

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – 22nd MARCH 2026

## THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent, is a Forty Day pilgrimage to the events of Holy Week and Easter and provides us with the opportunity to reflect more deeply on our spiritual lives through abstinence and acts of self-denial ( perhaps in greater service to others, almsgiving and fasting ) and to pray for a New Pentecost in our lives and in the life of the Church. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) and on Saturday at 3-30 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ). The Lent Study Group will meet each Friday in the Parish Hall at 2-00 p.m.

**“ 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 regn of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love ad peace. Come, Holy Spirit in Your Power and might to renew the face of the earth” ( Pope St. John XXIII ).**

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( Sunday 22nd March ) Saturday ( St. John Kemble ) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. 4-00 p.m. Parish & People ( Andrew Thomas RIP ) 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Marion O'Grady ( RIP ) ( Brendan); 10-30 a.m. Jean Thompson (RIP) ( The family ).

**Fifth Sunday in Lent - Psalm Response** “ With the Lord there is mercy, in Him is plentiful redemption” ( Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 1 )

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 22<sup>nd</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas; **Next Sunday** ( Palm Sunday 10-30 a.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne.

**Weekday Mass Times** Wednesday ( 25<sup>th</sup> March - **The Solemnity of the Annunciation – “Lady Day”** ) 9-30 a.m. Ira Thomas (RIP) ( The family ); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Andrew Thomas (RIP); Thursday ( 26<sup>th</sup> Saint Joseph ) 9-30 a.m. End of Term ( Holy Week) School Mass – John Smith (RIP) ( Angela Healey ); Friday (27<sup>th</sup>) 2-00 p.m.. Lent Study Group ( in Parish Hall ); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

**PALM SUNDAY** Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Please arrive in plenty of time for the beginning of Mass and the Blessing of Palms and Opening Gospel – **AND** (!) remember to change the clocks, one hour forward or you will arrive at the end of Mass!

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( Sunday 29th March – **PALM SUNDAY** ) 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 – Mavis Jones (RIP) ( Angela & Maralyn ). **CHANGE OF CLOCKS** ( forward ) 10-30 a.m. M.T.Abraham (RIP) ( Leena, Luke & family.).

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Monday** ( 30<sup>th</sup> ) 7-00 p.m. **Churches Together Holy Week Service** here in St. Joseph's on at 7-00 p.m. – entitled “ Draw near to God ”. Please come along and support this service.

**Tuesday** ( 31<sup>st</sup> ) 11-00 a.m. **Chrism Mass** at St. David's Cathedral in Cardiff.

**Wednesday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> April ) 9-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph's ) Teresa Diez Fernandez (RIP) ( Isabel & Peter ). 11-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Barrie Thomas ( All at St. John Kemble ).

**HOLY THURSDAY** ( 2<sup>ND</sup> April ) 7-00 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper** followed by the opportunity to Watch and Pray before the Blessed Sacrament until 10-00 p.m. ( and Confession )

**GOOD FRIDAY** 2-00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion** 6-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Veneration and Stations of the Cross. 5-00 p.m. to 7-00 p.m. ( Str. Joseph's ) church open for private prayer.

**HOLY SATURDAY** **Easter Vigil** 8-00 p.m. **EASTER DAY** 9-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) 10-30 a.m. ( St. Joseph's ).

.....

**PLEASE NOTE DURING LENT** The Gospel Acclamation ( before and after the Acclamation ) will be sung from Hymn **188** ( to the tune of "All glory, laud and honour" ). At the end of Mass after " O Sacrament Most Holy", we shall sing, "*O Jesus! Who for love of me, Didst bear Thy Cross to Calvary, In Thy sweet mercy, grant to me, To suffer and to die with Thee*" ( to the tune, " When I survey the wondrous Cross" ).

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Middle East ( Peace); Our Lady – Kay Mead ( Sp.Int. ); St. Joseph – Joe & Lorna ( Sp.Int.)

**Anniversaries** Leonard Grey ( 2012); Dawn Hophins ( 2012); Andrew Solari ( 2010 ); Dominica Fecci (2010 ); Michael Doherty( 2020 ); Jean Thompson ( 2015).

**Donations** for flowers to decorate the church at Easter gratefully received. Many thanks.

**Maria's Party** Joan and Eddy would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate Maria's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Teachers for the First Holy Communion Class** After many years Carolynn and Mary are retiring from teaching the First Holy Communion Class. We thank them very much indeed for their service and commitment over the years ( and also to Elaine ) and if you are able to take on this role ( with others ) please have a word with Fr. Neil. Each teacher will need to be DBS checked.

**Day by Day Monthly Readings.** If you would like to be added to the list of those regularly receiving these Daily Readings and Prayers please sign your name on the list at the back of the church.

**Lenten Reflections.** Archbishop Mark is publishing six Lenten/Easter Reflections. Our Parish Faith Group will discuss one each Friday from 2-00 p.m. to 3-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall each Friday, during Lent. You don't need to attend every session, please come when you can.

**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 and Luke, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, David Vaudin, Agnes Collins, Angela Healey., Mark Thomas, Siobhan Fitchett, Jane Smith, Donie O'Connell, Dennis Huxtable, Colin Mulligan, Sheila Morgan, Mary Bowen, Kay Mead, Deacon Jim. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**Parish Safeguarding** see [SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me](mailto:SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me) to contact Mrs Anne Guest our Parish Safeguarding Representative – also the Diocesan Team [safeguarding@rcadc.org](mailto:safeguarding@rcadc.org)

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's £385-97 ( plus Direct Debits ); St. John Kemble £85-00. Many thanks.

**Parish Hall Caretaker** We are looking for a person willing to take on this role. This involves opening and closing the hall for coffee mornings, hall bookings and general cleaning duties. Remuneration - £40/week. If you are interested please contact Brenda Grant on 07817 656 157

**On-Line Archdiocesan Newsletter** Read/Sign up today <https://bit.ly/ACMSeptNewsletter>

**Marriage Support** Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel:+44 7887 296 983

**Relaunched Instagram Page** – "**Emmaus Catholic Youth**" for regular comments, content and updates.

**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

**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)

.....