

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 2nd May 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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”*

This Saturday (May 1st) is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and the beginning of Mary’s Month (the Month of May) and so we especially commend to the prayers of Mary and Joseph (in this Year of St. Joseph) the needs of our own parish (especially for spiritual blessings) and the future of our Diocese which continues to be under discussion after nearly two years without our own Diocesan Bishop. *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (2nd May) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m (St. Joseph’s) Alan Boland (RIP) (Elias Family); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Mary Pauline Sullivan (RIP) (Pauline, Margaret & families); 10-30a.m. Garfield and Maureen Francis (RIP) (Susan, Leyton & family).

Weekday Mass Intentions Wednesday (5th May) **NO MASS** (10-30 a.m. Funeral Mass The Cathedral – Canon Byron RIP); Thursday (6th May) 9-30 a.m. Gillian Boland (RIP) (Kevin and Lorna).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (9th May) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Gregory Hipplesley (RIP) (Bella); (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Parish & People; **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (Margaret Jeffrey); 10-30a.m. Ken Hopkins (RIP) (Lorna & Joe O’Brien).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Violet Francis (2000); Edna Bartlett (2001); Francis Thomas (2011); Sidney Durnell (2004); Mary Sullivan (2008); Pamela Hughes (2001); Mary Phillips-Davies (2011); Helen Evans (2006); Kenneth Hopkins (2016); Mary Rees (2020); Mary Gorman (2001); Mary Turner (2005); Constance Edwards (2014); Gillian Moran (2018). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Canon Dick Byron (RIP) Chaplain to Stella Maris Convent. Canon Byron died on Thursday 22nd April after a short spell in hospital. Canon Byron was for a short while (in the late 80s) parish priest here in Neath. Please remember him in your prayers. Funeral Mass at the Cathedral this Wednesday at 10-30a.m. followed by burial at Morrision Cemetery at 12-20p.m. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Driveway Appeal Many thanks for the further “anonymous” donation of £1,000 to the Driveway Fund. We now have the magnificent sum of **£51,185** (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.) £9,000 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.**

Church Garden and Grounds Donations toward the cost of shrubs and flowers gratefully received. Many thanks for the further “anonymous” donation of £200 (plus gift aid). All donations gratefully received. We hope, over the next few years (God willing) to establish a mature garden of hardy perennials and shrubs as well as annual bedding plants and wild flowers. As some of you will know a wide variety of birds already visit the grounds and (since last October) a rabbit has taken up residence in the garden and (miraculously?) has (thus far!) survived the foxes on their nightly visits. In addition to the honey bees in the sanctuary roof, the squirrels and occasional hedgehog visits there are also (I fear!) bats in the presbytery roof. ***“ O all ye works of the Lord, O bless the Lord! To Him be highest glory and praise for ever!”*** Many thanks to Kevin, Chris, Martin, Nuala & Mary for all their hard work in the garden.

Church Garden Pond! If there is any one with the expertise on how to install a pond – mistakes to avoid etc and willing to oversee the project (with help), please have a word with Fr. Neil. Thank you.

Candles: Our Lady – Scott Dale (Good health); The Sacred Heart – Neale Williams (RIP).

DBS Checks As we look forward to a relaxation of social restrictions and the two-metre rule, please be reminded that all those working with children and vulnerable adults in the life of the parish must have DBS certification. Most of our volunteers have recently had their paper work updated but you may be contacted **directly** by the Diocesan Sage Guarding Officer, Mr Morgan Beake, if any of the necessary paperwork remains to be completed. Many thanks to Maria Beesley for undertaking on our behalf this demanding role in ensuring that we remain compliant with rapidly changing regulations to keep everybody safe.

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** (2nd May) 6-00p.m. Ceri McAteer; 8-00a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30 Des Nicholas.. **Next Sunday** (9th May) 6-00p.m. Sian Loynes; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones;10-30a.m. Sheila Williams.

Stewarding: **This Sunday** (2nd May) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. Luke & Lena. **Next Sunday** (9th May) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher and Gregory. 10-30a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia.

Cleaning Teams. **This Sunday** (2nd May) 6-00p.m. Maralyn and volunteer please. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann. **Next Sunday** (9th May) 6-00p.m. Sian and Mary; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Volunteers please.

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.

Many thanks - for last Sunday's Collection (St. Joseph's) of £302-41 (plus direct debits), and of £411-52 to the Priests' Training Fund; and of (St. John Kemble) £52-00, and £20-00 to the Priests' Training Fund.

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. **Four talks on the Holy Spirit** by Fr Matthew Roach-Saunders on successive Tuesday nights from 6-30 – 8-30 p.m. on April 27th, May 4th, 11th and 18th. Prepare for the Coming of the Holy Spirit!

Please Note If you wish to reserve a particular date or day for a Mass Intention, please note that Saturday and Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are already reserved for a particular intention for the next three months **until the middle of JULY.** Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you

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, Andrew Jenkins, 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.

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**