

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. Phone – 01639 643323

Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

## Sunday 25th October 2020 - The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### SECOND LOCKDOWN!

**( Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November )**

As announced by the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drayford, all places of worship in Wales have been asked to close from 23<sup>rd</sup> October until 9<sup>th</sup> November, but allowing funerals and weddings to take place under the usual pandemic restrictions. This is very disappointing for those places of worship ( like ourselves ) which have been observing the necessary precautions ( sanitising gel, masks, social distancing etc ) to enable public worship to continue. The precedent of the State requiring the suspension of public worship ( the freedom of religion ) is an unhappy precedent – ( and one hopes that the leaders of the churches in Wales have made appropriate representations to the Welsh Government ) – which the Church is able to comply with because of the prevailing circumstances, but which does not token well for a proper understanding between the Church and the State, for which the Church has had to suffer in previous generations and for which we also, in future years, may be required to take a stand. It is unfortunate that there seems to have been no discussion about these important issues whilst, on this occasion, seeking to accommodate the requirements (demands) of the civic authorities. What are the limits to the authority of the State? Are there limits?

Our public celebration of Mass will begin on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** with Mass at 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) and 11-00a.m. ( St. John Kemble). Please continue to pray that through these ups and downs of public life, the Lord will work in us His deeper and more perfect Will for the Church and that through this disruption of our community (and liturgical) life as the Body of Christ, He will bring us through to Resurrection and a New Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Lord Jesus!

#### Prayers to the Holy Spirit

“ O Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I must do and command that I do it. I promise to submit to everything You ask of me and to accept all that You allow to happen to me. Just show me what is Your Will” ( Cardinal Mercier).

“ Father, pour out Your Spirit upon Your people, and grant us a new vision of Your glory, a new experience of Your power, a new faithfulness to Your Word, and a new consecration to Your service, that Your love may grow among us, and Your Kingdom come; through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

“Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of the faithful, Enkindle in them the fire of Your Love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created, And renew the face of the earth. O God, Who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit grant that, by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen”.

“ Holy Spirit, guard the entrance to our hearts. Let no unworthy desire enter in. Keep watch at the door of our minds. Let no unworthy thought pass through. May our souls be worthy of You, Most Holy Spirit, so that we may rejoice in Your Presence, and glory in the comfort of Your peace. Amen”

**Remembrance Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> November)** There will be no Rosary and Blessing of the Graves this year.

**Last Week's Collection** St. Joseph's £385-10 ( plus weekly standing orders) World Missions £118-83. St. John Kemble £28-00, World Missions £12-00. Many thanks. All donations gratefully received.

**National Rosary Relay** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. For Faith, Life & Peace. Diocese of Menevia 8-00 – 9-00p.m.

## Novena to the Holy Spirit

### Prayer of Pope Saint John XXIII –An Invocation of the Holy Spirit.

“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, she 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. Amen”.

**First Day:** *“Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, From the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give”.*

O God, You taught the hearts of Your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit. Grant that by the gift of the same Spirit I may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Amen.

**Second Day:** *“Come Thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live”.*

O Holy Spirit, Father of the poor, come fill my poverty-stricken soul out of the plenty of Your eternal riches. Warn me, I beg You, of every opportunity in my daily round of duty to lay up treasures where no thief approaches nor moth corrupts, that I may enjoy them together with You forever. Amen.

**Third Day:** *“Thou of all consolers best, Thou, the soul’s delightful Guest, Thy refreshing peace bestow”.*

O Divine Consoler, and of all comforters the best, to You do I come in trouble and distress. May You, in the all-powerful Name of Jesus our Redeemer, and out of love for Mary, our sorrowful Mother and Your chaste spouse, come to my assistance and comfort me in all my trials and tribulations. Amen.

**Fourth Day:** *“Thou in toil art comfort sweet, Pleasant coolness in the heat, Solace in the midst of woe”.*

O God, You bestowed the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Grant to Your people the effect of their pious prayers, that on those to whom You have given grace, You may bestow peace. Amen.

**Fifth Day:** *“Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou these hearts of Thine, And our inmost being fill”.*

May the Paraclete, Who proceeds from You, enlighten my mind, I beseech You, O Lord; and even as Your Son has promised, may He lead me into all truth. Amen.

**Sixth Day:** *“If Thou take Thy grace away, Nothing pure in us will stay, All our good is turned to ill”.*

Send down, I beseech You, O Lord, the Holy Spirit in His might, to the merciful purifying of my heart and my sure deliverance from all danger. Amen.

**Seventh Day** *“Heal our wounds, our strength renew, On our dryness pour Thy dew, Wash the stains of guilt away”.*

Burn up, O Lord the reins and heart in the fire of the Holy Spirit; that chaste of body and clean of heart, my service may be well pleasing to You. Amen.

**Eighth Day:** *“ Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray”.*

Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, come into my heart. Give to all peoples the brightness of Your Light, that they may be well pleasing to You in unity of faith. Amen.

**Ninth Day:** *“Thou, on those who evermore, Thee confess and Thee adore, In Thy sevenfold gifts descend. Give them comfort when they die, Give them life with Thee on high, Give them joys that never end”.*

Send down upon me, I beseech You, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, that inspired and encouraged by Him, I may comply with the duties of my state, carry my crosses patiently, and grow daily in Christian perfection. Grant me, through the same Divine Spirit, the intentions of this Novena or what is most conducive to my eternal salvation and Your Glory. Amen.