

Third Sunday of Advent – 15th December 2024

“ 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).

VOCATIONS PRAYER Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself, more faithful to You. Make me generous enough to want sincerely to do Your will whatever it may be. Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others. Grant Lord that those whom You call to enter the priesthood, diaconate or religious life may have the generosity to answer Your call, so that those who need Your help may find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (15th December – Gaudete Sunday) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Natalie Cosgrove (RIP) (Brendan O’ Grady); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Michael McAteer (RIP) (The Family) – followed by Children’s Party in the Hall afterwards and drawing of the Christmas Raffle Tickets.

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (18th December) 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph’s) Katherine Sheehan (RIP) (SVP); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) “Thank you” (Fred Hipsley); Thursday (19th) 9-30 a.m. **School End of Term Mass.** Neville William Brown(RIP) (John & Linda Slattery); Friday (20th) 9-30 a.m. David Davies (RIP) (Joan & loan).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (15th December – Fourth of Advent) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) William Burke (RIP) (Brendan O’Grady); 10-30 a.m. George Johnson (RIP) (Joan & loan).

Christmas Mass Times. **Christmas Eve** (Tuesday 24th) 4-00 p.m. St. John Kemble; 6-00 p.m. St. Joseph’s; 10-00 p.m. St. Joseph’s (“Midnight Mass”). **Christmas Day** (Wednesday 25th) 10-30 St. Joseph’s.

Readers: **This Sunday** (15th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Sophia Hikary. **Next Sunday** (22nd) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee. **Please sign up to read at the Lessons & Carols on Sunday 22nd at 6-00 p.m.**

Readers Please come early so that you have the opportunity before Mass to look at the readings beforehand. If you are unable to keep your place on the rota please arrange for someone to take your place (!!).

Candles: Sacred Heart – George Johnson (RIP) ; Our Lady – Bridie Johnson (Sp. Int.); St. Joseph – David Moule (RIP).

Anniversaries Laurence Macpherson- Jones (2020); Kathleen Mahoney (2009); Patricia Curnow (2023); Madeline Lewis (2016); Kevin O’Brien (2012); Desmond Comerford (2011); Anthony Oakley (2021); Tom Thomas (2011); Gladys Gallagher (2016); Douglas Hearne (2018). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

The New Lectionary Explained. From Advent Sunday we are reading from the translation of the New Lectionary – please take a copy of the leaflet explaining the changes from the back of the church.

The Jubilee Year Advent Sunday marked the beginning of the **Year of Jubilee** (2025) entitled “Pilgrims of Hope”. Please take a **FREE COPY!** of the “ **Companion Booklet – The Jubilee**” (over 90 pages!) with prayers and information about the Jubilee Year – from the back of the church.

Diary Dates! (i) **This Sunday 15 December** – Childrens’ Party (for everyone!) after the 10-30 Mass including the Christmas Raffle Draw. Many thanks to Peter for organising the raffle and to all who have so generously donated prizes. (ii) **Next Sunday 22 December** at 6-00 p.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols in church followed by refreshments in the Hall. – **please will readers sign the list at the back of the church.** Thank you.

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Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Forms will be available in the New Year for those wishing to be considered for either of these two Sacraments. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments.

St. Joseph's Senior Citizens Christmas Party BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! For the first time since the pandemic we are inviting the senior citizens of our parish communities to a Christmas Party at St. Joseph's Comprehensive School Port Talbot on **Wednesday 18th December from 2pm to 4 pm**. The event is entirely organised and funded by the Sixth Form students at the school and we would really like to give you the opportunity to share an afternoon of food drink and festive entertainment with us. If you would like to join us, please let us know by calling 01639 884305. (Thank you to the school sixth form for arranging this for the parishes).

New Boiler in the Church Hall We are very grateful to Eric Collier & Son for the installation of the new gas boiler in the hall. Please (!) – no unauthorised tampering with the control panel (!!) (All donations gratefully received)

Last Sunday's Collection: £469-22 (plus Direct Debits) plus £100 (anon) gift for new urn in the hall. Many thanks. St.John Kemble - Mass cancelled due to storm.

Christmas Flowers Donations toward the cost of decorating the church at Christmas gratefully received. Please see Chris, Babs or Paula. Also, at St. John Kemble donations please to Bella. We are very grateful to our flower arrangers in both churches for so beautifully decorating the church each Sunday. Many thanks.

The Church Hall is available for private heir. If anyone is interested in booking the venue please contct Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or 07708105147

Noise before and during Mass. It is lovely to have so many young families in Mass each Sunday. If an infant or toddler is upset or distressed please do not feel embarrassed to withdraw to the back of the church to give them your full attention. The altar servers are finding it difficult to concentrate on the Mass when distracted by noise in the congregation. Similarly, before Mass, loud conversations are disturbing to those who have come early to enjoy the quietness and peace of the church. **On the other hand** (!!) in recent weeks congregational participation in the Mass has become very quiet (sometimes almost inaudible). Please respond confidently and with a firm voice – don't leave it to the priest! If you are not sure of responses please use a copy of the Order of the Mass from the back of the church. Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

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, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, David and Nora Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Susan Evans, Paul Leaker, Sid Leaker. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

The Sick & Housebound If you know of someone who (at their request) would appreciate contact with the church through a home visit from the S.V.P. please contact Anne Guest, the Secretary on 07741283098 or Pat O'Connell for a visit from the Legion of Mary.

FOOD BANK - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING 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**

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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