

## Advent Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 ).

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> December – ADVENT SUNDAY ) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s ) Dennis Taylor ( RIP ) ( The Family ); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Dennis Grant & Raymond Gibbins (RIP) ( Robert & Brenda )

**Weekday Mass Times** Wednesday ( 4th December ) 9-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) Rita Maddick (RIP) ( John & Linda Slattery ); 11-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Catherine Newcombe( RIP ( June, John & family ); Thursday ( 5th ) 9-30 a.m. Brendan Harvey (RIP) ( Jan Harvey ); Friday ( 6th ) 9-30 a.m. May Gregory ( RIP ) ( Lorna & Joe ).

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 8th December – Second of Advent ) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St.Joseph’s ) Margaret Costello ( RIP ) ( Brendan O’Grady ); 10-30 a.m. Thanksgiving ( Hikary family ).

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> December) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas. Next Sunday ( 8<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00 p.m.Sian Loynes. 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne.

**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 – Parish SVP Group; Our Lady – Betty Williams (RIP); St. Joseph – Parliamentary process and the Second Reading of the Leadbeater Bill

**Anniversaries** Dennis Taylor ( 2022 ); Leigh Davies (2011); Sheila Mead (2020); Sheila Manning (2020); Ruth Jenkins (2012 ); Brendan Harvey ( 2021); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Monica Jenkins (RIP)** Please remember Monica in your prayers and the family at this time. Monica’s Funeral Mass will take place here at St. Joseph’s on Thursday 12 November at 11-45 a.m. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

**The New Lectionary Explained.** From this Sunday we shall be reading from the translation of the New Lectionary – please take a copy of the leaflet explaining the changes from the back of the church.

**New Missals** The three-year red hardback editions of the new Missal have now arrived and are available for collection from the Sacristy. Please place payment ( £19 ) in the box and tick that you have paid. Thank you.

**The Jubilee Year** This Sunday – Advent Sunday – marks 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! – and worth £1-50! ) with prayers and information about the Jubilee Year – from the back of the church.

**Diary Dates!** (i) **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at 5-00 p.m. Our Lady of the Assumption, Briton Ferry – A Christmas Concert the Cancer Challenge Singers Tickets £5-00 ( see Geraint Jones ); (ii) **Sunday 15 December** – Childrens’ Party ( for everyone! ) after the 10-30 Mass – **please sign the list at the back of the church** of children attending and donations of food. (iii) **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.

**School Dates** (i) **This Wednesday** ( 4<sup>th</sup> December ) Christmas Craft Fayre from 2-30 p.m. (ii) School Christmas Carol Service – **Tuesday 10 December** at 6-00 p.m. here in church.

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**New Boiler in the Church Hall** The installation may start on Tuesday or be delayed by a week because of sickness. The boiler will be transferred inside to the storeroom. All donations gratefully received. Please note that there will be **no tea/coffee in the Hall this Thursday.**

**Last Sunday's Collection:** £343-34 ( plus Direct Debits ) and £340-00 for our SVP Group. St.John Kemble £14-00. and £15-00 for the SVP. Many thanks for supporting our Parish SVP Group in their Christmas outreach to the housebound.

**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.

**Advent Youth Retreat** at St. David's College Cardiff on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December open to those age 12 to 19. It will be led by Fr. Matthew Roach-Saunders and Archbishop Mark will celebrate Mass. Please register at <https://forms.gle/aScks4e3Jm8R7SR16> or for further information contact Alun John, Communications Manager for the Archdiocese on 029 2037 9487 or [alun.john@rcadc.org](mailto:alun.john@rcadc.org) If you are interested costs and pocket money will be covered by the parish – let Fr. Neil know.

**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

**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**

**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.

**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)

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