

## TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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## Second Sunday of Advent – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### THE PARISH SYNODS

Last Wednesday evening the first Parish Synod meeting took place in the Parish Hall with a number of parishioners in attendance. As, once again, the consultation process has been extended, there is now more time before our parish findings have to be submitted and therefore you have the opportunity to contribute your ideas/reflections on the following two questions which were discussed at the meeting.

- (i) What is my dream for the Church so that it can become more outward looking, more missionary, especially towards those on the margins?
- (ii) What hinders the baptised from being active in mission? How does the community support its members who serve in various ways ( social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment etc )?

A suggestion box is placed at the back of the church for those who wish to contribute but are unable to attend the meetings. May the Holy Spirit guide us in our understanding of what He is saying to the Church at this time.

The date of the next meeting is now re-scheduled for **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** at 2-00 p.m. in the Hall.

Thank you to Gregory and Angela for agreeing to act as our “parish facilitators” and making arrangements for our two parishes to join together to discuss the suggested topics/questions proposed for reflection, as a contribution to the synodical process. “ The purpose of this consultation is for the bishops of the Church to arrive at an understanding of what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at this time”. Those in either parish with transport difficulties or who may be housebound or reluctant ( during this pandemic ) to meet socially with others but would like to contribute ideas/reflections, please ask someone to post your ideas into the box.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 5<sup>th</sup> December ) **Saturday** ( St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. John Burke & Deceased members of the Burke Family (RIP) ( Betty & Roger Horton ); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Norman Evans (RIP) ( Jean ); 10-30a.m. Dennis Grant and Raymond Gibbons (RIP) ( Brenda & Robert ).

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** **Tuesday** 7<sup>th</sup> December ( St Joseph's ) 6-30p.m. Patrick Gregory (RIP) ( Lorna & Joe) – followed by **Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Confession.** **Wednesday** 8<sup>th</sup> December – **The Immaculate Conception** ( St.Joseph's ) 9-30 a.m. Andrew Mills ( RIP. ) ( Elias Family ); ( St.John Kemble ) 11-00 a.m. Hipsley Family (RIP) (Bella); 7-00p.m. **Parish Synod** in the Hall. **Thursday** 9<sup>th</sup> December ( St.Joseph's ) 9-30a.m. Angela Dimaio (RIP) (June & David Vaudin ).

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 12<sup>th</sup> December ) **Saturday** (St John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; (St.Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Paul Cameron (RIP) ( Betty & Roger Horton ); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Benitia Whittington (RIP) ( The Family ); 10-30a.m. Deta May (RIP) ( The Family ).

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** **Christmas Eve** – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December ( St.John Kemble ) 4-00 p.m. ( Reserved Seats); ( St.Joseph's ) 6-00 p.m. ( Reserved Seats ) and 10-00 p.m. **Christmas Day** – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December ( St.Joseph's ) 8-00 a.m. ( St.Joseph's ) 10-30a.m. (No Mass at 4-00 p.m or 6-00 p.m. on Saturday evening/Christmas Day). It will only be necessary to reserve seats for the two earlier Masses ( 4-00p.m. and 6-00 p.m. ) on Christmas Eve. **Booking forms available at the back of the church** – please place completed forms in the box. Thank you.

**Parish Collection** Last weekend **St.Joseph's** £374-90 ( plus Direct Debits). **St.John Kemble** £25-00 Many thanks



**A Message from Fr. Ambrose Chuwa** ( Tanzania – whose community we have been supporting in recent years at Tea & Coffee ) – “Greetings from Kwalukonge. We are all fine but facing climate change. It’s been dry for a long time and the heat is strong. Please pray that we will get rain. No harvest and the animals are suffering, some dying. No water or grass” ( Sandra).

**SVP Childrens’ Christmas Gift Appeal** This year we are supporting our local Town Mayoress Appeal for gifts for children in need. If you are able to buy a gift please either pass it on to a member of the SVP or phone 01792 424168 where a collection can be made. We would be most grateful. Unwrapped gifts can be donated up to the 18<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.

**Second Collection** this weekend for our own **SVP Group** as they help support the homeless and housebound over the Christmas period.

**OCTOBER MASS ATTENDANCE** – All the churches in the Diocese have experienced a significant decline in the numbers attending Mass because of the Covid Pandemic. For your interest, of the 44 parishes in the Diocese, 10 had an average attendance of over 100 ( over each weekend ) in October - St. Joseph’s, Neath, having the fifth highest average attendance in the Diocese ( 115 Mass attendees – before the pandemic average attendance was just over 200). St. John Kemble, Glynneath, was 43 out of 44 (!) with an average attendance in October of 8 ( before the pandemic average attendance was 16 ) - only Pontyberem had less – with 7. Let us continue to pray that this “pruning” of the Church will lead to vigorous new growth and Resurrection in the life of the Church.

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Denis Protheroe (2004); Patrick O’Connell (2006); Kathleen Mahoney (2009); Regina Pearl ( 2012 ); Clare Pike (2006 ); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Readers:** **This Sunday** ( 5<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30 a.m. Sandra Davies. **Next Sunday** ( 12<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel.

**Cleaning Teams.****This Sunday** ( 5<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00p.m. Sian & Mary; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30 a.m. Volunteers please. **Next Sunday** ( 12<sup>th</sup> December ) 6-00 p.m. Maralyn & Nora; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann

**N.B** Cleaners urgently needed to help clean and tidy the Church on a once-a-fortnight rota. We are currently down to just 6/7 volunteers. A commitment of just one hour in the fortnight. **Thank you for volunteering!** Please have a word with either Nora or Sheila. Many thanks!

**First Holy Communion Classes** Please keep in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion Ronan Abell, Lucy Owen, Jack Challenger, Ava Mallows, Julia Karczynska, John Grabczewski, Amelia Tristram, Julia Kuligowska, Efan and Bodi Lewis, Shuyalini Sivarupan, Joseph Owen, Brendan Fitchett, Lowrie Smitham, Ivy Walters, Dorothea Boland. **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.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation** Please remember in your prayers those preparing for Confirmation – Zaira and Joshua Zambrano, Carys Smitham, Tommy Parel, Isabella and Maria Grabczewski, Oisín and Cian Fitchett, Eve Abell, Daniel Rowlands, Mia Faure and Joseph Payne. We shall meet together each Sunday after the 10-30a.m. Mass beginning next Sunday ( Advent Sunday ). Note for the diary! - Archbishop George Stack will visit us on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April** (7-00 p.m. ) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Group will meet together for the next two Sundays ( 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> ) and then resume in February whilst regular attendance at Mass continues to be an essential part of the preparation process.

**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, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O’Brien, Betty Hopkins, Kevin Halloran, Rose Williams, Donie O’Connell, Maureen Pitt. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.



## ENTRANCE

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; come then and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every Christian breast, and furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our heart prepare, for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without thy grace our souls must fade, and wither like a flower decayed.
- 4 Stretch forth thy hand to heal our sore, and make us rise, to fall no more; once more upon thy people shine, and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free, whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

## OFFERTORY

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded: for with blessing in his hand Christ our God on earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood Lord of lords, in human vesture – in the Body and the Blood: he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly Food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.
- 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!

## HOLY COMMUNION

- 1 Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.



All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace, the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

Hymn to the Theotokos from St Basil's Liturgy

## PRAYER FOR ADVENT

LOVING GOD, we seek you in both the light and the darkness, the silence and the sounds, the fullness and the emptiness of this Advent season. Fill our hearts with hope for your coming, love for those who are most in need, and faith in your promises. May this time of preparation help us celebrate the birth of your Son with deep gratitude and abundant joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world.  
Amen.

- 2 Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.
- 3 Father, we love to see your face, we love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest,  
for we know we always can trust you.
- 4 Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.  
Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you,  
for I know that I am one with you.

## RECESSIONAL

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed!  
Great David's greater son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.
- 2 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.
- 3 Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing  
a kingdom without end.
- 4 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest;  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is love.