

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11th February 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

This Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) marks the beginning of Lent, a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at **6-00 p.m.** in St. Joseph's and on Saturdays at **3-30 p.m.** in St. John Kemble. On **Friday 22 March at 7-00 p.m.** there will be a performance of the Clydach Passion Play, "The Road to Calvary" here in St. Joseph's, as we enter into Holy Week. Please make a note in your diary. We pray that this Holy Season may be a special time of grace for us.

Churches Together in Neath LENT SERVICES 2024 "Watch & Pray" All services start at 2-00 p.m. Monday 19th February – Orchard Place; Monday 26th February – Neath Methodist; Monday 4th March - St. Joseph's ;Monday 11th March – St. David's Vestry; Monday 18th MARCH – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Lent Walk With Me Booklets We have only been issued with a few copies this year which are now available at the back of the church.

Lent Alms This year to be divided between supporting Christian communities in the Holy Land and the work of Caritas in the Diocese of Menevia & the Archdiocese of Cardiff.

Mass Intentions this Sunday (11th February) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Chris Abell (RIP) (The Family);. **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Kathryn Woolley (RIP) (The Parish Guild).

Weekday Mass ASH WEDNESDAY (14th) **9-30 a.m.** (St. Joseph's) Roger Fluck (RIP) (Isabel & Peter Buckingham); **11-00 a.m.** (St. John Kemble) Fr. Christopher Greaney (RIP (SPCD); **6-00 p.m.** (St. Joseph's) Lillian James (RIP) (Doug & Karen); Thursday (15th February) 9-30 a.m. Paddy Clifford (RIP) (Helen & Anthony). Friday (16th) 11-00 a.m. Funeral Mass – Betty Hopkins (RIP). 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Betty Hopkins (RIP) Please remember Betty in your prayers and the family at this time. Betty's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's this Friday 16th February at **11-00 a.m.** The Coffin will be received into the Church at 5-00 p.m. on Thursday evening. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her May she rest in peace. Amen*

Mass Intentions next Sunday (4th February) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. 4-00 pm. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Alan Cameron (RIP) (David & June Vaudin); Sunday (18th February) 10-30 a.m. John Hickey (RIP) (Isabel & Peter Buckingham).

Readers: **This Sunday** (10th) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bethan Lee. Next Sunday (18th) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Roger Fluck (RIP); Our Lady – Sophie (Sp. Int.); St. Joseph – David Mouhel (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Hugh Tanner (2016); Christopher Abell; Mary Martin (2001); Ruth Potter(2007); Bernadine McConnor (2007). Rita Newton (2018); Gerald Shillingford (2020); Olive Davies (2001); John Greene (2001). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Rose Williams (RIP) Please remember Rose in your prayers and the family at this time. Rose's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's on Thursday 29th February at 11-30 a.m. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

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ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL If you have a child over 2 years of age or are new to the area and are looking for a school – look no further! St Joseph's has a loving, caring ethos to bring out the full potential of your child. Please contact the school on 01639 635099 for further details.

Many thanks from the school for the generous donation of £350 to their funds from the Parish Guild. Please keep teachers, staff and pupils in your prayers as they enjoy their half-term holiday.

Holy Baptism Please remember in your prayers Mila Bowen and Maggie Bowen who will be baptised into the Church next Saturday morning.

Reception into the Catholic Church Please keep in your prayers those who have expressed the desire to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. We meet together each Sunday after the 10-30 a.m. Mass for short sessions of catechesis and prayer. If you also are praying about this possibility, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

First Holy Communion. We hope to have a First Holy Communion Mass in the summer. Please obtain an application form from Carolyn, Elaine or Mary. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion. Classes will begin at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the 10-30 a.m. Mass on Sundays 18th February (First Sunday of Lent)

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje September 24th to 1st October 2024. Flight from Bristol. Cost £700. Please contact Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald on 01792 987059.

St. Joseph's Parish Guild (i) **Monday 4th March** at 7-00 p.m. in the Hall – Welsh Cakes & Cawl. Tickets £5 from Nora and Sheila. (ii)The Hall Committee has a vacancy – if you are interested and/or want to know more, please contact Brenda Grant (Chairperson) on 0781 7656157. We meet every 4 to 6 weeks and are an active group working hard as a team to keep the hall well-maintained and a good venue for functions. (iii) If any parishioner is interested in booking the Hall for a parish or private function please contact Angela Healey on 01792 424168 or mobile 07708105147 .

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £424-22 (plus Direct Debits); St John Kemble – £37-00 . Many thanks.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 4-45 p.m. in the Hall. New members very welcome. Please come along.

Parish Coffee Morning Every Thursday from 10-00a.m. to 11-00 a.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, George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, George McIntyre, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Robert Minty and David Hoy. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

“ 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 reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Come Holy Spirit, in Your power and might to renew the face of the earth”. (Pope St.John XXIII)

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

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