

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time– 30th January 2022

Mass Intentions this Sunday: (30th January) **Saturday** (St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Richard Foley (RIP) (James Cahill); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Annie & William Cochrane (RIP) (Jean Evans); 10-30a.m. Stan May (RIP) (The Family).

Weekday Mass Intentions: Tuesday (1st February) 6-30 p.m. Alan Boland (RIP) (The Family); Wednesday (2nd February – **Candlemas – the Presentation of the Lord**) 9-30 a.m. Lilian Jones (RIP) (Doug and Karen); 11-00 a.m. Anita O'Donnell (RIP) (Owen). There will also be two School Class Masses this week but, sadly ,parents and parishioners are not able to attend because of L.E.A. Covid regulations.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (6th February) **Saturday** – 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph's) Kevin Halloran (RIP) (Boland Family); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Terry Lloyd (RIP) (Damian, Clare & Family); 10-30a.m. Paddy Clifford (RIP) (The Family). Today, 6th February, is the 70th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Audrey Hurley (2003); Terry Lloyd (2020); Luisa Salmi (2016); Alan Boland (2021); Josephine May (2005); Sheila Nolan(2017); Elizabeth Ley (2011); Antonietta Besten 92012).. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Please Note (Mass Intentions). Saturday and Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are already reserved for a particular intention until the **end of March**. Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

Candles The Sacred Heart – Mary & Ross (Sp.Int.).

Readers: **This Sunday** (30th January) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (6th February) 6-00 p.m. Lorna Halloran; 8-00 a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30a.m. Sheila Williams.

Cleaning Teams. **This Sunday** (30th January) Sian & Mary; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30 a.m. Volunteers please. **Next Sunday** (6th February) 6-00 p.m. Maralyn & Nora; 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann

The Sacrament of Confirmation Please remember in your prayers those preparing for Confirmation – Zaira and Joshua Zambrano, Carys Smitham, Tommy Parel, Isabella and Maria Grabczewski, Oisín and Cian Fitchett, Eve Abell, Daniel Rowlands, Mia Faure, Joseph Payne, William Heslop, Callum Lavin, Martin and Marya Joseph and Bethany Clifford, Sophie Wheatley. Note for the diary! - Archbishop George Stack will visit us on **Friday 29th April** (7-00 p.m.) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Group resumes in February during which time attendance at Mass continues to be an essential part of the preparation process.

Parish Guild Meeting in the Parish Hall on Monday 31st January at 2-00 p.m.

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, Peggy Swan (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Andrew Jenkins, Jason Saunders, Stephen Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Rose Williams, Donie O'Connell, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

PARISH SYNOD – RESPONSES

Please see below responses from the three recent Parish Synods. Because of the low attendance at these meetings (10 at the first meeting and 5 at the next two meetings) the views expressed may or may not reflect wider opinion in St Joseph's and St.John Kemble, and so our Parish Facilitators suggest there should be the opportunity for you to respond to the responses(!) before they are forwarded to the Diocese as representing the views of the whole parish. If these are not your own views/responses you may wish to add to or offer your own responses to these questions. Please use the Suggestion Box – (your response can be anonymous if you wish) - at the back of the church or hand your contribution to Gregory Page, Angela Healey, Sandra Davies, Geraint Jones or Stephen Evans.

Fr.Neil was deliberately absent from these Parish Synods to enable a space for free discussion without the catechetical guidance of the teaching of the Church. Although Pope Francis has made clear that the worldwide consultation of the Church should not challenge the teaching of the Church but only how that teaching is to be lived out and presented, it is clear from our own parish responses and, no doubt, from parish responses from around the world that it is precisely the teaching of the Church that, in some aspects, some respondents have questioned. Nevertheless the views expressed at and through the Parish Synods will be forwarded to the Diocese without detraction. However, it should not therefore be assumed that these parish responses reflect Fr.Neil's views!

The Parish Facilitators ask that you pray for and listen to the Holy Spirit before making your own comments and suggestions.

1/ What are our dreams for the Church? The Church is no longer vibrant. Too insular. We should be more outward looking – join with other denominations and be less confrontational. If anyone approaches at a wedding/baptism/funeral etc, we should grasp the opportunity to welcome them.

2/ Are we ignoring some people that God is using to send us His message? The Church should be more welcoming to divorced, gay people and those who consider themselves in the wrong gender. Women need a greater role. Deacons? The church needs to pray about possibly reviewing the policy of giving Communion to divorced and gay couples.

3/ What hinders us from being active in the Church's Mission? Church and parish should as a whole demonstrate openly the joy of our faith. Promote Catholic teaching and Sacraments to all non-catholics at Catholic schools if they wish to be included.

4/ How are conflicts and difficulties addressed? Scandals must be fully and transparently addressed. We appreciate a solo priest in every parish cannot do everything – but hopefully will be open to ideas from the parish.

5/ What keeps us from speaking out about our parish? We felt we needed a Parish Council to listen to parishioners' ideas and concerns. Sometimes easier to approach fellow parishioners than a priest. We would like a greater variety of services and music. (eg: Annual Mass for the Dead, Blessing of the Sick, Advent Carol Service)

We are very grateful to our parish Facilitators for organising our Parish Synods. If you have any response please return these as soon as possible to enable us, if appropriate, to hold a final Parish Synod in February before forwarding the parish responses to the Diocese. Thank you.

Last Sunday's Collection: St.Joseph's - £367-97 (plus Direct Debits); St.John Kemble – £43-00, (CAFOD – Afghanistan Appeal £19-00). Many thanks.

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.