

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 20th August 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 (20th August) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. Terry Woolcock (RIP) (Yolanda); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Roger Fluck (RIP) (Yolanda).

Weekday Mass Intentions No Mass this week (work begins on church floor – see below).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (27th August) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Roger Fluck (RIP) (Paula & Adrian). Sunday 10-30 a.m. The Veale Family (RIP) (Martin & Nuala).

Fr. Robert Davies and Canon Paul Watson We are very grateful to Canon Paul and Fr. Robert for celebrating Mass for us. Canon Paul will celebrate Mass this weekend.

Readers: This Sunday (20th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. Next Sunday (27th) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas. Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Private Special Intention; Our Lady – Ieuan Beesley (RIP); St. Joseph – George McIntyre (Sp. Int.).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; David Nicholas (2011); Margaret Philips (2014); Sophia Richmond (2014); Mary Widlake (2016); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Church Floor Sanding/Polishing and New Carpet. Work begins this week on the church floor and will take five to ten working days before fitting the new carpet. We are very grateful for further donations of £500, £250 and £100 toward the cost of the work which brings the total (including gift aid) to £2,377-50. Many thanks. **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!** If you are able to help Martin, Chris & Peter to move all the pews to one side of the church after the Sunday 10-30 a.m. Mass, help would be appreciated - refreshments in the hall afterwards!

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.

Defibrillator The Defibrillator 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 £1,977-56. 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.

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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

Fr. Neil is taking four weeks off from parish duties to recuperate from the Thursday operation and continue cancer treatment. Fr. Robert Davies, Canon Paul Watson and Fr. Gregory Beckett will help to cover all the weekend Masses and Fr. Krzysztof or Fr. Andrzej will be available for weekday emergencies (Last Rites) and funerals. 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.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £303-54 (plus Direct Debits) and donations of £500, £250 and £100 to the cost of sanding/polishing the church floor. St John Kemble – £44-00 Many thanks.

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. Please pick up a leaflet from the back of the church.

The Catholic Universe If you have ordered a copy of The Universe, these are now available. Please see Sheila.

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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 S.V.P The St. Joseph's SVP Conference's main work is supporting house-bound fellow parishioners. If you know of anyone who would appreciate our support or a visit – and gives their permission for us to approach them, or if you would like to join us in our work, please contact Anne Guest on 07741283098 and leave a message. 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, 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, George McIntyre, David Reynolds, Ian Thompson, Adrian Macpherson-Jones. 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

Parish Music Workshop Saturday 26th August at the Holy Family Hall, St. Joseph's Cathedral. A day with "colourful and charismatic" Christopher Walker – " one of the leading contemporary composers of our time". Please see poster for further details.

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency The CSSA are updating their procedure. If you would like to participate in their survey/review of procedures please refer to the 10 short questions at <https://forms.office.com/e/PavSuixHim> before 31st August.

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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