

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 9th March 2025

THE SEASON OF LENT

We have entered the Season 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 this Friday - 14th March) 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 (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.)

Weekday Mass Times Thursday (13th) 9-30a.m. Fr. Fred Sheldon (RIP) (SPCD); Friday (14th) 9-30 a.m. Joe & Lorna (Sp.Int) (June & David Vaudin). 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (and CAFOD Fast Day).

Mass Intentions this Sunday (16th 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) Barbara Green (RIP) (June & David Vaudin); 10-30 a.m. Peter & Hazel Huxtable (RIP) (Dennis).

Readers: This Sunday (9th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel; Next Sunday (16th) 6-00p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

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 and the family at this time. Lucia's Funeral Service will take place here in St. Joseph's on Friday 21st March at 12 midday.

Aileen Buckingham (RIP) Please remember Aileen in your prayers and the family at this time. Aileen's Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Thursday 3rd April at 11-30 a.m.

Martin Pike (RIP) Please remember Martin in your prayers and the family at this time. Funeral details to be announced.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

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Candles: Sacred Heart - Pope Francis (Sp.Int); Our Lady – Sid Leaker (Sp.Int.); St. Joseph – Staff & Pupils, St. Joseph's Secondary School.

Anniversaries Douglas Fursland (2015); Bernard Lee (2006); Nora Solari (2015);Edward Doyle (2009); Gladys Finnegan (2009). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Churches Together Lent Talks. Theme: What is holding us back? March 10th Bethel Elim; 17th St.David's Vestry; 24th The Bridge Family Church; 31st Neath Methodist Church; 7th April Siloh. All welcome.

Parish Health & Safety Committee We need to address all aspects of Health & Safety in the Hall, the two churches and the church grounds. Under recent legislation these responsibilities are extensive and we would like to set up a committee to help Richard and Geraint who are reviewing our present situation. We need a team to carry out the required weekly/monthly/annual inspections of our properties to ensure that we are compliant with all the relevant Health & Safety legislation. If you are willing to be a part of this team please have a word with Fr. Neil, Richard Hopkins or Geraint Jones Thank you.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments. Classes take place 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 on **Tuesday 27th May** at 7-00 p.m. The dates of the First Holy Communion the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St. Joseph's Mass to be announced later.

Lorna & Joe would like to thank all their friends in St. Joseph's and St. John Kemble for all the cards, flowers and gifts that they have received for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

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.

S.V.P. Gift Aid envelopes are now available at the back of the church. If you are a tax payer please consider using these for your donation as every pound donated will give the society and extra 25p. Thank you.

The Legion of Mary will be resuming our meetings at 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday next week after a few months of cancellation due to illness and lack of members we need urgently. My mobile number is 07719090368. Thank you (Pat).

Last Sunday's Collection: £500-19 (plus Direct Debits). St.John Kemble - £80-00 Many thanks. Second Collection next Sunday – CAFOD Lent Collection.

Cawl & Welsh Cakes, Bingo & Raffle Evening. Thank you to all those involved in arranging a very enjoyable parish get-together. The magnificent sum of £650 was raised for parish funds.

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.

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.*

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