

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 18th December 2022

“ 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).

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”.*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (18th December) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Graham Evans (RIP) (Brendan O'Grady). **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Michael McAteer (RIP) (The family).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Tuesday (20th) 6-30 p.m. Paul Cameron (RIP) (Betty & Roger Horton);Wednesday (21st) 9-30 a.m. James O'Donnell (RIP) (Anne-Marie); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) – **NO MASS**. Thursday (22nd) **9-15 a.m.** School Christmas Mass & Farewell Mass for Mrs Dineen. (Michael O'Hea – RIP);

Christmas Mass Times: Saturday 24th December (**Christmas Eve**) 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Joan, Harry & Bryan (RIP) (Babs); and 10-00 p.m. (St Joseph's) Kevin Halloran & Annie Halloran (RIP) (The family); **Christmas Day** (Sunday) 10-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) Bernard Allen (RIP) (Elias family).

The Christmas Collection is a gift to the Parish Priest. Many thanks.

Readers: **This Sunday** (18th) 6-00 p.m. Lorna Halloran; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas. **Next Sunday – Christmas Eve** (Saturday 24th) 6-00 p.m. Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-00 a.m. Volunteer. **Christmas Day** (Sunday 25th) 10-30 a.m. Bernie Payne.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Peter Healey (RIP); Our Lady – Private Intention (M); St. Joseph – Elizabeth Fluck (Sp. Int.).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; John Turner (2000); Elsie Farnell (2000); Desmond Comerford (2011); Tom Thomas (2011); Gladys Gallagher (2016); Douglas Hearne (2018); Jacqueline Joseph (2020); Ena Hynes (2005); Grace Phillips (2006); Vernon Doyle (2006); Paddy O'Reilly (2005). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Margaret “Peggy” Swan (RIP) Please remember Peggy in your prayers, and Philip at this sad time. Funeral details (at St. John Kemble) to be announced. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

S.P.U.C. National Prayer Campaign. 27th October to 27th April. “ 10 Million prayers “ to mark the 55th Anniversary of the Abortion Act, remember the 10 million lives lost in Britain since 1967 and to unite in prayer and build together a Culture of Life. **Please take with you the FIFTH in the series of the prayer cards, “ Prayer for Families by St. John Paul II”** and join with this national prayer campaign.

Fatima Pilgrimage Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald is organising a pilgrimage to Fatima from 10 to 15 May next year 2023. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Margaret on 01792 987059

Mrs Claire Dineen As you know Claire will be retiring at Christmas as Head Teacher of St. Joseph's after many years of service during which we have developed a lovely relationship between the school and the church, priest and parishioners. Many of you will have had children and grandchildren at the school during this time and if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Claire please pass your donation to Fr.Neil. Many thanks.

Parish Coffee Morning – Every Thursday from 10-00 – 11-00 a.m. All welcome!

Christmas Raffle Prizes! 1st Prize - £100 Tesco Card – Pauline Rushton; 2nd – Boots Donation – Sheila Williams; 3rd - £50 M&S Gift Card – Barbara Hunt; 4th – Christmas Cake – Margaret Livingston; 5th – Single Malt Whisky – Annette Blackmore; 6th – Gin – Marie Caddick; 6th – Sherry – Des Nicholas. **Many Thanks to Roger** for organising the raffle which raised the magnificent sum of £761-00!

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's – £303-68 (plus Direct Debits) and grateful thanks for a donation of £1,000 toward parish funds and £300 toward the cost of Christmas flowers; Many thanks. Christmas Raffle- £761-00; Jewellery sale in memory of Ann Morruzi - £70-00. Many thanks. St. John Kemble - £49-00; Many thanks. The Second Collection for "Sick & Retired Clergy" t.b.a.

World Day of Prayer. Local churches would like to set up a World Day of Prayer Committee. If you would like to represent St. Joseph's, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

S.V.P If you or someone you know are in any kind of need, please contact a member of the SVP which will be in the strictest confidence. A list of members can be found at the back of the church on the SVP information board.

FOOD BANK Please leave donations 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!

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

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, Kathryn Woolle (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Julie Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Fr. Neil, Geraint Jones. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Mass Intentions Please note that weekday Mass Intentions are now reserved in to the New Year and for the Saturday/Sunday Masses into March. If you would like loved ones to be remembered on a particular date, please think ahead remembering that others may already have reserved your preferred date from the year before. A reserved weekend Mass intention will always be several weeks/months ahead of a weekday request.

Deanery Confirmation Mass (?) It is hoped, possibly, to hold a Deanery Confirmation Mass next year at Our Lady of Margam. If you may be interested please have a word with Fr. Neil.

Health & Safety Committee Just before the pandemic, all parishes were asked to address the large number of Health & Safety regulations which we need to comply with to validate our Diocesan Insurance Policy and to ensure the safety of everyone coming on to the church/hall premises. We have now been advised that, post-pandemic, it is now time to get on with addressing these issues. We are very grateful to Richard Hopkins and Geraint Jones, whose work as our Health & Safety officers was immediately interrupted by the pandemic, for taking on some of these responsibilities but it is a big responsibility and if you have practical expertise in particular skills (electrical, plumbing, Building, "health & safety" ! etc) and/or are able to help, this would be much appreciated. It is hoped that such a committee would form the foundation of setting up a Pastoral Council for the parish.

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