

Palm Sunday – 24th March 2024

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Through the Forty Days of Lent we have been making our way towards Holy Week and Easter following the Stations of the Cross and participating in the self-offering of Christ through our smaller acts of sacrifice and self-denial. Today, Palm Sunday, we arrive with Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem and with Him enter the Holy City. On Thursday we gather in the Upper Room for the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Friday we gather at the foot of the Cross – "we adore Thee O Christ and we bless Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world" - and await, through Holy Saturday, the glorious Resurrection of Christ on Easter Morning – "He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!". May this Holy Week be a time of renewal and grace for us all.

Holy Week Services

Wednesday 27th March – 11-30 a.m. **CHRISM MASS** in St. Joseph's Cathedral. Archbishop Mark invites us all to join him in this Diocesan celebration of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Thursday 28th March - 7-00 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper** followed by "watching in prayer" with opportunities to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 o'clock.

Good Friday 29th March – 2-00 p.m. **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion** 5-30 to 7-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Church open for private prayer (private Stations of the Cross). 6-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Stations (and Veneration) of the Cross.

Holy Saturday 30th March 8-00 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass** - **CLOCKS CHANGE!!** -

Easter Day 31st March

(**St. John Kemble**) Mass 9-00 a.m. Kaylan Hipsley (RIP) (Bella, Reg & family).

(**St. Joseph's**) Mass 10-30 a.m. M.T.Abraham (RIP) (Lena & family) With great joy we shall receive Jane Thomas into the full communion of the Catholic Church in our Easter Mass.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (24th March – **Palm Sunday**)**Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Ira Thomas (RIP) (Thomas & Loynes family); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Teresa Diez Fernandez (RIP) (Isabel & Peter)

Candles: Sacred Heart – Ian Thompson (RIP); Our Lady – Sophia Owen (Sp.Int.) St. Joseph – Yolanda Jones (RIP)

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Ann Morgan (2000); Leonard Grey (2012); Dawn Hopkins (2012); Andrew Solari (2010); Domenica Fecci (2010); Michael Doherty (2020); Jean Thompson (2015); David Collier (2008); Marion O'Grady (2015); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Cheryl Ford (RIP) Please remember Cheryl in your prayers and the family at this time. Funeral arrangements to be announced. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £339-93 (plus Direct Debits). **St John Kemble** – £39-00. Many thanks.

Easter Flowers – Donations toward the costs of decorating the church at Easter gratefully received

.**TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL** - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323
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