

Christ the King - 26th November 2023

“ 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)

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”*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (26th - Christ the King) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. Ann Margaret Brown (RIP) (Barbara Brown); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Alan Phillips (RIP) (Anne & Family).

Weekday Mass Intentions Tuesday (28th) 6-00 p.m. Sidney James (RIP) (Rosemary Insole); Wednesday (29th) 9-30 a.m. John Williams (RIP) (Helen Williams); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) “ Special Private Intention”; Thursday (30th) 9-30 a.m. Roger Fluck (RIP) (Parish Guild); Friday (1st) 9-30 a.m. School Advent Mass Dennis Taylor (RIP) (Vi Taylor).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (3rd December) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) James Inkson (RIP) (Rosemary Insole); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Dennis Grant & Raymond Gibbons (RIP) (Robert Grant).

ADVENT SUNDAY Next Sunday marks the beginning of the New Year in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church as we enter the cycle of Christmas celebrations and festivities which begin on Advent Sunday and take us all the way through to Candlemas on 2nd February (40 days after Christmas Day). Advent gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Coming (the “Advent”) of Christ - (i) His First Coming at His Birth in Bethlehem, and also (ii) His Second Coming upon the clouds of Heaven when He will return “in power and great glory”. Let us pray that this Advent season may be for us a time of preparation as John the Baptist (the Forerunner and Herald of Christ) and Our Blessed Lady (the Bright Morning Star of Christ's Appearing) point us to Jesus and say, “ Behold the Lamb of God!” – “ Do whatever He tells 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.

Readers: This Sunday (26th) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker. Next Sunday (3rd) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Holy Souls; Our Lady – Ukraine; St. Joseph – The Middle East.

Christmas Flowers Donations toward the cost of the Christmas flowers would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Andrew Saunders (2006); George Duncan (2009); Edward Mulvany (2000); David John (2007); Colin Rees (2007); Elizabeth Murphy (2001); Dennis Taylor (2022). *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 January 2024. 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.

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Catholic Youth Event – all welcome! 13-18 yr. olds (and 18+) **Saturday 16th December** from 10-00 a.m. to 5-00 p.m. at Stella Maris Convent (Uplands, Swansea). Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark. Live music from “Jesus Youth”. Great food! Time for silence. To book your place, contact Deacon Christian Mahoney on 07764515864 or christian.mahoney@rcadc.org The cost of £10 (plus pocket money) will be covered by the parish. Please notify Fr.Neil once you have booked your place. A great opportunity for fellowship with fellow young catholics (and to meet the Archbishop!)

World Youth Day (Fun day) **Next Sunday** (26th - Christ the King) livestreamed on the CYMFed YouTube Channel from 9-30a.m. to 1-30 p.m.. An interactive day of virtual community, prayerful encounter, input and activities for families across the nation. Register today!

Christmas Mince Pies & Bingo Evening Monday 4th December in the Parish Hall, 6-30 for 7-00 p.m. Please see Nora or Sheila for tickets.

Childrens' Christmas Party Sunday 10th December in the Hall from 2-00p.m. to 5-00 p.m. (note change of time). **PLEASE SIGN UP** on the list indicating numbers attending, food to be provided and donation (if possible) of a child's christmas gift. Thank you.

Cancer Challenge Singers On **Sunday 17th December** to begin our celebration of Christmas, a Service of Christmas Carols & Readings at 5-00 p.m. here in St. Joseph's followed by refreshments in the Hall. Tickets now available £5 – (please see Angela or Geraint) to support Cancer Challenge. Make a note in your diary!

Christmas Raffle. Books of Raffle tickets are now available from the back of the church. It would be appreciated if you could take (and sell) as many tickets as possible. **Great prizes!** (and lots of prizes!) Please return stubs & money to Peter or put in the Christmas Draw Box at the back of the church. Many thanks for the generous donation of additional raffle prizes. We hope to draw the tickets after Mass on Sunday 10th so please return all stubs and proceeds as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £341-10 (plus Direct Debits - The S.V.P Group £416-21. Many thanks for your generous support. **St John Kemble** – £66-00. S.V.P. £20.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 6-00 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.

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

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, Yolanda Jones, 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. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

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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