

SEVENTH SUNDAY – 23rd FEBRUARY 2025

“ 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).

VOCATIONS PRAYER Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself, more faithful to You. Make me generous enough to want sincerely to do Your will whatever it may be. Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others. Grant Lord that those whom You call to enter the priesthood, diaconate or religious life may have the generosity to answer Your call, so that those who need Your help may find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (23rd February) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Fr. Bill Lloyd (RIP) (Elias family); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. George McIntyre (RIP) (Peter Grant).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (26th) 9-30 a.m. [St. Joseph's) Billy & Kitty O'Connell (Sp. Int.) (Donie & Pat)); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Joe & Lorna (Sp.Int.); Thursday (28th) 9-30a.m. Susan Hewett (Sp. Int.) (John & Linda Slattery); Friday (28th) **6-00 p.m.** Vigil Mass of St. David.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (2nd March) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's) Gillian Boland (RIP) (The Family); 10-30 a.m. Joe & Lorna (Diamond Wedding) (Philip, Sean & Patrick).

Readers: This Sunday (23rd) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee. **Next Sunday** (2nd) 6-00 p.m.Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel.

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 (!!).

Candles: Sacred Heart - Pope Francis (Sp.Int); Our Lady – Thanksgiving (S & A); St. Joseph – Ukraine & Israel/Gaza.

Anniversaries David Palfrey (2014); Margaret Bevan (2006); Stanley May (2008); Lynda Bennett (2005); George McIntyre (2024); Clive Roberts (2011); Harold Booth (2006); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Sunday Choir It would be good to celebrate our 10-30 a.m. Mass as a Sung Mass – to sing the Gloria, Kyrie, Agnus Dei etc as well as to widen our repertoire of hymns, arias and anthems. If you would be willing to be part of a Sunday Choir please have a word with Fr. Neil.

S.V.P. Project. Our SVP Group are helping to buy some cows for a community in India. We provide the teas and refreshments once a month after the Sunday Mass and all the money we raise will go to fund this project. All donations gratefully received.

Last Sunday's Collection: £397-77 (plus Direct Debits). All donations gratefully received. St.John Kemble - £23-45.. Many thanks.

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.

ST.JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL If you have a child over 2 years of age or are new to the area and are looking for a school – look no further! St Joseph's has a loving, caring ethos to bring out the full potential of your child. Please contact the school on 01639 635099 for further details.

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Lent Faith Sharing Group We will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Church Hall Lounge on Friday afternoons, the most popular choice from Friday 14th March 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. Many thanks.

Cawl & Welsh Cakes, Bingo & Raffle Evening. Monday 3rd March at 7-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets £7-50 from Nora or Sheila. Proceeds to Church Funds.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Application Forms are available from Fr. Neil in the Sacristy after Mass for those wishing to be considered for either of these two Sacraments. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments. **Classes will begin next Sunday 2nd March** before Mass at 9-30a.m. (First Holy Communion) and after Mass at 11-30 a.m. (Confirmation). Dates of the First Holy Communion Mass and Sacrament of Confirmation to be announced later.

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, Sid 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.

FOOD BANK - PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING to the Neath Food Bank at the back of the church - the products Food Banks need most: Tinned veg (peas and sweetcorn); tinned tuna and mackerel; brown, basmati and long grain rice; pulses (eg: kidney beans and chickpeas); grains (eg: couscous); easy cook noodles; tinned fruit (eg: pineapple slices); wholegrain cereals (eg: wheat biscuits); oat drinks and UHT milk. **THANK YOU**

Retrouvaille is a Catholic ministry for marriages in difficulty. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on zoom – 27 February to 2 March email info@retrouvaille.org.uk or phone 07887 296 983 for other help and further information.

Piety Shop The shop is open from 9-45 to 10 -15 every Sunday morning. If you have particular requests Sheila may be able to put in a special order for you.

The Church Hall is available for private heir. If anyone is interested in booking the venue please contct Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or 07708105147

Parish Coffee Morning Every Thursday from 10-00 a.m. to 11-00 a.m.

The Jubilee Year Please take a **FREE COPY!** of the" Companion Booklet – The Jubilee" (over 90 pages!) with prayers and information about the Jubilee Year – from the back of the church.

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

