

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2022**

As we enter the month of May – “Mary’s Month” - we solicit her prayers that, through her maternal intercessions, her Risen Son may pour out the Holy Spirit upon us especially as, through these forty days of the Resurrection Appearances of Christ, we make our way toward the Ascension and ten days later ( fifty days after the Resurrection ) our celebration of the Day of Pentecost.

“ 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 ).

*“Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, Thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live. Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou this soul of mine, Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray” Come, Holy Spirit!*

**Prayer for Ukraine** ( from the Bishops 'Conference ) *“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 at 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”.*

**Mass Intentions this Sunday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> May – ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St.John Kemble ) Parish & People; 6-00p.m. Gaynor & David ( Sp. Int. ) **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Russel Palfrey (RIP) ( Linda );

**Weekday Mass Intentions:** Please note there will be no weekday celebrations of Mass this week.

**Mass Intentions this Sunday:** ( 8<sup>th</sup> May ) **Saturday** ( St.John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph's) 6-00p.m. Mary Pauline Sullivan (RIP) ( Pauline, Margaret & families); **Sunday** 10-30a.m. Ken Hopkins (RIP) ( Joe and Lorna ).

**Readers:** **This Sunday** ( 1<sup>st</sup> May ) 6-00 p.m. Nora Reynolds; 10-30 a.m. Bernadette Payne. **Next Sunday** ( 8<sup>th</sup> May) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker.

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

**Candles** The Sacred Heart – Ukraine; Our Lady - Mary Rees (RIP); St. Joseph – Newly Confirmed.

**Tuesday Marian Prayers & Rosary** No meeting this Tuesday. The Legion of Mary Prayers & Rosary will move from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday evening at 6-00 p.m. starting this Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. New members very welcome

**Anniversaries:** Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Russell Palfrey (2015); Violet Francis (2000); Edna Bartlett (2001); Francis Thomas (2001); Sidney Darnell (2004); Mary Sullivan (2008); Pamela Hughes (2001); Helen Evans (2006); Ken Hopkins (2016); Mary Rees (2020). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes** 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022. A full programme, al transport, travel and full board are included in the package, Further details to follow. See [www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com](http://www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com)

**The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Cardigan** To the Shrine of Our Lady of the Taper – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 1-30 p.m. ( Confessions ); 2-30 p.m. Rosary Procession; 3-0 p.m. Mass. ( see poster for details ).

**Torchlight Procession in honour of Our Lady** Belmont Abbey Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 9-00p.m. ( see poster for further details ).

**"No Mow May"** – give nature a helping hand. Please give our struggling bees, butterflies and other vital pollinators a fighting chance by taking part in "No Mow May". No better excuse for leaving lawns ( or at least some of your garden ) growing wild this May ( longer if you can ). Become the best dandelion grower of St. Joseph's! See what other plants and flowers emerge. Native flowers are even better than scattering wildflower seed according to experts. So save time, money, energy – and our pollinators! Thank you. ( Sandra).

**"No Mow May" in St. Joseph's.** We shall leave uncut the little violet meadow in front of the Hall and also the bank of grass behind the Hall. Take the opportunity also to view our newly planted bluebells under the conifer trees beside the Lady Chapel. Hopefully they will spread each year and carpet the ground every April/May.

**Donations** toward the cost of flowers and shrubs in the church grounds gratefully received. Many thanks.

**Bishop Mark O'Toole** ( of the Diocese of Plymouth ) has been appointed as the next **Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia**. This means that we continue as a separate Diocese ( with our own Cathedral and staff ) but that we share with the Archdiocese of Cardiff the episcopal ministry of Archbishop Mark who will be responsible for the administration of both dioceses. Please keep Archbishop Mark in your prayers and also Archbishop George who is "retiring" to live Caerleon as an assistant priest in that deanery.

**The Confirmation Mass** Many thanks to all those who helped prepare for the visit of Archbishop George and our celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you to Chris, Babs & Paula for the splendid flowers arrangements; also to our cleaning teams who ( as so often working out of sight ) cleaned the church and the hall; to Des for the amazing Confirmation Cake, and to the parent/families who provided the food and to the Parish Guild for providing & serving refreshments. Thanks also to our organist Luigi and duet choir! Please keep the newly confirmed in your prayers as they continue the pilgrimage of faith through the challenging times in which we live and into the years ahead.

**Holy Baptism** Please keep in your prayers Ieuan Rees who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday afternoon.

**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, Margaret Jeffrey, Dennis Taylor, Marion Brocksopp, Peter Thomas. Owen O'Connell. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

**Easter Collection, Cards and Gifts** Many thanks for the very generous Easter Collection and for cards and gifts received – all of which very gratefully received. God bless you all and thank you.

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's - £410-79 ( plus Direct Debits ); St. John Kemble – £28-00. Many thanks.  
**N.B. Envelope Boxes** – now available for collection at the back of the Church.

**Monsignor Michael Lewis** ( the Chancellor of the Diocese ) was seriously injured in a car accident returning home from the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral and remains in the intensive care unit in the Heath Hospital in Cardiff. Please remember him in your prayers.

**The Sacrament of Confession** Fr. Neil will be available to hear confessions from 5-30 p.m. before the Saturday Vigil Mass. Please arrive in plenty of time. Confessions can be either face-to-face or use the privacy of the cubicle. **Confession can also take place at other Mass times ( including weekdays ).**

**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!

**TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL** - The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. 01639 643323  
**N.B. The phone in the Presbytery is now re-connected.** Parish Website – [www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)