

THE HOLY FAMILY – 29TH December 2024

CHRISTMASTIDE – THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

With great joy we celebrate that in Bethlehem a Great Light has appeared – “ 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 – a full twelve days of rejoicing and celebration!

Mass Intentions this Sunday (29th December – The Holy Family) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Yolanda Jones (RIP) (Nantlais); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Bernard Allen (RIP) (The Family).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (1st January – Mary, Mother of God) 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph’s) Michael O’Hea (RIP) (Eirwen & family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Fr. Brendan Carrick (RIP) (SPCD).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (5th 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).

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 (29th) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (5th) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano.

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 – Sheila Penry (RIP); Our Lady – Yolanda Jones (RIP) St. Joseph – Elizabeth Fluck (Sp.Int.)

Anniversaries Arthur Wheatley (2007); Lucy Wiltshire (2009); Jim Insole (2016); Mair Richards (2007); Patrick Gallagher (2009); Peter Navin (2010). Bridget Amos (2017); Virginia Farrell (2016); William Dooley (2006); Sharon Bradshaw (2010); Thomas Thomas (2011). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

Many thanks to Dennis for his generous donation of chocolates to us – to the SVP, Altar Servers, Clergy, the Christmas Party, the Thursday coffee morning, our Christmas Masses and to the School – as we celebrate with thanksgiving the Birth of Jesus at this joyful time of year. Many thanks.

A Warm Winter Welcome! Come along and join the Parish Hall Committee for an afternoon of fun, laughter and surprises on Monday 20th 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.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Forms will be available in the New Year 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.

Christmas Offering Grateful thanks for the large number of gifts and cards received and the very generous Christmas Collection – all of which is very much appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Please keep me in your prayers. Many thanks. (Fr. Neil).

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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