

## TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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**N.B.** There continues to be a problem with the Presbytery phone line – unable to phone in or out. Apparently the storm two weeks ago damaged underground cables affecting over a thousand phone lines in Cimla/Neath and Openreach will start repair work today (13<sup>th</sup>) and re-connect all phones by the 18<sup>th</sup>. To contact Fr. Neil please either call at the presbytery or post a message through the letter box or ask someone else to call.

Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

## Second Sunday in Lent – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### The Season of Lent

*“Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen”*

**Stations of the Cross** – during Lent, each Friday ( St. Joseph’s ) at 6-30 p.m. and on Saturdays ( St. John Kemble ) at 3-30 p.m. The opportunity to reflect more deeply upon, and to join ourselves to, the sufferings of Christ, “ **for by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world**” and, perhaps, to remember and pray for the people of Ukraine that they may be given the strength to bear the Cross that has come upon them.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday:** ( 13<sup>th</sup> March ) **Saturday** ( St. John Kemble ) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Jean Walls ( Anne-Marie ); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Sr. Carmel (RIP) ( Clare, Damion & Family ); 10-30a.m. Kevin Halloran (RIP) ( Sheila, David & Helen ).

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** Tuesday ( March 15<sup>th</sup> ) 6-30 p.m. Barbara Green ( RIP ) ( June & David Vaudin ) – (The Feast of St. Speciosus and St. Clemet Hofbauer) **The Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion;** Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup> March ) 9-30 a.m. Peter & Hazel Huxtable (RIP) ( Dennis ); 11-00 a.m. ( St. John Kemble ) Kitty Williams ( RIP ); Thursday ( 17<sup>th</sup> March - St. Patrick ) 9-30 a.m. Kevin Halloran (RIP) ( S.V.P. ); Friday (11<sup>th</sup> ) **School Mass** (staff and children only ); 6-30p.m. Stations of the Cross. **7-00 p.m. Vigil Mass of St. Joseph ( Our Patronal Festival ).**

**St. Patrick Day Visit to Banwen.** This Thursday the S.V.P. will provide car transport if you would like to make a short pilgrimage to Banwen which local tradition claims to be the birth place of St. Patrick. Please contact Angela on 01792-424168.

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( 20<sup>th</sup> March ) We remember the people of Ukraine at each Mass. **Saturday** – (St. John Kemble ) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s ) Deceased Members of the Rees Family (RIP) ( Martin & Nuala); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Kevin Halloran ( RIP ) ( Clare, Damian & family ); 10-30a.m. Norman Evans (RIP) ( J. Evans ).

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 13<sup>th</sup> March ) 6-00 p.m. Sian Loynes; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker. **Next Sunday** ( 20<sup>th</sup> March ) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 8-00 a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones. 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee

**UKRAINE** Our Second Collection this weekend is ( again ) in support of the people of Ukraine. **Our Lady of Kiev** is probably the most famous Icon of Our Lady ( **please see the Hymn Sheet and the Icon in front of the statue of Our Lady** – you may wish to light a candle ) was made in 1132. It is a masterpiece, comparable for its beauty and psychological depths to the Mona Lisa and is the first great work in the Ukrainian School of Iconography. The Icon displays the great tenderness of Our Lady for her Divine Child. The Virgin’s head touching the baby is a gesture of deep affection and the icon set the standard for Ukrainian icon painters which has never been surpassed. Providence has preserved the icon through centuries of war and ( ironically ) it was removed to Moscow in 1395.

**Candles** The Sacred Heart – The People of Ukraine; Our Lady - Barbara Green (RIP);

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edward Doyle (2009); Gladys Finnegan (2009); Elwyn Oakley (2008); Fr. Eddie Murphy ( 2012 ); Peter Huxtable (2019); Raymond Delahunty ( 2019); Terence Wall (2004); John Howells ( 2002); Margaret Harland ( 2013); William Newton ( 2000); Harold Jenkins ( 2021). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**Ministers of Holy Communion** We shall commission our Ministers of Holy Communion at our Mass this Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March- the Feast Day of Saint Speciosus and St Clement Hofbauer. ( A preparation/Q & A meeting before Mass at 5-45 p.m. ) This is an important ministry of service to the housebound and we are very grateful to those who already regularly visit parishioners at home. Perhaps you might think of becoming involved with the parish S.V.P. Group or the Legion of Mary.

**Altar Relics at St.Joseph's - St.Speciosus** and his brother St.Gregory were contemporaries of St.Benedict and among his first disciples. They founded the Benedictine community at Terracina between Rome and Naples on the Mediterranean coast. Speciosus died in ( approx.) 555AD and his feast day is 15<sup>TH</sup> March. Interestingly, in the Eastern Orthodox calendar the feast day of his brother, St.Gregory, is 12<sup>th</sup> December which is the date on which St.Joseph's was consecrated. **St.Clement Hofbauer** ( d.1820 ) Bishop of Moravia who spent twenty years in Poland, the first to establish the Redemptorists north of the Alps – ( is it a co-incidence that his feast day is the same as that of St.Speciosus - 15<sup>th</sup> March ?). Hopefully further information may come to light. **St.Speciosus, pray for us! St.Clement, pray for us!**

**CAFOD Parish Walk** Save the date: **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 11-00 – 12-30 a.m.** Meet at the larger shed near the **Gnoll Visitor Centre** for our **Parish Walk Against Hunger** – a team effort to walk a total of 200k, in recognition that there are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk of malnutrition. Set your own personal target for laps around the "Second Pond" – go at your own pace - but don't race!. All welcome. ( Terrain suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs ). Don't forget to bring drinking water and suitable clothing ( We'll go ahead unless there are high winds or heavy rain ). We will be one of many parishes in England & Wales taking part. See you there! Next week – news of a story of hope. Thank you ( Sandra).

**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 29<sup>th</sup> April** (7-00 p.m. ) to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Group meets after the 10-30 A.M. Mass. Attendance at Mass continues to be an essential part of the preparation process.

**The Rosary and Marian Prayers of Devotion** Every Tuesday at 2-00 p.m. in the Lady Chapel ( for about half-an-hour). All welcome.

**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, Peter Thomas. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St.Joseph's - £342-30-31 ( plus Direct Debits ); St.John Kemble – £30-00; The Second Collection this weekend is ( again ) in support of Ukraine. The total raised from the two collections for Ukraine t.b.a next Sunday. Our Second Collection **next Sunday** - for CAFOD ( Lent Fast Day )

**The Church Kneeler** If you so wish, you may kneel to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand. **N.B. Please note** – to all communicants – after the priest says "The Body of Christ" to say "**Amen**" which means "it is so" which is an affirmation of faith and thus, throughout the Mass, "Amen" and all congregational responses should be confidently expressed - not hesitantly and quietly!

## ENTRANCE

O sacred head, surrounded  
by crown of piercing thorn!  
O bleeding head, so wounded,  
so shamed and put to scorn!  
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee,  
the glow of life decays;  
yet angel-hosts adore thee,  
and tremble as they gaze.

2

Thy comeliness and vigour  
is withered up and gone,  
and in thy wasted figure  
I see death drawing on.  
O agony and dying!  
O love to sinners free!  
Jesu, all grace supplying,  
turn thou thy face on me.

3

In this thy bitter passion,  
good Shepherd, think of me  
with thy most sweet compassion,  
unworthy though I be:  
beneath thy Cross abiding  
for ever would I rest,  
in thy dear love confiding,  
and with thy presence blest.

What language shall I borrow  
To praise Thee, heavenly Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
Lord, make me Thine for ever,  
Nor let me faithless prove;  
O let me never, never  
Abuse such dying love!

Be near me, Lord, when dying;  
O show Thyself to me;  
And, for my succour flying,  
Come, Lord, to set me free:  
These eyes, new faith receiving,  
From Jesus shall not move;  
For he who dies believing  
Dies safely through Thy love.

## OFFERTORY

- 1 All ye who seek a comfort sure  
in trouble and distress,  
whatever sorrow vex the mind,  
or guilt the soul oppress:
- 2 Jesus, who gave himself for you  
upon the cross to die,  
opens to you his sacred heart,—  
oh, to that heart draw nigh!
- 3 Ye hear how kindly he invites;  
ye hear his words so blest:  
'All ye that labour, come to me,  
and I will give you rest.'
- 4 Jesus, thou joy of saints on high!  
Thou hope of sinners here!  
Attracted by those loving words,  
to thee I lift my prayer.
- 5 Wash thou my wounds in that dear blood  
which forth from thee doth flow;  
new grace, new hope inspire; a new  
and better heart bestow.

## HOLY COMMUNION

- 1 O, the love of my Lord is the essence  
of all that I love here on earth.  
All the beauty I see  
he has given to me  
and his giving is gentle as silence.
- 2 Every day, every hour, every moment  
have been blessed by the strength of his  
love.  
At the turn of each tide  
he is there at my side,  
and his touch is as gentle as silence.
- 3 There've been times when I've turned  
from his presence,  
and I've walked other paths, other ways.  
But I've called on his name  
in the dark of my shame,  
and his mercy was gentle as silence.

## RECESSIONAL

- 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise,  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.
- 2 O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight,  
and to the rescue came.
- 3 O wisest love! That flesh and blood  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;
- 4 And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and Essence all divine.
- 5 O generous love! That he who smote  
in man for man the foe,  
the double agony in man  
for man should undergo;
- 6 And in the garden secretly  
and on the Cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.
- 7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise,  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

## OUR LADY OF KIEV



All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace, the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

Hymn to the Theotokos from St Basil's Liturgy

"Mary, Our Lady of Kiev, Mother of God, We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine. For their government and all who suffer as a result of war. Be with them as you stood beside your Son, suffering on the Cross of Calvary. Give them strength and courage, through faith, hope and justice. May we in our turn, support them through prayer and generosity, that lives may be saved, the injured healed, that the dead may rest in peace, and that war will end in peace"