

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 22ND MAY 2022

In the month of May – “Mary’s Month” - we solicit her prayers that, through her maternal intercessions, her Risen Son may pour out the Holy Spirit upon us especially as, through these forty days of the Resurrection Appearances of Christ, we make our way toward the Ascension this coming Thursday and ten days later (fifty days after the Resurrection) our celebration of the Day of Pentecost.

“ 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).

“Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, Thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live. Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou this soul of mine, Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray” Come, Holy Spirit!

AN INVITATION FROM THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

(**Returning to Mass at Pentecost - 5th June**). (EXTRACT) “ The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply” – “ when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation” – “ Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person”.

Mass Intentions this Sunday: (22nd May) **Saturday** (St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Evan George Elias (RIP) (The Family); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. David Vaudin (Sp. Int.) (June).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Wednesday (25th) 6-30 p.m. **Vigil Mass** of the Ascension. Norman Evans (RIP) (J.Evans); Thursday (26th) **ASCENSION DAY** 9-30 a.m. Maureen and Jack Lewis (RIP) (Mary Addis); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Fr. John Heslin (RIP) (SPCD). Friday (27th) 9-30 a.m. Peter and Hazel Huxtable (RIP) (Dennis)

Mass Intentions next Sunday (29th May) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Kim Jenkins (RIP) (Gordon Baker) **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Joe Glover (RIP) (Lorna & Joe O’Brien).

Readers: This Sunday (22nd May) 6-00 p.m. **Volunteer please;** 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (29th May) 6-00 p.m. Caroline Thomas; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

Please Note (Mass Intentions). **Saturday and Sunday** Masses are already reserved for a particular intention several months ahead (for weekend and weekday masses). Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

Candles The Sacred Heart – Joe Glover (RIP); Our Lady - Ukraine:

Legion of Mary Wednesday evenings at 6-00 p.m. New members very welcome

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Evan George Elias (2011); Violet Hanford (2021). Elsie Sheridan (2004); Linda Grottuso (2013); Sydney Parsons (2010); Hazel Huxtable (2018); Maureen Lewis (2014); Marion Davies (2017); Kim Jenkins (2018); Joe Glover (RIP). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: The Lourdes Group is travelling (by rail) this year from 20th – 29th July. There are still two places available. For further details contact Deacon Jim on 07816 750864.

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes 25th – 30th July 2022. A full programme, al transport, travel and full board are included in the package, Further details to follow. See www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Cardigan To the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper – Sunday 15th May from 1-30 p.m. (Confessions); 2-30 p.m. Rosary Procession; 3-0 p.m. Mass. (see poster for details).

Environmental Matters: It's not too late to get involved in "No Mow May" even if you leave only a part of your garden to grow wild. It would be great to hear/see if any unusual plants spring up! "No Mow May" in St. Joseph's. We shall leave uncut the little violet meadow in front of the Hall and also the bank of grass behind the Hall. Take the opportunity also to view our newly planted bluebells under the conifer trees beside the Lady Chapel. Hopefully they will spread each year and carpet the ground every April/May.

THE CHURCH GROUNDS We are gradually recovering and restoring the church grounds and hope to set up the Stations of the Cross along the side of the school playground leading up to the Grotto. It is intended that (in due time) the Grotto of Our Lady will be the "centre" of the restored grounds ("estate"!). It involves a lot of work (!) and we would be grateful for a volunteer/volunteers to help with keeping the hedges trimmed. If you can help with this please have a word with Chris, Martin or Nuala to whom we are very grateful for their splendid work in the gradual transformation of the estate. When completed and the driveway/carpark tarmacked there will be a Service of Dedication to Our Lady.

Donations toward the cost of shrubs and flowers in the church grounds gratefully received. Many thanks.

Right Royal Tea Party To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, High Tea will be served in the Hall on Sunday 12th June from 3-00 p.m. to 6-00 p.m. Tickets £5-00 – proceeds in aid of Neath Food Bank. (There will be no refreshments in the hall after the 10-30 Mass on that Sunday). All welcome. Book early!

NEW BISHOP OF MENEVIA Bishop Mark O'Toole (of the Diocese of Plymouth) has been appointed as the next Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia. This means that we continue as a separate Diocese (with our own Cathedral and staff) but that we share with the Archdiocese of Cardiff the episcopal ministry of Archbishop Mark who will be responsible for the administration of both dioceses. The Installation of Bishop Mark as Bishop of Menevia will take place on Thursday 23rd June at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Attendance is by invitation/ticket only. Numbers are strictly limited and (at present) we have four tickets (and two for St. John Kemble). I suggest therefore that applications should be made for two people attending together (thus three pairs). Names will be put into a hat.

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, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

Parish History Booklet Copies of the reprint of the History of the Parish are still available if you would like to pick up a copy from the back of the church - £5-00

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's - £416-91 (plus Direct Debits) – Priests' Training Fund £300-55. St. John Kemble – 7 May £18-25; 15 May £25-00. (Collection for Priests' Training Fund – this Saturday).

Second Collection Next Sunday for World Communications Day.

Prayer for Ukraine (from the Bishops 'Conference) "*Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine, For their government and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son, Suffering on the Cross at Calvary. Give them strength and courage, Through faith, hope and justice. May we, in our turn, Support them through prayer and generosity, That lives may be saved, the injured healed, that the dead may rest in peace, And that war will end in peace*".

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323
N.B. The phone in the Presbytery is now re-connected. Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk