

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 8th August 2021

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph. *“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself to be a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (8th August) **Saturday** (St John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People;. (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Pat Johnson (RIP) (Mary and Ross); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Shaun Elias (RIP) (The Mills family); 10-30a.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (The family).

Weekday Mass Intentions Wednesday (11th August) **St. Joseph’s** 9-30a.m. Tony Keavey (RIP) (Brendan O’Grady); **St. John Kemble** 11-00a.m. Rita Thomas (RIP) (Maria); Thursday (12th August) **St. Joseph’s** 9-30 a.m. Lawrence Macpherson-Jones (Adrian & Paula) (RIP).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (15th August – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Janet Jones (RIP) (Geraint Jones); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Nash Family (RIP) (Nuala & Martin); 10-30a.m. Jackie Jaynes (RIP) (Maureen McAteer).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eileen Campbell (2010); Thomas Power (2007); Peter Burgess (2012); Rohan Bray (2008); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Requiem Masses During the pandemic it was not always possible to accommodate all those wishing to attend funeral services. If you would like to remember a loved one at a Memorial/Requiem Mass at a special weekday Mass to which family and friends can be invited, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

Anita O’Donnell (RIP) Nita died peacefully on Friday afternoon at home in Glynneath. Please remember Owen and the family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements to be announced. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.*

Candles: Our Lady – Marjorie Grant (RIP); The Sacred Heart – Mary Ann Burke (RIP); St. Joseph – David Jones & Family

Painting of the Sacristy Many thanks to David Jones on completing the next stage in our refurbishment and painting of the church. The Christian Faith (and especially the Catholic Faith) should express itself in the beauty of our worship (the liturgy and the music) and in the architecture and decoration of the church and church grounds. Hopefully, over the coming year, with the re-introduction of music and singing, and new altar furnishings, our offering of the Mass will more faithfully reflect the reverence and devotion that we owe to the majesty of God as we seek to honour and glorify Him In our worship and in the offering of our lives in His service.

The Driveway We shall begin by tidying (and confirming) the boundary between the driveway and the four residential properties in front of the driveway to clarify the options available to us in draining and landscaping the driveway and carpark. We hope also to hear soon that the problem of sewage water erupting in various places along the driveway has been successfully addressed by Welsh Water.

First Holy Communion Classes We hope to restart the classes in September. The following children began classes before the pandemic – Ronan Abell, Lucy Owen, Jack Challenger, Ava Mallows, Julia Karczynska, John Grabczewski, Amelia Tristram, Alexa Jones, Julia Kuligowska, Efan and Bodi Lewis. If there are others who would now like to be included (including Shuyalini Sivarupan) please submit names to Fr. Neil. Attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving Holy Communion. Classes will take place at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the Sunday 10-30 a.m. Mass.

Altar Relics at St. Joseph's When a church is consecrated, holy oil is daubed on the walls of the church (marked by the wall candles around the church) and holy relics of the Saints are placed in the Altar. Thanks to Sandra's further research in the Parish Archives we have recently rediscovered the details of the holy relics in the Altar at St. Joseph's. The holy relics (a gift from Rome) are those of St. Speciosus and of St. Clement.

St. Speciosus and his brother St. Gregory were contemporaries of St. Benedict and among his first disciples. They founded the Benedictine community at Terracina between Rome and Naples on the Mediterranean coast. Speciosus died in (approx.) 555AD and his feast day is 15th March. Interestingly, in the Eastern Orthodox calendar the feast day of his brother, St. Gregory, is 12th December which is the date on which St. Joseph's was consecrated.

St. Clement could be either St. Clement Hofbauer (d.1820) – (is it a co-incidence that his feast day is the same as that of St. Speciosus - 15th March ?) – or, St. Clement of Rome, the third successor to St. Peter ("Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius....") Hopefully further information may come to light.

St. Speciosus, pray for us! St. Clement, pray for us!

DOMSEC Livestreamed Events in 2021 A full programme of (over 25) events! See www.domsec.org.uk or www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk to access the livestreams and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. The next talk will be **Elijah for the 21st Century** by Fr Jerome Ituah - Saturday 21st August from 11-00a.m. to 1-00p.m.

Many thanks - for last Sunday's Collection (St. Joseph's) of £359-50 (plus direct debits); (St. John Kemble) £82-80. Many thanks

Second Collection this Sunday is the second of the two annual collections in support of our Sick & Retired Clergy.

PLEASE NOTE – To all stewards, readers and cleaners. **THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO COME TO CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OR COMFORTABLE TO DO SO.** Please let Fr. Neil know so that he can arrange a replacement. Thank you.

Readers: This Sunday (8th August) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. **Next Sunday** (15th August –Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) 6-00 p.m. Lorna Halloran; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Barbara Hunt

Stewarding: This Sunday (8th August) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint; 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory; 10-30 a.m. Luke & Lena. **Next Sunday** (15th August) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint; 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory; 10-30 a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia.

Cleaning Teams. This Sunday (8th August) 6-00 p.m. Maralyn & Nora; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann. **Next Sunday** (15th August) 6-00 p.m. Sian & Mary; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30a.m. Volunteers please.

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, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Please Note If you wish to reserve a particular date or day for a Mass Intention, please note that Saturday and Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are already reserved for a particular intention for the next two months **until the end of SEPTEMBER.** Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you