

Fourth Sunday in Lent – 27th March 2022

(Laetare Sunday/Mothering Sunday)

The Season of Lent

“Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen”

Stations of the Cross – during Lent, each Friday (St. Joseph’s) at 6-30 p.m. and on Saturdays (St. John Kemble) at 3-30 p.m. The opportunity to reflect more deeply upon, and to join ourselves to, the sufferings of Christ, “ **for by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world**” and, perhaps, to remember and pray for the people of Ukraine that they may be given the strength to bear the Cross that has come upon them.

Mass Intentions this Sunday: (27th March - Laetare Sunday/Mothering Sunday) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Mavis Jones (RIP) (A. Healey); **CLOCKS CHANGE!** **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Maureen Pitt (RIP) (Legion of Mary); 10-30a.m. Gillian Boland (RIP) (The Family).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Tuesday (March 29th) 6-30 p.m. Kevin Halloran (RIP) (SJPG); Wednesday (30th March) 9-30 a.m. James & Johanna O’Connell (RIP) (Donie, Pat & family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Anita O’Donnell James (RIP) (Owen); Thursday (31st March) Tess Court (RIP) (SJPG); Friday (1st April) 9-30 a.m. M.I.C.F. (RIP); 6-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Mass Intentions next Sunday (3rd April) We remember the people of Ukraine at each Mass. **Saturday** – (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. Maureen Laidlow (RIP) (Bella); 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Marion O’Grady (RIP) (Brendan); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Parish & People; 10-30a.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (SJPG).

Readers: This Sunday (27th March) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (3rd April) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Adian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

Candles The Sacred Heart – George & Bridie Johnson (Wellbeing); Our Lady - The People of Ukraine; St. Joseph – Christopher Davies (Wellbeing).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Masie Reilly (2004); Andrew Solari (2010); Domenica Marie Fecci (2010); Michael Docherty (2020); Jean Thompson (2015); David Collier (2008); Marion O’Grady (2015); Margaret Jenkins (2014); John Campbell (2004); Mary Protheroe (2016); Mavis Jones (1997). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

The 8-00 a.m Mass Next Sunday (3rd April) will be the last of the 8-00 a.m. masses (introduced to accommodate numbers during the pandemic) – we shall join together at the 10-30 a.m. Mass to celebrate Palm Sunday - however (see below) as in previous years there will be an early morning Mass (7-30 a.m.) on Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK Wednesday (13th April) 11-30 a.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral; **Holy Thursday** (14th April) 7-00 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper; **Good Friday** (15th April) 2-00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion; 6-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Stations and Veneration of the Cross; **Holy Saturday** – 8-00 p.m. Easter Vigil; **Easter Sunday** – 7-30 a.m (Dawn Mass); 9-00 a.m. Mass (St. John Kemble); 10-30 a.m. Mass.

Relaxation of Covid Restrictions There are already no restrictions on numbers attending Mass or where to sit (please ignore arrows and notices on the pews) and, as from today, the wearing of masks is voluntary. Hand sanitising still provided. We shall slowly adapt to the new situation conscious that there continues to be a world-wide pandemic which may again return to our shores in a more virulent mutation of the virus. As from Palm Sunday we shall re-introduce the use of hymn books.

UKRAINE Many thanks for the generous response to the appeal for Ukraine - £1,552-81 (St. Joseph's) – £167-00 (St.John Kemble). **Our Lady of Kiev** is probably the most famous Icon of Our Lady (**please see the Hymn Sheet and the Icon in front of the statue of Our Lady** – you may wish to light a candle) was made in 1132. It is a masterpiece, comparable for its beauty and psychological depths to the Mona Lisa and is the first great work in the Ukrainian School of Iconography. The Icon displays the great tenderness of Our Lady for her Divine Child. The Virgin's head touching the baby is a gesture of deep affection and the icon set the standard for Ukrainian icon painters which has never been surpassed. Providence has preserved the icon through centuries of war and (ironically) it was removed to Moscow in 1395.

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"*.

The Sacrament of Confirmation Please remember in your prayers those preparing for Confirmation – Zaira and Joshua Zambrano, Carys Smitham, Tommy Parel, Isabella and Maria Grabczewski, Oisín and Cian Fitchett, Eve Abell, Daniel Rowlands, Mia Faure, Joseph Payne, William Heslop, Callum Lavin, Martin and Marya Joseph and Bethany Clifford, Sophie Wheatley. Note for the diary! - Archbishop George Stack will visit us on **Friday 29th April** (7-00 p.m.) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Group meets after the 10-30 A.M. Mass. Attendance at Mass continues to be an essential part of the preparation process.

The Rosary and Marian Prayers of Devotion Every Tuesday at 2-00 p.m. in the Lady Chapel (for about half-an-hour). All welcome.

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, Donie O'Connell, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. Owen O'Connell. 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 - £446-81 (plus Direct Debits) CAFOD - £193-56; St.John Kemble – £37-00 – CAFOD £11-00. Many thanks. **N.B. Envelope Boxes** – now available for collection at the back of the Church.

St. Joseph's Parish Guild Meeting Monday 4th April at 2-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The Church Kneeler If you so wish, you may kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand. **N.B. Please note** – to all communicants – after the priest says "The Body of Christ" to say "**Amen**" which means "it is so" which is an affirmation of faith and thus, throughout the Mass, "Amen" and all congregational responses should be confidently expressed - not hesitantly and quietly!

Please Note (Mass Intentions). **Saturday and Sunday** Masses are already reserved for a particular intention until the middle of **JULY** (and **Weekday Masses** until the beginning of **JUNE**). Please think several months ahead-if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

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

ENTRANCE

- 1 The Church's one foundation,
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the Word;
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.
- 3 'Mid toil, and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.
- 4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in-One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly
on high may dwell with thee.

OFFERTORY

- 1 God of mercy and compassion,
Lord of life and blinding light,
truth whom creatures would refashion,
place on us the gift of sight.
*Truth insistent and demanding
Love resented and ignored,
Life beyond all understanding,
give us peace and pardon.*
- 2 God most holy and forgiving,
penetrate our pride and sloth;
on a people partly living,
place the gift of life and growth.
- 3 Lord, who out of love consented
to the worst that we could do;
Lord, abandoned and tormented,
let us love and suffer too.

Prayer after Low Mass

(Promulgated by Pope Leo XIII)

ST. MICHAEL the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense 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 the other evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- 1 Jesu, lover of my soul!
Let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.
- 2 Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.
- 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.
- 4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace, the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

Hymn to the Theotokos from St Basil's Liturgy

OUR LADY OF KIEV



RECESSIONAL

- 1 O Mother blest, whom God bestows
on sinners and on just,
what joy, what hope thou givest those
who in thy mercy trust.
*Thou art clement, thou art chaste,
Mary, thou art fair;
of all mothers sweetest, best;
none with thee compare.*
- 2 O heavenly mother, mistress sweet!
It never yet was told
that suppliant sinner left thy feet
unpitied, unconsoled.
- 3 O mother pitiful and mild,
cease not to pray for me;
and sign for love of thee.
- 4 Most powerful mother, we all know
thy Son denies thee nought;
thou askest, wishest it, and lo!
His power thy will hath wrought.
- 5 O mother blest, for me obtain
ungrateful though I be,
to love that God who first could deign
to show such love for me.

"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 of 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"