

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – 16th March 2025

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 (16th March) Saturday 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Barbara Green (RIP) (June & David Vaudin); 10-30 a.m. Peter & Hazel Huxtable (RIP) (Dennis).

Weekday Mass Times Monday (17th - St. Patrick) 6-00 p.m. Wednesday (19th – St. Joseph) 9-30 a.m. Maisie & Edward Rees (RIP) (Martin & Nuala); 11-00 a.m, (St. John Kemble) Fr. Neil (Sp. Int.) (Joe & Lorna); Thursday (20th) 9-30a.m. Fr. Jacob Lewis (RIP) (SPCD); Friday (14th) No Mass. **12-00 midday Funeral Service** – Lucia Pistotnik (RIP); 2-00 p.m. Lent Group in Parish Hall. 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross .

Mass Intentions next Sunday (23rd March) Saturday 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Mavis Jones (RIP) (Angela & Maralyn);**Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Jean Thompson (RIP) (The Family)

Readers: This Sunday (16th) 6-00p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. **Next Sunday** (23rd) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sophia Hikary.

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 (!!).

Lucia Pistotnik (RIP) Please remember Lucia in your prayers and the family at this time. Lucia's Funeral Service will take place here in St. Joseph's this Friday 21st March at 12 midday.

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 on Thursday 3rd April at 12-00 midday.

Martin Pike (RIP) Please remember Martin in your prayers and the family at this time. Martin's Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium this Wednesday 19th March at 9-00 a.m.

Sid Leaker (RIP) Please remember Sid in your prayers and the family at this time. Funeral details to be announced.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Candles: Sacred Heart - Peace in Ukraine & the Middle East; Our Lady – Sophia Owen (Sp.Int.); St. Joseph – Staff & Pupils, St. Joseph's Secondary School.

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Anniversaries Elwyn Oakley (2008); Fr. Eddie Murphy (2012); Peter Huxtable (2019); Raymond Delahunty (2019); Margaret Harland (2013); Harold Jenkins (2021); Cheryl Ford (2024); Rispah Kirby (2005). *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 10th Bethel Elim; 17th St.David's Vestry; 24th The Bridge Family Church; 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. All welcome.

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

Parish Health & Safety Committee We need to address all aspects of Health & Safety in the Hall, the two churches and the church grounds. Under recent legislation these responsibilities are extensive and we would like to set up a committee to help Richard and Geraint who are reviewing our present situation. We need a team to carry out the required weekly/monthly/annual inspections of our properties to ensure that we are compliant with all the relevant Health & Safety legislation. If you are willing to be a part of this team please have a word with Fr. Neil, Richard Hopkins or Geraint Jones Thank you.

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.

S.V.P. Gift Aid envelopes are now available at the back of the church. If you are a tax payer please consider using these for your donation as every pound donated will give the society and extra 25p. Thank you.

The Legion of Mary will be resuming our meetings at 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday this week after a few months of cancellation due to illness and lack of members we need urgently. My mobile number is 07719090368. Thank you (Pat).

Last Sunday's Collection: £428-84 (plus Direct Debits). St.John Kemble - £42-28 Many thanks. Second Collection this Sunday – CAFOD Lent Collection.

Direct Debit & Gift Aid. If you would like to contribute to the church either by Direct Debit or to Gift Aid your contribution/donation (or to do both) please have a word with Robert our treasurer for further details.

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

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, David and 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.

PRAYER AFTER MASS *St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

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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