

EIGHTH SUNDAY – 2nd March 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent, a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter - a time for a more profound reflection on the spiritual life and an opportunity for spiritual renewal through fasting, self-denial and a deeper experience of repentance. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) and Saturday at 3-30 p.m. (St. John Kemble). Also on Fridays (starting from 14th March – the second Friday in Lent) a Lent Faith Sharing Group from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Church Hall Lounge for a relaxed discussion based on the booklet, " We dare to say". Everybody is welcome. You don't need to commit to all five sessions. Come when you can. If you did not take a copy of "We dare to say" last year, there are a few still available at the back of the church and copies will be available at the Lent sessions.

" 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 (2nd March) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's) Gillian Boland (RIP) (The Family); 10-30 a.m. Joe & Lorna (Diamond Wedding) (Philip, Sean & Patrick).

Weekday Mass Times

ASH WEDNESDAY (March 5th) **9-30 a.m.** (St. Joseph's) **SCHOOL MASS 11-30 a.m.** (St. John Kemble) Elaine Reynolds (Sp.Int.) (Anne Guest & family); **6-00 p.m.** (St. Joseph's) Ukraine & Israel/Gaza (Peace);Thursday (6th) 9-30a.m. Gaynor Pickrell (RIP) (Maureen & Sandra); Friday (7th) 9-30 a.m. Aileen Buckingham (RIP). 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (9th March) **Saturday** 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) William John Sullivan (RIP) (Pauline, Margaret & family);**Sunday** 10-30 a.m. First Holy Communion Class & Confirmation Group (Sp.Int.)

Churches Together World Day of Prayer At Orchard Place this Friday (7th) at 10-30 a.m.

Readers: **This Sunday** (2nd) 6-00 p.m.Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (9th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano.

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 (!!).

Lucia Pistotnik (RIP) Please remember Lucia in your prayers whose Funeral Service will take place here in St. Joseph's on Friday 21st March at 12 midday. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

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Candles: Sacred Heart - Pope Francis (Sp.Int); Our Lady – Special Intention (C.M.) St. Joseph – Ukraine & Israel/Gaza.

Anniversaries Gillian Boland (2021); Kenneth Hill (2005); Christine Bray (2009); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

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

Sunday Choir It would be good to celebrate our 10-30 a.m. Mass as a Sung Mass – to sing the Gloria, Kyrie, Agnus Dei etc as well as to widen our repertoire of hymns, arias and anthems. If you would be willing to be part of a Sunday Choir please have a word with Fr. Neil.

S.V.P. Project. Our SVP Group are helping to buy some cows for a community in India. We provide the teas and refreshments once a month after the Sunday Mass and all the money we raise will go to fund this project. All donations gratefully received.

Last Sunday's Collection: £343-17 (plus Direct Debits). St.John Kemble - £58-61. Many thanks.

Direct Debit & Gift Aid. If you would like to contribute to the church either by Direct Debit or to Gift Aid your contribution/donation (or to do both) please have a word with Robert our treasurer for further details.

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.

Cawl & Welsh Cakes, Bingo & Raffle Evening. This Monday 3rd March at 7-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets £7-50 from Nora or Sheila. Proceeds to Church Funds.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments. **Classes begin this Sunday 2nd March** before Mass at 9-30a.m. (First Holy Communion) and after Mass at 11-30 a.m. (Confirmation). Archbishop Mark has kindly agreed to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St. Joseph's on **Tuesday 27th May** at 7-00 p.m. The dates of the First Holy Communion Mass to be announced later.

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, Paul Leaker, Sid Leaker, David Vaudin. 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**

Piety Shop The shop is open from 9-45 to 10 -15 every Sunday morning. If you have particular requests Sheila may be able to put in a special order for you.

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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