

## THE EPIPHANY – 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025

### EPIPHANY – THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS!

Today the Wise Men arrive in Bethlehem – searching for the One Who has been born King of the Jews but also “the Light to the Gentiles” as we celebrate that “ the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” - and we pray that that Light will shine with an ever greater intensity of illumination in our own hearts and souls and penetrate the darkness of the world in which we live – “ whoever follows me, will have the light of life” says Jesus. May we have the grace to throw open the doors of our hearts to receive Him in all His glory and majesty as we await His Coming on the clouds of heaven. I wish you all a joyful and holy Christmastide – the full twelve days of rejoicing and celebration leading to the Epiphany.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 5<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) Fr. Leo Blundell ( RIP) ( SPCD ); 10-30 a.m. Deceased members of the May Family (RIP) ( The Family ).

**Weekday Mass Times** Wednesday ( 8th January ) 9-30 a.m. [ St. Joseph’s ) Ann Hanford (RIP) ( The family ); 11-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Fr. Neil ( Sp.Int. ).

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 12<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of the Lord ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. ( St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s ) Anne Williams ( RIP ) ( The Family); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Deceased members of the Michael Family (RIP) ( The Family ).

**Christmas Crib Collection** This year to be divided between Youth Ministry in Cardiff-Menevia and Aid to the Friends of the Holy Land.

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 5<sup>th</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Next Sunday** ( 12<sup>th</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

**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 – Nora ( Thanksgiving); Our Lady – Special Intention ( C.M.) St. Joseph – Private Intention ( T & C )

**Anniversaries** Kimberly O’Neil ( 2007 ); Philip Hoptroff (2009); Michael O’Connor (2007); Eileen Williams (2016); Leo Linney (2019); Jenny Smith ( 2006 ); Alice Francis (2009); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Congratulations and Birthday Greetings** to John Smith and to Agnes Collins both of whom are celebrating 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays this weekend, John on Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Agnes on Saturday (4<sup>th</sup>). Our prayers and best wishes to them both on their special day.

**Missio Red Boxes** Last year ( 2024 ) £548-61 was raised through the Red boxes for the work of Missio. Many thanks to Sian for overseeing the scheme throughout the year.

**A Warm Winter Welcome!** Come along and join the Parish Hall Committee for an afternoon of fun, laughter and surprises on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 2-00 p.m. to 4-00 p.m. Light refreshments provided. Tickets £5 from Angela, Mary, Sheila or Brenda. Proceeds raised for the Church Hall.

**Parish Guild Meeting** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 1-00 p.m. in the Hall

**Last Sunday’s Collection:** £305-14 ( plus Direct Debits ). St. John Kemble - £49-00. Many thanks

**TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL** - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323 Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

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