

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. Phone – 01639 643323

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 28th February 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent

We have been asked by the Diocese to, once again, make very clear the absolute importance of continuing to strictly observe all the necessary precautions. These precautions continue to apply even if you have received the Coronavirus Vaccine. Please wear a mask at all times, sanitise your hands before entering the church and on leaving the church. Please continue to observe social distancing, especially when invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion. **Please do not walk about the church or against the direction of the arrows** and please do not bunch up with others on entering and leaving the church or gather in a group outside of church **but continue to keep six feet apart at all times.**

Mass Intentions this Sunday (28th) St. John Kemble **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People. St. Joseph's 6-00p.m. Aldo Vaccari (RIP) (Anna & family); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Swansea Catenian Association (Sp. Int.) (Adrian and Paula); 10-30a.m. Dora Mason (RIP) (Robert and Brenda).

Weekday Mass Times Monday 1st March (St.David's Day) 6-30p.m. Pamela Cundall (Sp. Int.). Wednesday (3rd) 9-30a.m. Sharon O'Donnell (RIP) (Elias Family); 11-00a.m. Joseph Nedza (RIP) (Nancy); Thursday (4th) 9-30 a.m. Kevin O'Sullivan (RIP) (Kathleen Davies & family).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (6th March) St.John Kemble: **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People 6-00p.m Paddy Clifford (RIP) (The Family); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. William John Sullivan (RIP) (Pauline, Margaret & families); 10-30a.m. John Hickey (RIP) (Peter & Isabel).

Fridays in Lent There will be no congregational Stations of the Cross but the church will be open for private prayers and devotions each Friday in Lent from 6-00p.m. to 7-00p.m.

The Sunday 8-00a.m Celebration of Mass. REVISED NOTICE The 8-00a.m. celebrations of Mass will continue until the rules regarding social distancing are clarified allowing greater social contact.

Candles The Sacred Heart - Terry Isaac (RIP):

Alan Bolland (RIP) Alan's family would like to extend a sincere thanks to everyone who came to pay their respects on Tuesday 16th February at Alan's funeral, both inside and outside the church, amid the difficult Covid restrictions. Thanks also for the kindness shown to them by St.Joseph's parishioners, Fr.Neil and Deacon Jim. The family are grateful for your continued support and love during their time of need and thank you also for the many cards, flowers, donations and Masses offered for Alan.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL Friday was the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Through our prayers, acts of self-denial and solidarity (walking up to 10,000 steps each day – though far fewer is of great value also) we, as a Church family, can change lives for the better. If you can, do watch Abdella's daily walk for water (10 hours, 40c temperature, dangerous rocky terrain) a relentless task which prevents him from starting a business. The pool from which he fills containers is shallow and barely larger than a dinner plate. Solutions are available. CAFOD is part of the global Caritas effort to provide solar-powered water pumps to the 2.2 billion people without safe local access to clean water. Ways to donate: (i) parish collection (ii) online at cafod.org.uk (iii) text LENT to 70460 to donate £10 – network charges apply. (To opt out of updates, text LENTNOINFO to 70460). " O come to the waters all who are thirsty" (Isaiah 55 v 1). (Thank you – Sandra).

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.

Online Retreat for Lent Daily prayers and readings, please visit the BBC Radio Four Website

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph.... and a challenge. Pope Francis tells us that, "Every day, for over forty years, following Morning Prayer" he has recited a prayer to St. Joseph taken from a French prayerbook of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even "a certain challenge to St. Joseph" on account of its closing words: " My beloved father, my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power". At the conclusion to his Letter, he adds another 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"*

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 (28th) 6-00p.m. Kevin Halloran; 8-00a.m. Adrian & Paula Macphearson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Maureen Pitt. **Next Sunday** (6th) 6-00p.m. Nora Reynolds; 8-00a.m. Gregory Page. 10-30a.m. Sandra Davies.

Stewarding This Sunday (28th) 6-00p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia. **Next Sunday** (6th) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. Luke & Lena.

Cleaning Teams. This Sunday (28th) 6-00p.m. Volunteers please; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30a.m. Elma, Hannah & Tommy. **Next Sunday** (6th) 6-00p.m. Sian Loynes & volunteer please; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Ann/Joan/Volunteer please.

Holy week Services Following guidance from the Holy See, our Holy Week Services will be greatly simplified in accordance with the guidelines published by the Holy See at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Further details to follow.

YOUNG PEOPLE (age 18 – 30) A zoom discussion group for catholic young adults meeting on Monday evenings. Get to know other catholic young people in the Diocese. Please contact Fr. Matt Roche-Saunders at vocations@menevia.org for more information. Also check out <https://acutisproject.com/events/> providing free digital resources and training for young Catholics.

WARNING! A safeguarding alert has been reported by CSAS that the online game "Avakin Life" has been/is a grooming platform. Two million people currently use the game – half a million using it every day.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Robert Turner (2001); Harold Booth (2006); Kenneth Hill (2005); Francis Oncliff (2005); Christine Gray (2009); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection – St. Joseph's £452-04 (plus Direct Debits). St. John Kemble £285-00. Thank you. Our second collection this Sunday (28th) is the CAFOD Lent Appeal Collection.

Driveway Appeal Many thanks for the further donations to the Parish Funds/Driveway Appeal of £100 and of £1,000 which, **with the addition of gift aid**, comes to a total of £1,375 (!) All donations gratefully received. We now have **£6,550** in the Driveway Fund. Please remember that if you gift aid an additional 25% is added to the value of your donation. **Many thanks.**

Pastoral Visits Please note that Fr. Neil is happy to call if you are continuing to self-isolate at home but would appreciate a visit. However - wearing masks and observing social distancing - this must be at your own risk (!). Except for emergencies, Fr. Neil will not call uninvited during the pandemic. **Please note: At present, the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by arrangement**

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 until **the middle of May**. Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.