

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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THE RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCHES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

WELCOME BACK!

“ I was glad when I heard them say, ‘Let us go to God’s House!’, and now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!” (Psalm 122 v 1)

Dear Friends,, the great day has arrived when we can, at long last, return to church for the public celebration of Mass and meet one another again around the Lord’s Table. It has been a “wilderness” experience, but God has brought us through and we must pray that we are stronger, more fervent in our faith and that God has a time of blessing for us in the days ahead. No doubt it will all feel rather strange to begin with but, hopefully, we shall fall into the new way of doing things whilst looking forward to the day when all these (rather intrusive) precautions can be finished with. Please pray that we may offer a worthy celebration of Holy Mass within these necessary restrictions. Keep praying!

A] YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

Please be aware (and prepare beforehand!) the **TOILETS ARE CLOSED** and cannot be accessed - in order to avoid cross-contamination.

- (i) Entrance to the Church is only via the main door (except for disabled access)
- (ii) On entering, hands **MUST** be washed using the sanitising soap/gel provided.
- (iii) Masks and gloves are available but are optional.
- (iv) Please place your collection/donation in the box provided. There is no Offertory Procession.
- (v) Please follow the arrows/directions of the stewards. **UP** the central aisle. **DOWN** the side aisles, or, in St.John Kemble, anti-clockwise around the central pews.
- (vi) Every other pew is cordoned off. Three individuals may sit (apart) in a pew (as marked), or, in St.John Kemble, two individuals. Families, couples, those sharing a “bubble” may sit together – keeping social distance from others.
- (vii) Readers to wear gloves,
- (viii) Receiving the Blessed Sacrament. Approach the Altar by the central aisle **ONLY**. Form one queue, standing two metres apart. The Sacrament will be administered to you across the Prie dieu/kneeler. Return to your pew via the side aisle, or, in St.John Kemble, anti-clockwise.
- (ix) At the end of Mass, leave your pew via the central aisle (all the time being careful to observe social distancing); walk toward the Altar (genuflect) and turn right and exit through the Lady Chapel, sanitising your hands on the way out. (In St.John Kemble, via the backdoor). Please exit the church slowly and carefully, not congregating with others when sanitising your hands. Conversations/catching up with friends can take place outside the church, observing social distancing.
- (x) The church must be cleaned after every Mass.

B] THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

There will be no hymns, no holy water, no Bidding Prayers, no Sharing of the Peace, no Offertory Procession, no altar servers. Readers must wear gloves.

Any newsletters/information sheets/booklets that may be provided – **IF YOU TOUCH THEM** – must not be replaced on the table but **MUST** be taken home with you.

Please note – there is a limit of (approx) 55 who can attend Mass at one time (17 in St.John Kemble). With some choosing to stay away from Mass until a later date, it is hoped that we can accommodate all those choosing to attend Mass.

An extra Mass will be celebrated at 8-00a.m. on Sunday morning for a temporary/experimental period. Please consider attending this Mass to allow space for others to attend the Saturday Vigil Mass and 10-30 a.m. Mass.

If we cannot accommodate all those wishing to attend Mass, unfortunately, we will have to set up a booking/ticket system to regulate who will be able to attend – I would like to avoid this if possible.

FREE COPIES of the CTS New Sunday Missal 2020 (worth £7-95 !) are available as you leave church. These were ordered to be handed out for use during the lockdown but the lockdown came first! Please take a copy **BUT (!)** IF YOU PICK UP A COPY TO LOOK AT, YOU **MUST** TAKE IT AWAY WITH YOU – DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE.

Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. Included in this week's posting to all parishioners are leaflets on praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Why not come early to Mass and spend a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? (If you bring the prayer card with you – you must not leave it behind in the pew!). PLEASE RESPECT THE WISH OF OTHERS TO HAVE A TIME OF QUIET PRAYER BEFORE MASS AND OBSERVE A REVERENT SILENCE BEFORE MASS. THANK YOU.

Mass Intentions – St.John Kemble, Saturday 4-00p.m. Parish & People (Thanksgiving); St.Joseph's, Saturday 6-00p.m.Nell O'Connel (RIP) (John and Jane Smith); Sunday 8-00a.m.Parish & People (Thanksgiving), Sunday 10-30a.m. Maureen McAteer (Special Intention) (Jean Evans). Next Sunday: 4-00 p.m. Parish and People; 6-00 p.m. Ann Hanford (RIP); 8-00a.m. Sr.Josephine Brady; 10-00a.m. Suzanne Curtis (RIP) (Sandra)

Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Week beginning 2nd August) There will be no weekday Masses this week but hopefully, weekday Masses will resume the following week – if volunteers come forward to steward and to clean at the weekday Masses.

The Parish S.V.P Group/St.Joseph's Community Support Group/Legion of Mary (and others). I have paid tribute in last week's Homily to the amazing work (ministry) carried out in the parish over these last few months keeping us together and providing much needed support. We are very grateful to all those who have kept in contact by phone and helped out with shopping and in other ways, often behind the scene and unknown to others. **THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!**

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.

The Church Driveway Many of you are probably not aware that we have not been in possession of the church driveway (in front of the church and presbytery), which was obtained by Neath Port Talbot from the previous owners in the 1950s. You will be pleased to know that we are nearing completion of purchasing the driveway from NPT, thus securing our ownership and right of way to the church and presbytery (!), and I record our very grateful thanks to Councillor Mrs Sheila Penry (Mayor, Neath Town Council) for her help and assistance in overseeing and guiding the paperwork through the NPT Legal Department on our behalf, and also to Mrs Clare Tregoning, at Gomer Williams & Co Ltd (Karen and Doug's daughter) for thoroughly researching and investigating our claim over many months and generously acting as our Solicitor (without costs) to obtain the driveway for us; and to the anonymous and generous benefactor for paying the costs of the survey and purchase of the driveway and meeting the legal costs of NPT.

Having already met the challenge of raising funds for removing asbestos from the church boiler room, installing a new boiler, dismantling the chimney, repairing the sanctuary arch and redecorating and refurbishing the church (a total cost of approx. £25,000), we now have the further challenge to raise a similarly larger sum (approx. £35,000?) to tarmac and properly drain the driveway.....donations gratefully received!

Also, with regard to the driveway and grounds, we would like to establish a group of volunteers to help Kevin maintain the grounds around the church and presbytery, as we continue to be very grateful to Kevin for his many years of commitment to maintaining the grounds for us and keeping everything in such splendid order, involving many hours of (freely given) hard work throughout the year.

Church Redecoration and Refurbishment. Many thanks to the painters David Jones and son David (D.J.Jones) and to the carpenters Dan and Richard Irons for the tasteful refurbishment of the church – a splendid setting for the worthy celebration of Holy Mass.

Church Flowers and Cleaning Many thanks to Chris and Babs for beautifully decorating the church for the re-opening and to generous benefactors for meeting the costs. Thanks also to Bella in St.John Kemble, and to all those, in both churches, who have worked hard in cleaning and preparing the churches to re-open. Thanks also for the generous provision of the two free-standing sanitising-gel dispensers at St.Joseph's.

CAFOD. SUMMER OF HOPE: As we continue to pray for the most vulnerable people on the planet, CAFOD asks us to consider these simple ideas: to donate part of what we might have spent on a celebration or holiday lost to lockdown; or to give the cost of a haircut or two that weren't possible. (Lots more suggestions on www.cafod.org/summerofhope) The pandemic has shown that we are not safe until everyone is safe. Thank you. Please donate on line, or by phone via the DEC: 0370 60 60 900. Postal address: DEC, PO Box 999, London EC3A 3AA. (Sandra)