

## Third Sunday of Advent ( "Gaudete Sunday" ) – 11<sup>TH</sup> December 2022

**" 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** ( 11<sup>th</sup> December – Gaudete Sunday ) – **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. (St. Joseph's ) Kevin Halloran (RIP) ( Lorna ); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Peter Thomas (RIP) ( The family ).

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>) 6-30 p.m. Kevin Halloran (RIP) ( Lorna );Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup>) 9-30 a.m. Andrew Mills (RIP) ( The family); 11-00 a.m. M.I.C.F. (RIP );Thursday ( 15th) 9-30 a.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) ( Adrian & Paula ); Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) 11-30 a.m. Funeral Mass – Dennis Taylor (RIP)

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 18<sup>th</sup> December ) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Parish & People; ( St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Graham Evans (RIP) ( Brendan O'Grady ). **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Michael McAteer (RIP) ( The family ).

**Christmas Raffle Tickets** Please return counterfoils and money this weekend. The raffle will be drawn after the 10-30 a.m. Mass in the parish hall. A big thank you to Roger for organising the raffle and also to those who have generously donated the prizes. Thank you. **Christmas Cards & Gifts** – now available from the Piety Shop. **Christmas CAFOD Gifts** Please take a Cafod leaflet with details of Christmas gifts you might like to purchase.

**Christmas Flowers** – donations to the cost of the Christmas flowers gratefully received. Please see Chris or Babs.

**Readers: This Sunday** (11<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00 p.m. Caroline Thomas; 10-30 a.m. Babs Hunt. **Next Sunday** ( 18<sup>th</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Lorna Halloran; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas.

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Vi Taylor & family; Our Lady – Dennis Taylor (RIP); St. Joseph – Kevin Halloran (RIP).

**S.J.P.G. Mince Pie, Raffle & Prize Bingo Evening** – Many thanks to the S.J.P.G. for organising the very successful Mince Pie Evening last Monday. Over £300 was raised for the Neath Foodbank.

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Clare Pike (2006); Deta May (2001); Vincenzo Didio (2009); Audrey Gammon (2017); Michael Sheridanl (2019); Kevin Halloran ( 2021); Laurence Macpherson-Jones (2020); Michael McAteer ( 2000 ); Madeline Lewis ( 2016 ); Kevin O'Brien ( 2017). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Dennis Taylor (RIP)** Please remember Dennis in your prayers and Vi and the family in their loss. Dennis' Funeral Mass will be this Friday ( 16<sup>th</sup>) at 11-30 a.m. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**Christmas Mass Times** Thursday 22 December 9-30 a.m. School Christmas Mass. Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve ) 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ); 6-00 p.m. and 10-00 p.m. ( St Joseph's ); Christmas Day ( Sunday) 10-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph's ).

**S.P.U.C. National Prayer Campaign.** 27<sup>th</sup> October to 27<sup>th</sup> April. " 10 Million prayers " to mark the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abortion Act, remember the 10 million lives lost in Britain since 1967 and to unite in prayer and build together a Culture of Life. **Please take with you the FOURTH in the series of the prayer cards, " Prayer to St. Gianna Molla " and join with this national prayer campaign.**

**Fatima Pilgrimage** Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald is organising a pilgrimage to Fatima from 10 to 15 May next year 2023. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Margaret on 01792 987059

**Congratulations** to Betty Hopkins celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday ( in the Hollins ) and to Rose Williams celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We wish them both every blessing and all good wishes.

**Mrs Claire Dineen** As you know Claire will be retiring at Christmas as Head Teacher of St. Joseph's after many years of service during which we have developed a lovely relationship between the school and the church, priest and parishioners. Many of you will have had children and grandchildren at the school during this time and if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Claire please pass your donation to Fr.Neil. Many thanks.

**Deanery Confirmation Mass** (?) It is hoped, possibly, to hold a Deanery Confirmation Mass next year at Our Lady of Margam. If you may be interested please have a word with Fr.Neil.

**Parish Coffee Morning** – Every Thursday from 10-00 – 11-00 a.m. All welcome!

**Health & Safety Committee** Just before the pandemic, all parishes were asked to address the large number of Health & Safety regulations which we need to comply with to validate our Diocesan Insurance Policy and to ensure the safety of everyone coming on to the church/hall premises. We have now been advised that, post-pandemic, it is now time to get on with addressing these issues. We are very grateful to Richard Hopkins and Geraint Jones, whose work as our Health & Safety officers was immediately interrupted by the pandemic, for taking on some of these responsibilities but it is a big responsibility and if you have practical expertise in particular skills ( electrical, plumbing. Building, "health & safety" ! etc ) and/or are able to help, this would be much appreciated. It is hoped that such a committee would form the foundation of setting up a Pastoral Council for the parish.

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St.Joseph's – £436-90 ( plus Direct Debits ); St. John Kemble - £39-00; Many thanks. The Second Collection this weekend 10/11<sup>th</sup> December for "Sick & Retired Clergy" ).

**S.V.P** Many thanks for the generous support of our own S.V.P. group. **Also, if you are able to buy a gift for a child this Christmas, please leave with an SVP member.**

**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.

**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!

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

**Mass Intentions** Please note that weekday Mass Intentions are now reserved in to the New Year and for the Saturday/Sunday Masses into March. If you would like loved ones to be remembered on a particular date, please think ahead remembering that others may already have reserved your preferred date from the year before. A reserved weekend Mass intention will always be several weeks/months ahead of a weekday request.

**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](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)