

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 4th April 2021 – EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Message This last year has been a great challenge. We mourn those who have lost their lives in the pandemic and we continue to struggle with the disruption of family life and the social and economic consequences which may be with us for many years to come. We have been reminded of the fragility of life and of the importance of counting (and giving thanks for) the blessings of each day, not knowing what further challenges may yet lie ahead of us in the months and years to come. What we do know is that the months and years ahead, no matter how difficult they may be, are preparing the way for the Coming of the Lord whenever that Day may be and thus (as we say in every Mass) we “ await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ” and “look forward to the resurrection of the dead”. Those days are ahead of us because He, Whose resurrection from the dead we celebrate on this glorious Easter morning is now ascended into heaven, “ and from heaven we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ Who will change our mortal bodies to be conformed to His own glorious body” (Philippians 3 v 21). Christ is “the first fruit from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15 v 20) – but there are more fruit of His Resurrection to come! “ but each in his own order: Christ the First Fruit, then, at His Coming, those who belong to Christ” (v23). Thus Job affirms the resurrection - “ I know that my Redeemer lives and, though worms destroy this body yet, IN MY FLESH (!) shall I see God”. “Thine be the glory! Risen, conquering Son, Endless is the victory, Thou o’er death hast won.” Hail the day that sees Him rise! Alleluia!

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph. *“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself to be a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”*

Mass Intentions this weekend (3rd April) **Saturday Easter Vigil Mass** 8-00 p.m. Parish & People. **Sunday** (4th April) (**Please note the time**) **7-30 a.m.** Ann Butler (RIP) (Paula & Adrian); 9-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) The Newcombe and Thickens (Deceased members RIP) (June & family); 10-30a.m. Brian James (RIP) (Karen & Doug).

Weekday Mass Intentions Wednesday (7th) 9-30 a.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (Lorna and Kevin); 11-00 a.m. Kay Buttle (RIP) (Kieron, Elizabeth and family); Thursday (8th April) 9-30 a.m. Mike O’Hea (RIP) (Paula & Adrian Macpherson-Jones)

Mass Intentions next Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday – 11th) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; St. Joseph’s 6-00p.m. Michael McCarthy (RIP)-(Elias Family); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) (Deacon Jim & Marie Caddick); 10-30a.m. Michelle O’Brien (RIP) (Lorna, Joe & Patrick).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ann Gough (2018); Edna Rodes (2001); Edward Davies (2001); Bridget Davies (2012); James Peoplesl (2008); Benetia Whittington (2020); Dorothy Palfrey (2006); Mario Berni (2009); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Candles Sacred Heart – Peter Healey (RIP);

Congratulations and all good wishes to David and Gaynor Morgan who are celebrating their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary this Saturday 3rd April.

Congratulations and all good wishes to Andrew Stephens who will be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation this Sunday afternoon (Easter Day) here in St. Joseph’s.

ENVELOPE BOXES (from April 2021-22) – these are now available as you leave via the Lady Chapel. If you do not already regularly donate to the church through the church envelope scheme and would like to do so, please see Robert Grant for a box. Many thanks.

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection – St. Joseph's £1,093-08 (plus Direct Debits). St. John Kemble £75-00. Many thanks.

Driveway Appeal We now have the magnificent sum of **£48,435** (including gift aid) in the Driveway Appeal Fund. All donations gratefully received. Please remember that if you gift aid, an additional 25% is added to the value of your donation. We hope to raise a further (approx.) £11,000 in the next few months and to employ the services of a surveyor to design and cost tarmacking (and draining) the driveway/carpark and installing some form of lighting for the driveway/carpark. Thank you to all who have so generously donated to this Appeal. **Many thanks.**

Ethiopia Belated thanks to all for the recent CAFOD Lent Fast Day collections. Please continue your prayers and daily walks in solidarity with water collectors like Abdella (see www.cafod.org.uk). While Abdella's community is away from the fighting, many adults and children have innocently been caught up in the middle of the conflict in Tigray, another region of Ethiopia. A Mass for the safety of those people and an end to fighting was celebrated on Friday evening. CAFOD has previously worked on projects with the people of Tigray, enabling the easy accessibility of water supplies. Thank you again. (Sandra).

Church Garden and Grounds Donations toward the cost of shrubs and flowers gratefully received. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE – To all stewards, readers and cleaners. **THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO COME TO CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OR COMFORTABLE TO DO SO.** Please let Fr. Neil know so that he can arrange a replacement. Thank you.

Readers: This Sunday (Easter Sunday) 8-00p.m. (Saturday Vigil Mass) Lorna Halloran, Patrick McAteer, Sian Loynes, Angela Healey; **Sunday (4th)** 7-30 a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30a.m Des Nicholas. **Next Sunday (11th April)** 6-00p.m. Lorna Halloran; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

Stewarding This Sunday (Easter Day) 8-00p.m. Angela & Geraint. 7-30a.m. Christopher and Gregory; 10-30a.m. Luke & Lena. **Next Sunday (11th)** 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia.

Cleaning Teams. This Sunday (4rd April) 8-00p.m. Volunteers please; 7-30 a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Joan and volunteer please. **Next Sunday (11th)** 6-00p.m. Volunteers please. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Volunteers please.

DOMSEC Livestreamed Events in 2021 A full programme of (over 25) events! See www.domsec.org.uk or www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk to access the livestreams and click "Livestream" on the menu bar.

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 and all those who are self-isolating because of the Pandemic. Especially at this time, Jason Saunders, Tess Court, Marjorie Grant, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Maureen Pitt. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

A Coronavirus Prayer. " Lord Jesus Christ, You travelled through towns and villages ' curing every disease and illness'. At Your command, the sick were made well. Come now to our aid, in the midst of this global pandemic, and send down Your blessing and healing upon us and protect our healthcare workers. Bring us through to Resurrection and a New Pentecost. For Thy Name's sake. Amen".

Pastoral Visits Please note that Fr. Neil is happy to call if you are continuing to self-isolate at home but would appreciate a visit. Please note that, except for emergencies, Fr. Neil will not call uninvited during the pandemic.

Please note: At present, the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by arrangement