

## Fifth Sunday in Lent – 17th March 2024

### THE SEASON OF LENT

In Lent we enter a forty-day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter. This coming **Friday ( 22 March )** at 7-00 p.m. there will be a performance of the Clydach S.V.P. Passion Play, "**The Road to Calvary**" here in St. Joseph's, as we enter into Holy Week. Please make a note in your diary. Tickets £5 or pay at the door.

**Churches Together in Neath** The last of the Lenten Services, "**Watch & Pray**" will take place at Ebenezer Herbert Road at 2-00 p.m. this Monday ( 18<sup>th</sup> March ).

**Lent Alms** This year to be divided between supporting Christian communities in the Holy Land and the work of Caritas in the Diocese of Menevia & the Archdiocese of Cardiff.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday ( 17th March ) Saturday ( St. John Kemble )** 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 pm. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Helen Williams ( Sp. Int. ) Sunday 10-30 a.m. Peter & Hazel Huxtable (RIP) ( Dennis ). ( SVP 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Renewal of Promises ).

**Weekday Mass** Tuesday (19<sup>th</sup> – St. Joseph ) 9-30 a.m. **Patronal Festival** – **School Mass:** John Mahoney (RIP) ( Philippa & Grace ); Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) 9-30 a.m. Carol Curnow (RIP) (SVP); 11-00 a.m. Kaylan Hittsley (RIP); Thursday ( 21st) 9-30 a.m. Jean Thompson ( The family ); Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>) 1-00 p.m. **Funeral Mass** – George McIntyre (RIP); 7-00 p.m. Passion Play – ( The Road to Calvary ).

**Mass Intentions next Sunday ( 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday )Saturday** 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's ) Ira Thomas (RIP) ( Thomas & Loynes family );. **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Teresa Diez Fernandez ( RIP ) ( Isabel & Peter ). **PLEASE ARRIVE IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE BLESSING OF PALMS.**

**HOLY WEEK** Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup>) 11-30 a.m. **CHRISM MASS** at St. Joseph's Cathedral; **Holy Thursday** (28<sup>th</sup>) 7-00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper; **Good Friday** ( 29<sup>th</sup>) 2-00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. 6-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross. **Holy Saturday** (30<sup>th</sup> ) 8-00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass. **CLOCKS CHANGE!** Easter Day ( 31<sup>st</sup>) 9-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) 10-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph's )

**Rite of Reception** With great joy we shall receive Jane Thomas into the full communion of the Catholic Church in our 10-30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass. Please keep Jane in your prayers for this very special day.

**Readers: This Sunday ( 17<sup>th</sup> March )** 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans. **Next Sunday ( 24<sup>th</sup> March )** 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 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 – Mary Eleanor Carter (RIP); Our Lady – Sophia Owen ( Sp.Int. ) St. Joseph – Mervyn Blackmore (RIP)

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Terence Wall (2007); John Howells (2002 ); Margaret Harland (2013); William Newton ( 2000); Harold Jenkins (2021 ); Rispah Kirby (2005); Elwyn Oakley (2008); Fr. Eddie Murphy (2012); Peter Huxtable (2019); Raymond Delahunty (2019). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**George McIntyre (RIP)** Please remember George in your prayers and the family at this time. George's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's this Friday ( 22<sup>nd</sup> March ) at 1-00 p.m. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**Car Parking opposite the Church** Please note that traffic wardens will check that cars are not parked illegally on the pavement in the lane opposite the church. There has been a further incident of damage to cars parked on the road outside the church. You may wish to report such incidents to the police so that they can build up a file on such incidents should the culprit(s) be apprehended.



**Reception into the Catholic Church** Please keep in your prayers those who have expressed the desire to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. We meet together each Sunday after the 10-30 a.m. Mass for short sessions of catechesis and prayer. If you also are praying about this possibility, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

**Easter Flowers** – Donations toward the costs of decorating the church at Easter gratefully received.

**First Holy Communion.** Classes take place at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the 10-30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

**SVP Celebration** Our parish SVP are celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. They will renew their vows at the 10-30 a.m. Mass and invite you all to continue the celebration with cake and some music played by the Mikulska Ukranian children in the hall afterwards. Funds raised will be for Ukraine.

**“The Road to Calvary”** The Clydach S.V.P. Passion Play - next Friday ( 22 March ) at 7-00 p.m. here in the Church.

**Deanery Pastoral Committee** A committee has been set up to oversee pastoral/evangelism issues within the Deanery and Diocese. Our representatives are Paula Macpherson-Jones and Gregory Page. Please keep them and the committee in your prayers and if you wish to raise an issue please speak to Paula or Gregory.

**Jubilee Year 2025** Pope Francis has asked that 2024 should be a Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee Year 2025. We have just received copies of a Lenten faith-sharing programme with reflections on the Lord’s Prayer. These are very well produced booklets – please take a copy for your own use/prayers/reflections - **and keep it safe (!)** – and, hopefully it will be possible later on in this Year of Prayer to meet together having first had the opportunity to peruse and prayerfully reflect on the Lord’s Prayer before coming together for group prayer and discussion.

**Last Sunday’s Collection:** St. Joseph’s £367- 74 ( plus Direct Debits ).We are also grateful for £ 409-83 donated in memory of Yolanda Jones, and for the £325 raised for parish funds at the Welsh Cakes & Cawl Evening. Many thanks. St John Kemble – £32-00.

**Repairs to the Parish Hall** The fascia boards around the hall and connections to the roof have been urgently in need of replacement/repair for many years. We have received three quotations for the work – all in the region of £20,000 (!). We hope to have fund raising events to raise funds to cover the cost of these repairs.

**Legion of Mary** Every Tuesday evening at 4-45 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. £154 was raised at the Parish Coffee Morning last Thursday to help start a woman-led community shop in Bangladesh. Many thanks for your support.

**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, George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O’Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Robert Minty and David Hoy. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**“ 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 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  
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