

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 23rd March 2025

THE SEASON OF LENT

We have entered the Season of Lent, a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter - a time for a more profound reflection on the spiritual life and an opportunity for spiritual renewal through fasting, self-denial and a deeper experience of repentance. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) and Saturday at 3-30 p.m. (St. John Kemble). Also on Fridays (starting from this Friday - 14th March) a Lent Faith Sharing Group from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Church Hall Lounge 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.

" 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 (23rd March) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Mavis Jones (RIP) (Angela & Maralyn);**Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Jean Thompson (RIP) (The Family)

Weekday Mass Times Tuesday (25th – The Annunciation) 6-00 p.m. Mary O'Gallaghan (RIP) (The Elias family); Wednesday (26th – St. Joseph) 9-30 a.m. Bridie & Albert Shackelton (RIP) (Mary Addis); 11-00 a.m, (St. John Kemble) Elaine Reynolds (Sp. Int.); Thursday (27th) No Mass; Friday (28th) No Mass; 2-00 p.m. Lent Group in Parish Hall. 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross .

Mass Intentions next Sunday (30th March – Laetare/Mothering Sunday) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's) Marion O'Grady (RIP) (Brendan); **CLOCKS GO FORWARD (!)** 10-30 a.m. M.T.Abraham (RIP) (Parel family).

Readers: This Sunday (23rd) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sophia Hikary; **Next Sunday** (30th) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans.

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 (!!).

Aileen Buckingham (RIP) Please remember Aileen in your prayers and the family at this time. Aileen's Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Thursday 3rd April at 12-00 midday.

Sid Leaker (RIP) Please remember Sid in your prayers and the family at this time. Funeral details to be announced.

David Reynolds (RIP) Please remember David in your prayers and the family at this time. David's Funeral Mass will be here in St. Joseph's on Thursday 10th April at 12-00 midday.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Candles: Sacred Heart - Mary O'Gallaghan (RIP); Our Lady – Sophia Owen (Sp.Int.); St. Joseph – Fr. Bill Curran (RIP).

Anniversaries Leonard Grey (2012); Dawn Hopkins (2012); Andrew Solari (2010); Domenica Fecci (2010); Michael Doherty (2020); Jean Thompson (2015); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

.....

Churches Together Lent Talks. Monday at 2-00 p.m. Theme: What is holding us back? March 24th The Bridge Family Church; 31st Neath Methodist Church; 7th April Siloh. **Holy Week Services** at 7-00 p.m. – **Monday 14 April here in St. Joseph's** Tuesday 15th – Church on the Move; Wednesday 16th – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Aid to Gaza Clean/warm clothes and toiletries required. (No food or medicines). Please speak to Vi or phone 01639 776481

Tesco Blue Token Scheme The staff & pupils of St. Joseph's Primary School would like to thank all the parishioners who took part in the " Tesco Stronger Starts Blue Token Scheme". We have received £1,000 from Tesco. Many thanks.

Parish Health & Safety Committee We need to address all aspects of Health & Safety in the Hall, the two churches and the church grounds. Under recent legislation these responsibilities are extensive and we would like to set up a committee to help Richard and Geraint who are reviewing our present situation. We need a team to carry out the required weekly/monthly/annual inspections of our properties to ensure that we are compliant with all the relevant Health & Safety legislation. If you are willing to be a part of this team please have a word with Fr. Neil, Richard Hopkins or Geraint Jones Thank you.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion in 2025. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for receiving these sacraments. Classes take place before Mass at 9-30a.m. (First Holy Communion) and after Mass at 11-30 a.m. (Confirmation). Archbishop Mark has kindly agreed to celebrate on **Tuesday 27th May** at 7-00 p.m. The dates of the First Holy Communion the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St. Joseph's Mass to be announced later.

St. Joseph's Parish Hall Committee has vacancies for two parishioners to join us. We are an active group who work hard as a team to keep the Hall well maintained and also undertake various fundraising activities throughout the year. We usually meet every four weeks from 6-30pm to 8-30 pm in the Hall. If you are interested and want to know more please chat to Brenda (Chairperson) Tel: 07817656157. Thank you.

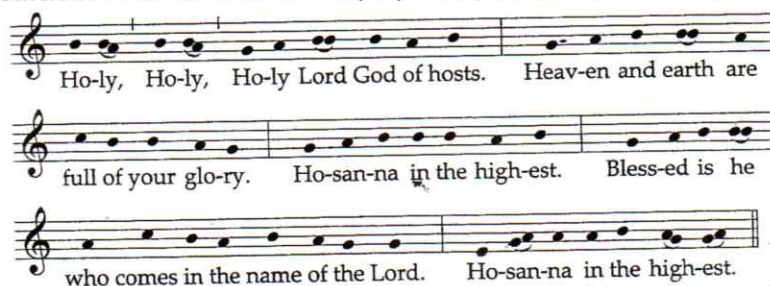
Donations for Flowers to decorate the Church at Easter gratefully received.

Fr. Neil is receiving further treatment for cancer and taking time in the day to rest. Thank you for your prayers.

Parish Envelopes for the year ahead are now available at the back of the church. If you would like a box of envelopes please see Robert.

Last Sunday's Collection: £327-33 (plus Direct Debits) - CAFOD £400-50; St.John Kemble - £52-10 - CAFOD £36-00. 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, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Nora Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Paul Leaker, David Vaudin. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.



TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323 Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

