

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21st January 2024

“ 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)

Mass Intentions this Sunday (21st January) Saturday 4-00 pm. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Marshall Abell (RIP) (The Family); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Pilar Diez Fernandez (RIP) (Isabel & Peter Buckingham).

Weekday Mass Wednesday (24th) 11-15 a.m. (St Joseph’s) **Funeral Mass** – Sheila Penry (RIP); Thursday (25th – Conversion of St. Paul) 9-30 a.m. Jean Phillips (RIP) (B.O’Grady); Friday (26th) 10-15 a.m. **Funeral Service** – Carol Curnow (RIP).

Sheila Penry (RIP) Please remember Sheila in your prayers and the family at this time. Sheila’s Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph’s this Wednesday 24th January at 11-15 a.m. and the Committal at Margam Crematorium at 12-45 p.m. The Coffin will be received into the church on Tuesday at 5-00 p.m.

Carol Curnow (RIP) Please remember Carol in your prayers and the family at this time. Carol’s Funeral Service will take place here in St. Joseph’s this Friday 26th January at 10-15 a.m. and the Committal at Llantwit Cemetery at 11-00 a.m..

Mervyn Blackmore (RIP) Please remember Mervyn in your prayers and the family at this time. Mervyn’s Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Tuesday 30 January at 12-00 midday.

Please keep Sheila, Carol and Mervyn in your prayers and also their grieving families at this time. ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen***

Mass Intentions next Sunday (28th January) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Joan & Bill Brayley (RIP) (Jan Harvey);. Sunday 10-30 a.m. Kasia & Ouday Hikary (Sp. Int.).

Readers: This Sunday (21st) 6-00 p.m. Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. .Bernadette Payne. **Next Sunday** (28th) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Yolanda Jones (RIP); Our Lady – Keith Syder; St. Joseph – The Middle East.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Olive Davies (2017); Eileen Greg (2018); Mary Newbury (2015); Reginald Edwards (2001); Diana Hardy (2001). Rose Jones (2006); Morgan Turner (2003); Kathleen Morgan (2011); Edwina Hinnigan (2017). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Mass Intentions Please note that weekend and weekday Mass intentions are now reserved into **March 2024** and other dates have been reserved as far as December. Please be thinking ahead by several months if you would like a Mass intention for a loved one on a particular day/date – even so, some dates are reserved a year ahead and if so Mass will be said on the nearest date available to the request. Thank you.

A gentle reminder (!) – please observe and respect a prayerful silence before Mass to prepare yourself for the celebration of Mass. Loud conversations are disturbing (and upsetting) for those who may come early to church precisely to have a time of quiet reflection (including the parish priest!) who do not want to overhear personal conversations about family, friends, future plans etc! Plenty of time to exchange news and information after the end of Mass. Thank you.

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Reception into the Catholic Church Please keep in your prayers those who have expressed the desire to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. We meet for the first time this Sunday after Mass and hope hereafter to meet together each Sunday after the 10-30 a.m. Mass for short sessions of catechesis and prayer. If you also are praying about this possibility, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

Parish Reps. The Archbishop would like to meet with parish representatives at St. Mary's, Carmarthen, on Saturday 3rd February at 10-30 a.m. to listen to any feedback from the parishes regarding (i) the proposal to unite the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Diocese of Menevia to form one Diocese, and (ii) responses to the Synod process taking place throughout the Church. We are invited to send two Reps (from each parish). Please see Fr. Neil.

School Caretaker The School is looking to appoint a new caretaker working for 15 hours per week. If you are interested or know of someone please contact the school on 635099.

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

First Holy Communion. We hope to have a First Holy Communion Mass in the summer. Please obtain an application form from Carolyn, Elaine or Mary. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 4-45 p.m. in the Hall. New members very welcome. Please come along.

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

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 £313-87 and a £260-00 donation – all donations gratefully received (plus Direct Debits); White Flower Appeal (SPUC) - £121-55. St John Kemble – £55-50. SPUC -£7-00. Many thanks.

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, George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, George McIntyre, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Robert Minty and David Hoy. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

WARNING Please note, cars parked in front of the garages, opposite the church gates, have been smeared in a sticky oily substance over the door handles and windscreens. Obviously this is a criminal offence and I have suggested to those affected that they report the matter to the police.

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".*

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

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