

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. Phone – 01639 643323

Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

**Sunday 29th November 2020 – Advent Sunday**

**Advent Sunday.** This Sunday is the beginning of the New Year in the Church Calendar when we begin that cycle of Feasts and Celebrations that will take us all the way through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany to Candlemas (The Presentation of Christ) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February ( forty days after Christmas) and the end of the Advent/Christmas Cycle. So much has happened over the last year and with Brexit ahead and the continuing global pandemic we must continue to pray that these events ( and whatever, as yet, unknown challenges still lie ahead of us) that God will allow these events ( according to His secret purposes and intentions for us ) to re-form us, re-make us and renew us – “ break me, melt me, mould me, fill me! Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!”. Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Lord Jesus!”. May God bless us and strengthen us in our following of Christ in the year ahead. Amen!

**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.

**This Sunday** (29th November ) St.John Kemble: **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People; St.Joseph’s 6-00p.m. John Reilly (RIP) ( John & Jane Smith ); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. John Williams (RIP); 10-30a.m. Peter Healey (RIP) (Angela ).

**Next Sunday** (6<sup>th</sup> December) **Saturday** St.John Kemble – 4-00 p.m. Parish & People. St.Joseph’s – 6-00 p.m. “Muriel, Gerald, Yvonne and infant Richards” (RIP) ( Annette, Phillip & Paul ). **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Deceased members of The Legion of Mary (RIP) ( The Members ). 10-30 a.m. Dennis Grant and Raymond Gibbons (RIP) (Robert & Brenda)

**Please Note** – Please consider reserving Mass requests well in advance of particular desired dates. At present all Sundays/Saturdays and weekday Masses have been reserved into early January.

**Readers** This Sunday (29th) 6-00p.m. Ceri McAteer. Sunday 8-00a.m. Gregory Page. 10-30a.m. Barbara Hunt. Next Sunday 6-00p.m. Sian Loynes. 8-00a.m. Adrian/Paula Macpherson Jones. 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker.

**Stewarding** this Sunday (29th) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia.

**Cleaning Teams.** This Sunday – 6-00p.m. Nora & Mary. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30 a.m. Helen & Karen. Next Sunday (15<sup>th</sup>) 6-00p.m. Sian & Mary. 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann. **Please could we have extra volunteers to help spray the pews etc after the 10-30a.m. Mass.** Thank you.

**Weekday Mass Times:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 9-30a.m. ( St.Joseph’s ) Sr. Anthony ( Sp. Int.) (Yolanda & Nantlais); 11-00a.m. ( St.John Kemble ) Catherine Newcombe (RIP) ( June & Family ); Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-30a.m. Mandy Fowler (RIP) ( Annette, Phillip & Paul ).

**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.**

**A Timely Reminder!!** Most people attending Mass are complying with Covid advice and guidelines but others, on occasion, are not so diligent. (i) Phones to be turned off on entering the church. It is irreverent to leave Mass to answer a phone call. (ii) Please be sure to maintain social distancing on entering the church and on leaving via the Lady Chapel – please hold back and avoid bunching up together. (iii) Please follow arrows at all times to maintain social distancing. **Thank you!**



**A Further Timely Reminder!** Please note(!) that the **Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Our Father, Agnus Dei** are all **congregational** responses and although the priest may start them off ( in the absence of an M.C/Choir ) they are to be taken up and **proclaimed** (!) ( confidently ) **by the congregation** – also, “And with your spirit”, “Thanks be to God” etc (!) Thank you!

**Anniversaries:** George Duncan (2009); Edward Mulvany (2000); Antonietta Aprea ( 2007); Grace Mallaghan (2009);David John (2007); Colin Rees (2007); Elizabeth Murphy (2001);Leigh Davies (2011); Ruth Jenkins (2012).*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Driveway Appeal** Many thanks for the further donations to the Parish Funds/Driveway Appeal of £100 and of £300. All donations gratefully received. We now have £2,450 in the Driveway Fund. **Many thanks.**

**Thank you!** Pat wishes to thank those who sent cards, gifts and messages for her special birthday.” God bless and keep you safe and well”.

**Shop on AMAZON and donate to the Diocese of Menevia!** If you shop Amazon Black Friday Week deals from 20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November, you can also donate to the Diocese at no extra cost. Simply shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/234168-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/234168-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile will donate to the Menevia Diocesan Trust!

**Message to the Brave.** Last year, as a parish, we sent Christmas Cards to “Defenders” of human and environmental rights across the world. In 2019 more than 300 such people were killed because of their efforts. Hundreds more were threatened or criminalised. This year CAFOD has chosen six more individuals/groups as representatives of the brave. Please pray for them and let them know that they are not alone by sending a Christmas card to one or more of them. Physical cards need to be received at CAFOD’s London Office by 7<sup>th</sup> December, online messages by the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see [Cafod.org.uk](https://Cafod.org.uk) – Messages to the Brave. Thank you.

**CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas.** To help the poorest throughout the world for as little as £4 a gift. A few catalogues are available ( please do not return them to the table once you have touched them ) otherwise please see the CAFOD website. Thank you.

**Christmas Cards** are now available from Sheila before the 6-00pm. Saturday Vigil Mass or before and after the 10-30a.m. Mass ( also from Pat after the 8-00a.m. Mass). Each box costs £4 – please have the **exact money** to put into the box. No cross-handling of money is permissible.

**Donations for Flowers.** Donations toward the cost of decorating the Church for Christmas gratefully received.

**Christmas Masses ( PLEASE NOTE )** Unfortunately, because of anticipated numbers, we will have to operate a booking/application system for those wishing to attend Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **Christmas Eve** – St.John Kemble 4-00p.m. ( **Please note that this 4-00p.m. Mass is now FULLY RESERVED.** ) St.Joseph’s 6-00 p.m. and 10-00p.m. **Christmas Day** – St.Joseph’s 8-00a.m. and 10-30a.m. This means that there will be enough room for everyone wishing to attend but it may not be possible to attend at the Mass time you would usually prefer. If possible, we would like the 6-00p.m. Mass to especially accommodate younger families so please take this into consideration when indicating which Mass you would like to attend. **PLEASE FILL IN A BOOKING/APPLICATION FORM AND PLACE IN THE BOX PROVIDED.**

**Second Collection** The Second Collection this weekend (29th) will be the ( postponed ) **Day for Life.** ( from 21<sup>st</sup> June) The following second collections will then take place, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Peter’s Pence ( from 28<sup>th</sup> June) Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea ( from July).

**THANK YOU** for last weekend’s collections - St.Joseph’s £296-86 ( plus Direct Debits ), World Communications Day £89-26; St.John Kemble £117, World Communications Day £15-00. Many thanks.