

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28th January 2024

“ 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)

Mass Intentions this Sunday (28th January) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Joan & Bill Brayley (RIP) (Jan Harvey);. **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Kasia & Ouday Hikary (Sp. Int.).

Weekday Mass Tuesday (30th) 9-30 a.m. **School Mass** – J.J & family (Sp.Int.) (Ina Hooper);Wednesday (31st) 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph’s) Kathryn Woolley (RIP) (Deacon Jim & Marie); 11-00 a.m. Fr. Neil (Sp.Int.) (Lorna & Joe); Thursday (1st February) 9-30 a.m. The Ledwith Family (Sp. Int.) (Ina Hooper); Friday (2nd – **CANDLEMASS** – Presentation of the Lord) 9-30a.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (The family).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (4th February) **Saturday** 4-00 pm. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Terry Lloyd (RIP) (Damian, Clare & family); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Stuart Michael (RIP) (The family).

Mervyn Blackmore (RIP) Please remember Mervyn in your prayers and the family at this time. Mervyn’s Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium this Tuesday 30 January at 12-00 midday.

Betty Hopkins (RIP) Please remember Betty in your prayers and the family at this time. Betty’s Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph’s on Friday 16th February at 11-15 a.m.

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

Readers: This Sunday (28th) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Next Sunday** (4th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Stan May (RIP); Our Lady – John Moses (RIP); St. Joseph – Christopher Davies (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Audrey Hurley (2003); Terry Lloyd (2020); Luisa Salmi (2016); Alan Boland (2021); Josephine May (2006). Sheila Nolan (2017); John Carson Morris (2023); Kathleen Morgan (2011); Edwina Hinnigan (2017). ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***

Mass Intentions Please note that weekend and weekday Mass intentions are now reserved into **March** and other dates have been reserved as far as December. Please be thinking ahead by several months if you would like a Mass intention for a loved one on a particular day/date – even so, some dates are reserved a year ahead and if so Mass will be said on the nearest date available to the request. Thank you.

A gentle reminder (!) – please observe and respect a prayerful silence before Mass to prepare yourself for the celebration of Mass. Loud conversations are disturbing (and upsetting) for those who may come early to church precisely to have a time of quiet reflection (including the parish priest!) who do not want to overhear personal conversations about family, friends, future plans etc! Plenty of time to exchange news and information after the end of Mass. Thank you.

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.

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School Caretaker The School is looking to appoint a new caretaker working for 15 hours per week. If you are interested or know of someone please contact the school on 635099.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL If you have a child over 2 years of age or are new to the area and are looking for a school – look no further! St Joseph's has a loving, caring ethos to bring out the full potential of your child. Please contact the school on 01639 635099 for further details

First Holy Communion. We hope to have a First Holy Communion Mass in the summer. Please obtain an application form from Carolyn, Elaine or Mary. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion.

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.

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

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £399-22 and a £170 donation – all donations gratefully received (plus Direct Debits); **St John Kemble** – £37-00 . Many thanks.

FOOD BANK - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING to the Neath Food Bank at the back of the church - the products Food Banks need most: Tinned veg (peas and sweetcorn); tinned tuna and mackerel; brown, basmati and long grain rice; pulses (eg: kidney beans and chickpeas); grains (eg: couscous); easy cook noodles; tinned fruit (eg: pineapple slices); wholegrain cereals (eg: wheat biscuits); oat drinks and UHT milk. **THANK YOU!**

The S.V.P The St. Joseph's SVP Conference's main work is supporting house-bound fellow parishioners. If you know of anyone who would appreciate our support or a visit – and gives their permission for us to approach them, or if you would like to join us in our work, please contact Anne Guest on 07741283098 and leave a message. Thank you.

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, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, George McIntyre, 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.

.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".*

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
Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

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