

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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*“In the bleak mid-winter”* is, perhaps, how many of us may be feeling as this year of global pandemic draws to a close and many months of uncertainty still lie ahead of us, but on this Fourth Sunday of Advent our Gospel for today ( St.Luke 1 v 26-38 ) draws our attention to Mary, Stella Maris ( “sweet star of the sea” ) and though a *“deep night hath come down on this rough-spoken world”* we rejoice that at this Christmastide *“ God found a home where the sinner finds rest – for the heaven He left, He found heaven in thee, And He shone in thy shining, sweet star of the sea”*. As we rejoice in Mary’s consent to the Word becoming Flesh in her Womb for the salvation of the world, we look to Him Who is the Light of the World and recall the words from the prologue of St.John’s Gospel *“ the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it”*. May the bright light of Christ shine upon us and our families and friends this Christmastide and I wish you all a Happy and Holy celebration of Christ’s Nativity and every blessing in the Year of Our Lord 2021.

**This Sunday** (20th December) **Saturday** St.John Kemble – 4-00 p.m. Parish & People. St.Joseph’s – 6-00 p.m. Michael McAteer (RIP) ( The Family ). **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Monica Weld-Richards (RIP) ( Deacon Jim & Marie ). 10-30 a.m. Ann Moruzzi (RIP) ( Angela Healey).

**Next Sunday** (27<sup>th</sup> December ) St.John Kemble: **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People; St.Joseph’s 6-00p.m. Bernard Allen (RIP) ( Family ); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Ken Spratt (RIP) ( Pat, Donie & Family); 10-30a.m. Andrew Mills (RIP) ( Mills Family);

**Weekday Mass Times:** Wednesday 23rd December 9-30a.m. ( St.Joseph’s ) MICF (RIP); 11-00a.m. NO MASS at St.John Kemble

**Christmas Eve** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> **4-00p.m.** St.John Kemble – Parish & People; **6-00p.m.** St.Joseph’s Francis & Rose (Sp.Int );**10-00p.m.** Annie Halloran (RIP) ( Kevin & Lorna);

**Christmas Day** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> **8-00a.m.** Ann Moruzzi (RIP) ( Geraldine & Eileen ); **10-30a.m.** Bryan,Joan & Harry (RIP) ( Babs ).

**Christmas Masses ( PLEASE NOTE )** Please fill in a form to apply for a seat(s) at one of the Christmas Masses. **Christmas Eve** – St.John Kemble 4-00p.m. ( ALREADY FULLY RESERVED. ) St.Joseph’s 6-00 p.m. ( ALREADY FULLY RESERVED ) and 10-00p.m. ( ALREADY FULLY RESERVED ) **Christmas Day** – St.Joseph’s 8-00a.m. (19 spaces left); and 10-30a.m. ( 13 spaces left). **PLEASE CHECK THE ATTACHED LIST FOR RESERVATIONS AND PLEASE LET FR.NEIL KNOW IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVED SEAT –TO GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OTHERS.**

**Please Note** – Please consider reserving Mass requests well in advance of particular desired dates. At present all Sundays/Saturdays and weekday Masses have been reserved into the middle of January.

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 20th ) 6-00p.m. Kevin Halloran. Sunday 8-00a.m. Adrian/Paula Macpherson –Jones. 10-30a.m. Bethan Lee. **Christmas Eve** 6-00p.m. Nora Reynolds 10-00p.m. Lorna Halloran **Christmas Day** 8-00a.m. Gregory Page 10-30a.m. Mary Walker

**Stewarding** this Sunday ( 20<sup>th</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. Luke & Lena.

**Cleaning Teams.** This Sunday – 6-00p.m. Sian & Mary. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30 a.m. **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE.** **Next Sunday** (27<sup>th</sup>) 6-00p.m. Nora & Maralyn. 8-00 a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30 a.m. Joan & Ann

**Christmas Flowers** Donations toward the cost of the Christmas flowers/decorations, gratefully received.

**PLEASE NOTE** – YOU **MUST** FOLLOW THE ARROW SYSTEM. PLEASE DO **NOT** TAKE A SHORT CUT BACK AND FOR ACROSS THE CHURCH THROUGH THE PEWS. Please be sure to maintain social distancing on entering the church and on leaving via the Lady Chapel – please hold back and avoid bunching up together. Phones to be turned off on entering the church. It is irreverent to leave Mass to answer a phone call. **Thank you!**

**Anniversaries:** Desmond Comerford (2011); Tom Thomas (2011); Gladys Gallagher (2016); Douglas Hearne (2018); Jaqueline Joseph (2006); Ena Hynes (2005); Grace Phillips (2006); Vernon Doyle (2006); Paddy O'Reilly (2005); Rosa Hoptroff (2007); Gerald Maloney (2009); Bernard Allen (2003); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**CORONAVIRUS VACCINES** Whereas, previously, the Bishops of England & Wales suggested that Catholics could not conscientiously object to the use of a vaccine derived from aborted fetuses (!) – they have now issued a new statement saying that the use of an abortion-derived Covid vaccine is, instead, a matter of the “prudent judgement of conscience” for Catholics, “**many may in good conscience judge that they will accept such a vaccine, some may in good conscience judge that they will not**”. The Bishops have received clarification from the UK Government that some institutions have been using cell lines derived from abortions even though that cell line may extend back over many years. The Government has given assurances that no new foetal tissue is being obtained. The **Oxford University/AstraZeneca** vaccine involves the HEK-293 cell line modified from tissue taken from the kidney of an unborn child in 1972. You may or may not have moral objections to the use of this vaccine and you may or may not have concerns about the safety of this vaccine, **please therefore respect the fact that your neighbour may “in good conscience” have an opinion different to your own** and may choose or not choose to avail themselves of the vaccine. **PLEASE NOTE** It is understood that **the Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech** vaccines are not derived from foetal material but have a different source “as they are MRNA based vaccines”.

**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”.

**The Parish S.V.P Group/St.Joseph’s Community Support Group/Legion of Mary (and others).** We are very grateful to all those who have kept in contact by phone and helped out with shopping and in other ways, often behind the scene and unknown to others, since the beginning of lockdown. **THANK YOU TO YOU ALL! N.B. If you are still self-isolating – this help is still available.**

**Sheila Manning (RIP)** Please remember Sheila in your prayers who died after a short illness, and her friends and family at this time. Sheila’s Funeral Mass will take place here in St.Joseph’s on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

**Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP).** Please remember Laurence in your prayers and the family at this time. Laurence’s Funeral Mass will take place here at St.Joseph’s on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**Michael O’Hea (RIP)** Please remember Mike in your prayers. Funeral arrangements to be announced. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. 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. However - wearing masks and observing social distancing - this must be at your own risk (!). Except for emergencies, Fr.Neil will not call uninvited during the pandemic. **Please note: At present, the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by arrangement**

**Driveway Appeal** Many thanks for the further donation to the Parish Funds/Driveway Appeal of £1,000 and & £100. All donations gratefully received. We now have **£3,800** in the Driveway Fund. **Many thanks.**

**Candles.** The Sacred Heart – Peter Healey (RIP); Our Lady – Mary Rees (RIP); St.Joseph – Pat Clifford (RIP).

**Second Collection** The Second Collection this Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea (from July).

**THANK YOU** for last weekend’s collections - St.Joseph’s £390-50 ( plus Direct Debits ), St.John Kemble £46-45. Many thanks.