

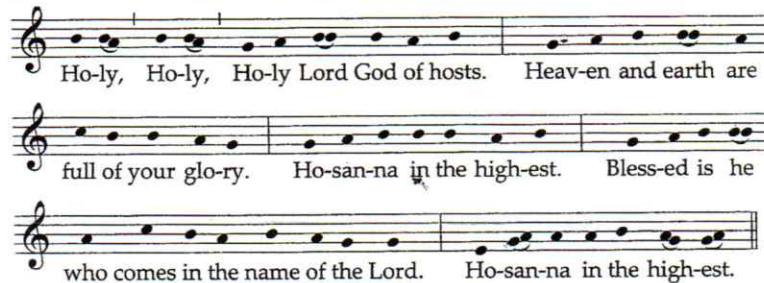
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 30th March 2025

("LAETARE" / " MOTHERING" SUNDAY)

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).



Mass Intentions this Sunday (30th March – Laetare/Mothering Sunday) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's) Marion O'Grady (RIP) (Brendan); CLOCKS GO FORWARD (!) 10-30 a.m. M.T.Abraham (RIP) (Parel family).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (April 2nd) Pope St. John Paul II (Thanksgiving); 11-00 a.m, (St. John Kemble) Pope St. John Paul II (Thanksgiving); Friday (4th) 2-00 p.m. Lent Group in Parish Hall. 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross .

Mass Intentions next Sunday (6th April) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Tom & Bree Slattery (RIP) (John & Linda Slattery);Sunday 10-30 a.m. Joe & Lorna O'Brien (Sp.Int.) (Paula & Adrian)

Readers: This Sunday (30th) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans. Next Sunday (6th) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Des Nicholas.

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 (!!).

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 this Thursday 3rd April at 12-00 midday.

Sid Leaker (RIP) Please remember Sid in your prayers and the family at this time. Sid's Funeral Mass will be here in St. Joseph's on Monday 14th April at 11-30 a.m.

David Reynolds (RIP) Please remember David in your prayers and the family at this time. David's Funeral Mass will be here in St. Joseph's on Thursday 10th April at 12-00 midday followed at 1-45 p.m. at Margam Crematorium.

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 - Maureen Lewis (RIP); Our Lady – Special Intention (C.M.); St. Joseph – The Bereaved.

Anniversaries David Collier (2008); Marion O’Grady (2015); Margaret Jenkins (2014); Mary Protheroe (2016); Maureen Maher (2016); Ann Gough (2018); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Churches Together Lent Talks. Monday at 2-00 p.m. Theme: What is holding us back? March 31st Neath Methodist Church; 7th April Siloh. **Holy Week Services** at 7-00 p.m. – **Monday 14 April here in St. Joseph’s** Tuesday 15th – Church on the Move; Wednesday 16th – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Aid to Gaza Clean/warm clothes and toiletries required. (No food or medicines). Please speak to Vi or phone 01639 776481

Health & Safety Please report/clean all spillages and ensure prayer kneelers are left upright after use. Thank you.

Choir Practice on Monday evening at 6-30 p.m. in the church. Come along! New voices very welcome!

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.

Parish 80th Anniversary V.E Day Celebration Event – Sunday 11th May immediately following the 10-30 a.m. Mass. All welcome. No charge but please bring something for the cold buffet table.. If interested please sign the notice at the back of the church indicating your name, number of adults and of children and the finger food you are able to provide. We are also hoping to display some 1945 memorabilia – if you have any to lend we will organise nearer to the time. Thank you. (**Parish Guild Meeting** – 1-00 p.m. Monday 7th April in the Hall).

St. Joseph’s Parish Hall Committee has vacancies for two parishioners to join us. We are an active group who work hard as a team to keep the Hall well maintained and also undertake various fundraising activities throughout the year. We usually meet every four weeks from 6-30pm to 8-30 pm in the Hall. If you are interested and want to know more please chat to Brenda (Chairperson) Tel: 07817656157. Thank you.

Donations for Flowers to decorate the Church at Easter gratefully received.

Fr. Neil is receiving further treatment for cancer and taking a few days off this week. Thank you for your prayers.

Parish Envelopes for the year ahead are now available at the back of the church. If you would like a box of envelopes please see Robert.

Last Sunday’s Collection: £389-86 (plus Direct Debits); St.John Kemble - £38-00. Many thanks.

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, Nora Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Paul Leaker, David Vaudin. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

The Sick & Housebound If you know of someone who (at their request) would appreciate contact with the church through a home visit from the S.V.P. please contact Anne Guest, the Secretary on 07741283098 or Pat O’Connell for a visit from the Legion of Mary.

Lenten Alms This year divided between Mary’s Meals and HCPT.

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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