wholegrain cereals (eg: wheat biscuits); oat drinks and UHT milk. THANK YOU!

S.V.P. If you or someone you know are in any kind of need, please contact a member of the SVP which will be in the strictest confidence. A list of members can be found at the back of the church on the SVP information board

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), George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Geraint Jones, Fr. Neil, Pat Day, Daniel John. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Parish History Booklet Copies of the reprint of the History of the Parish are still available if you would like to pick up a copy from the back of the church - £5-00

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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