

# **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT– 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

## **CHRISTMASTIDE**

On Christmas Day we rejoice that, “unto us is born this day, in the City of David, a SAVIOUR, Who is Christ the Lord”, and thus we begin twelve days of celebration (!) culminating with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is for us, as Christians, a time of great joy as we bear witness, in a darkening world, that a Great Light has come in to the world and that all are invited to enter that Light and experience transfiguration through repentance, embracing the Good and letting go of all that hinders and enslaves us to that fallen nature from which we have been set free in Christ. May we all experience that light and freedom made manifest and shining brightly in the Babe of Bethlehem.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21<sup>st</sup>) Saturday ( St. John Kemble ) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) Paul and Alan Cameron ( RIP ) ( Betty & Roger Horton ); 10-30 a.m. Maureen Kirby (RIP) ( Peter & Isabel ); 6-00 p.m. **Lessons & Carols** – followed by mince pies, mulled wine, tea & coffee.

**Advent 4 Psalm Response** “ Let the Lord enter, He is the King of Glory ” ( We are now in Year A and Week 2 in the Breviary/Missal)

**Christmas Mass Times** **Christmas Eve** ( This Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December ) ( 3-30 Carols ) 4-00 p.m. St. John Kemble - Elaine Reynolds (RIP) ( Nancy & family ); 6-00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass – The Grant and Gibbons Family (RIP) ( Robert & Brenda ); 10-00 p.m. “Midnight” Mass – Joan, Harry and Bryan (RIP) ( Babs ); . **Christmas Day** 10-30 Mass of Christmas Day – Bernard Allen (RIP) ( The family ).

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** ( St. Stephen ) 9-30 a.m. Altar Servers ( Sp. Int. ) The Renewal/Enrolment of Altar Servers.

**Crib Collection** To be divided between **Aid to the Church in Need** and **Caritas** ( the homeless in ) Cardiff-Menevia.

**Christmas Chocolates.** Many thanks to Dennis for generous donations of chocolates to the congregation, school children, altar servers and coffee morning. Please keep Dennis in your prayers.

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December ) Saturday ( St. John Kemble ) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People/ Jonathan Bowen ( Sp.Int. ); 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph’s ) Yolanda Jones ( RIP. ) ( Nantlais ); 10-30 a.m. Fr. Neil (Sp.Int.) ( Angela Healey ).

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 21<sup>st</sup> ) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. **Next Sunday** ( 4<sup>th</sup> January ) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans.

**Readers** Please come early so that you have the opportunity before Mass to look at the readings beforehand. If you are unable to keep your place on the rota please arrange for someone to take your place (!!).

**Candles:** Sacred Heart - Joe & Lorna ( Sp.Int.); Our Lady – Dennis Huxtable ( Sp. Int. ); St. Joseph – Altar Servers.

**Mass Intentions** Please note Mass Intentions are now reserved into **March** ( weekdays and weekends ) – many dates are also already reserved later on in 2026. Please think several months ahead if you would like a Mass said for a loved one. At present, it takes about twelve weeks ( three months ) for a reserved Mass to be celebrated.

**The Parish Christmas Party** Many thanks to the mothers and all those who worked so hard to provide us ( once again! ) with a wonderful Christmas Party in the Hall with plenty of food, fun, singing and games ( for all ages! ). Many thanks also to Peter for organising the Christmas Raffle Draw & Prizes which raised the magnificent sum of £1,385, and to all who so generously donated the prizes – details of winners on the notice board and prizes available for collection in the Sacristy.

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**" 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 regn of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love ad peace. Come, Holy Spirit in Your Power and might to renew the face of the earth" ( Pope St. John XXIII ).**

**" Come, Holy Spirit and renew the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created and You will renew the face of the earth. O God, Who hast taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen."**

**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, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, David Vaudin, Agnes Collins, Angela Healey., Mark Thomas, Siobhan Fitchett, Donie O'Connell, Dennis Huxtable. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**The Sick & Housebound** If you know of someone who ( at their request ) would appreciate contact with the church through a home visit from the S.V.P. please contact Anne Guest, the Secretary on [aguest77@yahoo.com](mailto:aguest77@yahoo.com) or Pat O'Connell for a visit from the Legion of Mary.

**Parish S.V.P.** Over the last 12 months our SVP group made 942 home visits and provided lifts and assistance on 143 occasions. We help at Bridge Street breakfast club for the homeless and the Salvation Army food bank. We are always humbled and grateful for your generosity in supporting our appeals but we are a small group and our membership needs to increase. Please consider joining the SVP to help us continue to support others. If interested please approach a member of the SVP.

**Parish Safeguarding** see [SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me](mailto:SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me) to contact Mrs Anne Guest our Parish Safeguarding Representative – also the Diocesan Team [safeguarding@rcadc.org](mailto:safeguarding@rcadc.org)

**.Church Cleaning** Due to illness and other difficulties we need help maintaining the cleanliness of the church and any help to fill the short fall would be greatly appreciated. Any volunteers please contact Nora on 07816 315 897 Please tidy the pew ( tissues etc ) around you when leaving the church. There is a bin at the entrance to the church. We are very grateful to those who keep the church so clean & tidy. Please volunteer!

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's £400-79 ( plus Direct Debits ); St John Kemble £67-00. Many thanks.

**On-Line Archdiocesan Newsletter** Read/Sign up today <https://bit.ly/ACMSeptNewsletter>

**Marriage Support** Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel:+44 7887 296 983

**Relaunched Instagram Page** – "**Emmaus Catholic Youth**" for regular comments, content and updates.

**VOCATIONS PRAYER** Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself, more faithful to You. Make me generous enough to want sincerely to do Your will whatever it may be. Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others. Grant Lord that those whom You call to enter the priesthood, diaconate or religious life may have the generosity to answer Your call, so that those who need Your help may find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Vocation to the Priesthood?** Fr. Matt Roche-Saunders, Director of Priestly Vocations and Youth Mission always available for information and conversation at [vocations@rcadc.org](mailto:vocations@rcadc.org) or [vocations@menevia.org](mailto:vocations@menevia.org)

**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](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

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