

Second Sunday in Lent – 25th February 2024

THE SEASON OF LENT

In Lent we enter a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at **6-00 p.m.** in St. Joseph's and on Saturdays at **3-30 p.m.** in St. John Kemble. On **Friday 22 March at 7-00 p.m.** there will be a performance of the Clydach Passion Play, "**The Road to Calvary**" here in St. Joseph's, as we enter into Holy Week. Please make a note in your diary. We pray that this Holy Season may be a special time of grace for us.

Churches Together in Neath LENT SERVICES 2024 "**Watch & Pray**" All services start at 2-00 p.m. Monday 19th February – Orchard Place; Monday 26th February – Neath Methodist; Monday 4th March - **St. Joseph's**; Monday 11th March – St. David's Vestry; Monday 18th MARCH – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Lent Alms This year to be divided between supporting Christian communities in the Holy Land and the work of Caritas in the Diocese of Menevia & the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Lent Alms Box is on the table by the Lady Chapel.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (25th February) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Jean Wallace (RIP) (Anne-Marie O'Donnell); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. M.T. Abraham (RIP) (Lena & family).

Weekday Mass Wednesday (28th) 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) Gerard Hardie (RIP) (Doug & Karen); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Muriel Harrbot (RIP (Nancy & family)); Thursday (29th) 11-30 a.m. **Funeral Mass** – Rose Williams (RIP); Friday (1st March – **St. David's Day**) **School Mass** Yolanda Jones (RIP) (Pat, Donie & family); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (3rd March) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 4-00 pm. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Gillian Boland (RIP) (The Family); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Joseph Stanislaus (RIP) (The Family).

Readers: This Sunday (25th) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Next Sunday** (3rd) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith. 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Susan Lewis (RIP); Our Lady – Susan Hewitt; St. Joseph – Hugh McCarron (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Stanley May (2008); Julia McGrath (2002); Lynda Bennett (2005); Clive Roberts (2011); Harold Booth (2006). Gillian Boland (2021); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Rose Williams (RIP) Please remember Rose in your prayers and the family at this time. Rose's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's this Thursday 29th February at 11-30 a.m. The Coffin will be received into the Church at 6-30 p.m. On Wednesday evening. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

George McIntyre (RIP) Please remember George in your prayers and the family at this time. George's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's on Friday 22nd March at 1-00 p.m. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Betty Hopkins (RIP) The family of the late Betty Hopkins would like to thank everybody for their kind words, messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and Mass cards. Thank you.

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Damage to cars There has been a further incident of damage to cars parked on the road outside the church. You may wish to report such incidents to the police so that they can build up a file on such incidents should the culprit(s) be apprehended.

Deanery Parish Representatives Archbishop Mark is setting up Deanery Pastoral Councils to focus on the themes of Mission and Evangelism relating to the parish groups such as the SVP, Alpha groups, Legion of Mary, catechesis etc. The Archbishop would like to have two representatives from every parish on the Deanery Pastoral Council. We need therefore to provide the names of two parish representatives **THIS WEEKEND** and if you would be willing to serve in this role please have a word with Fr. Neil after Mass this weekend. Many thanks.

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.

Mass Intentions Please note that weekend Mass intentions are now reserved into **JULY** and during weekdays into **MAY** 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.

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. Classes take place at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the 10-30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

SVP Celebration Our parish SVP are celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year. On Sunday 17th March they will renew their vows at the 10-30 a.m. Mass and invite you all to continue the celebration with cake and some music played by the Mikulka Ukrainian children in the hall afterwards. Funds raised will be for Ukraine.

“The Road to Calvary” Tickets for the Clydach Passion Play on Friday 22 March at 7-00 p.m. here in the Church are now available. Please see Angela or Geraint.

Jubilee Year 2025 Pope Francis has asked that 2024 should be a Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee Year 2025. Events and programmes to be announced.

Welsh Cakes & Cawl An evening of Welsh Cakes & Cawl on Monday 4th March at 7-00 p.m. in the Hall. Tickets £5 from Nora and Sheila.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £411-58 (plus Direct Debits) We are also very grateful to Martin, Betty's son, for the generous donation of £500 to parish funds in memory of his mother, Betty Hopkins. St John Kemble – £41-00 . Many thanks.

Second Collection Our second collection this Sunday is the – the Annual Lent CAFOD Collection. Please pick up a CAFOD News sheet with this newsletter for further details.

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. The Parish Coffee Morning on Thursday 14th March will raise funds to help start a woman-led community shop in Bangladesh. Please come and support.

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, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, 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.

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