

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 15th MAY 2022

In the month of May – “Mary’s Month” - we solicit her prayers that, through her maternal intercessions, her Risen Son may pour out the Holy Spirit upon us especially as, through these forty days of the Resurrection Appearances of Christ, we make our way toward the Ascension and ten days later (fifty days after the Resurrection) our celebration of the Day of Pentecost.

“ 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).

“Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, Thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live. Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou this soul of mine, Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray” Come, Holy Spirit!

AN INVITATION FROM THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

(**Returning to Mass at Pentecost - 5th June**). (EXTRACT) “ The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply” – “ when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation” – “ Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person”.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (15th May –) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. Wendy Baker (RIP) (Halloran Family) **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Edna McAteer (RIP) (The Family).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Wednesday (18th) 9-30 a.m. Paddy Clifford (RIP) (The Family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Fr David Lloyd (RIP) (SPCD); Thursday (19th) 9-30 a.m. Wendy Baker (RIP) (Gordon Baker); Friday 9-30 a.m. School Mass: Neil O’Kane (RIP) (School Governors).

Mass Intentions next Sunday: (22nd May) **Saturday** (St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Evan George Elias (RIP) (The Family); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. David Vaudin (Sp. Int.) (June).

Readers: **This Sunday** (15th May) 6-00 a.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee. **Next Sunday** (22nd May) 6-00 p.m. **Volunteer please;** 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel

Please Note (Mass Intentions). **Saturday and Sunday** Masses are already reserved for a particular intention several months ahead (for weekend and weekday masses). Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

Candles The Sacred Heart – Edna McAteer (RIP); Our Lady - Christopher Davies (Good Health) St. Joseph – Paddy Clifford (RIP).

Legion of Mary Wednesday evenings at 6-00 p.m. New members very welcome

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Christopher McDermott (2018); Patricia Lloyd (2008). Anna O’Sullivan (2005); Patricia Clifford (2019); Kay Evans (2005); Norman Price (2012); Wendy Baker (2014); Philip Keane (2010); Mary Fletcher (2016); Brigid Mahoney (2004); Edna McAteer (2021). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: The Lourdes Group is travelling (by rail) this year from 20th – 29th July. There are still two places available. For further details contact Deacon Jim on 07816 750864.

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes 25th – 30th July 2022. A full programme, al transport, travel and full board are included in the package, Further details to follow. See www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Cardigan To the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper – Sunday 15th May from 1-30 p.m. (Confessions); 2-30 p.m. Rosary Procession; 3-0 p.m. Mass. (see poster for details).

Congratulations to Aimee and Sam on the birth of Sophia - the youngest member of our congregation! Please keep little Sophia and her parents in your prayers.

Environmental Matters: It's not too late to get involved in "No Mow May" even if you leave only a part of your garden to grow wild. It would be great to hear/see if any unusual plants spring up! Another family activity you may wish to take up for one week (16 – 22 May) is the Greenpeace initiative " The Big Plastic Count" which asks that you record every plastic item that you recycle or need to discard that week. See more and sign up at thebigplasticcount.com (Thank you. Sandra)

"No Mow May" in St. Joseph's. We shall leave uncut the little violet meadow in front of the Hall and also the bank of grass behind the Hall. Take the opportunity also to view our newly planted bluebells under the conifer trees beside the Lady Chapel. Hopefully they will spread each year and carpet the ground every April/May.

Donations toward the cost of shrubs and flowers in the church grounds gratefully received. Many thanks.

Bishop Mark O'Toole (of the Diocese of Plymouth) has been appointed as the next **Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia.** This means that we continue as a separate Diocese (with our own Cathedral and staff) but that we share with the Archdiocese of Cardiff the episcopal ministry of Archbishop Mark who will be responsible for the administration of both dioceses. Please keep Archbishop Mark in your prayers and also Archbishop George who is "retiring" to live Caerleon as an assistant priest in that deanery.

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, Peggy Swan (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Andrew Jenkins, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Last Sunday's Collection: St.Joseph's - £322-65 (plus Direct Debits) – Priests' Training Fund £80-55. St.John Kemble – t.b.a.

Parish History Booklet Copies of the reprint of the History of the Parish are still available if you would like to pick up a copy from the back of the church - £5-00.

Prayer for Ukraine (from the Bishops 'Conference) *"Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, For their government and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son, Suffering on the Cross at Calvary. Give them strength and courage, Through faith, hope and justice. May we, in our turn, Support them through prayer and generosity, That lives may be saved, the injured healed, that the dead may rest in peace, And that war will end in peace".*

ANIMA CHRISTI *Soul of Christ, sanctify me, Body of Christ save me, Blood of Christ inebriate me, Water from the Side of Christ wash me. Passion of Christ strengthen me. O Good Jesus hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from Thee. From the malicious enemy defend me. In the hour of death call me, And bid me come to Thee, That with the Saints I may praise Thee, Now and forever. Amen.*

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
N.B. The phone in the Presbytery is now re-connected. Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk