

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 10th January 2021 – The Baptism of Jesus

THE CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS

As announced at the Christmas Mass celebrations, the public celebration of Mass is suspended in our two churches (except for funerals) from Christmas Day through January (unless the situation improves) due to the pandemic. Please contact Fr.Neil if you would like to access the church for private prayer or for the Sacrament of Confession. The situation will be kept under review. Thankfully, over the last two weeks the infection rate in Neath Port Talbot has fallen substantially, by nearly a half from 953/1000,000 to 507/100,000. For this we thank God, however, conscious that the public celebration of Mass has been suspended in both Scotland and Northern Ireland and that record numbers are being hospitalised and dying from the Coronavirus (and taking seriously the advice that we should all behave as though we have ourselves contracted the virus) it would seem both a wise and prudent (but very difficult) decision to remain closed during the month of January until the situation across the country becomes much clearer. Please continue to pray for the good health and the safety of everyone at St.Joseph's and at St. John Kemble. (**For online, streamed, Mass** in the Diocese, please see the websites of the Cathedral, Mumbles, Town Hill, Dunvant, Haverfordwest, amongst others).

Please pray for those parishioners with the virus or having to self-isolate and those families who have lost loved ones in this pandemic. We continue to pray that through these sufferings and trials the Lord will bring us through to Resurrection and a New Pentecost.

A Coronavirus Prayer. “ Lord Jesus Christ, You travelled through towns and villages ‘ curing every disease and illness’ . At Your command, the sick were made well. Come now to our aid, in the midst of this global pandemic, and send down Your blessing and healing upon us and protect our healthcare workers. Bring us through to Resurrection and a New Pentecost. For Thy Name's sake. Amen”.

The Parish S.V.P Group/St.Joseph's Community Support Group/Legion of Mary (and others). We are very grateful to all those who have kept in contact by phone and helped out with shopping and in other ways, often behind the scene and unknown to others, since the beginning of the first lockdown in March. **THANK YOU TO YOU ALL! N.B. If you are still self-isolating – this help is still available.**

Pastoral Visits Please note that Fr.Neil is happy to call if you are continuing to self-isolate at home but would appreciate a visit. However - wearing masks and observing social distancing - this must be at your own risk (!). Except for emergencies, Fr.Neil will not call uninvited during the pandemic. **Please note: At present, the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by arrangement**

Michael O'Hea (RIP) Please remember Mike in your prayers whose Funeral Mass takes place at the Sacred Heart, Morriston on 14th January. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

DOMSEC ONLINE DAY OF REFLECTION – Next Saturday 16th January. The Theme, “The Book of Revelation: Signs and Symbols for Understanding the Bible” 11a.m to 1-00p.m. Please go to the DOMSEC Website at www.domsec.org.uk and click “Livestream” on the top menu bar. For help/information please contact Fr. Jerome at ituahjerome@gmail.com

APF RED BOXES (MISSIO). Thanks to all the promoters who emptied and collected money from the Mission boxes during this very unusual year. The total collected from the boxes this year is £609-69. Happy New Year everyone! (Local secretary – Angela Brennan)

Many thanks to you all for the generous Christmas Collection – very much appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Deacon Jim joins me in thanking you for the many cards and gifts and Christmas greetings received over this Christmas period and we wish you all a much blessed and healthy New Year.

Driveway Appeal Many thanks for the further donation to the Parish Funds/Driveway Appeal of £200. All donations gratefully received. We now have **£4,000** in the Driveway Fund. **Many thanks.**