

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. Phone – 01639 643323

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 7th March 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent

We have been asked by the Diocese to, once again, make very clear the absolute importance of continuing to strictly observe all the necessary precautions. These precautions continue to apply even if you have received the Coronavirus Vaccine. Please wear a mask at all times, sanitise your hands before entering the church and on leaving the church. Please continue to observe social distancing, especially when invited to come forward to receive Holy Communion. **Please do not walk about the church or against the direction of the arrows** and please do not bunch up with others on entering and leaving the church or gather in a group outside of church **but continue to keep six feet apart at all times.**

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph. *“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself to be a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (7th March) **Saturday** St. John Kemble 4-00p.m. Parish & People 6-00p.m Paddy Clifford (RIP) (The Family); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. William John Sullivan (RIP) (Pauline, Margaret & families); 10-30a.m. John Hickey (RIP) (Peter & Isabel).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (10th) 9-30a.m. Kitty Williams (RIP); 11-00a.m. MICF; Thursday (11th) 9-30 a.m. Cynthia Barnett (RIP) (Maureen and Sandra).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (Mothering Sunday) (14th) St. John Kemble **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People. St. Joseph’s 6-00p.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) (Keith & Jane Phillips); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Barbara Green (RIP); 10-30a.m. Peter and Hazel Huxtable (RIP) (Dennis).

Fridays in Lent There will be no congregational Stations of the Cross but the church will be open for private prayers and devotions each Friday in Lent from 6-00p.m. to 7-00p.m. “Come down, O Love Divine, Seek Thou this soul of mine, And visit it, Thy Holy Flame bestowing”

The Sunday 8-00a.m Celebration of Mass. REVISED NOTICE The 8-00a.m. celebrations of Mass will continue until the rules regarding social distancing are clarified allowing greater social contact.

Candles The Sacred Heart - James O’Connell (RIP): Our Lady – Mike O’Hea (RIP).

Gillian Bolland (RIP). We sadly announce Gillian’s death who died on Tuesday exactly four weeks after the death of Alan, her brother. Please remember Gillian and the family in your prayers. Funeral details to be announced. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

Dr Barbara Green (RIP) Dr Barbara Green, whose first anniversary we remember in Mass next Sunday was, over several years (from 2013) a very generous (but anonymous) benefactor to St. Joseph’s Church. It is appropriate on her anniversary to now acknowledge her great generosity to the parish which for six years, from 2013 to 2019, amounted to the sum of £35,250 and enabled us not only to become solvent as a parish – (when I arrived in 2015 we were £12,000 in debt) but also contributed (along with others) to the cost of removing dangerous asbestos from the boiler room, to install a new boiler and to renovate and restore the sanctuary. It is with a great sense of thanksgiving that I am now able to announce that in her Will Barbara bequeathed to St. Joseph’s the further sum of £40,000. We thank God for Barbara’s generosity and intend to direct her bequest to the Driveway Appeal Fund and thank God for this answer to prayer. We hoped to raise approximately £60,000 and, with Barbara’s bequest we now have £46,650 in the Fund with “only” (!) a further £13,350 to raise. We hope to employ the services of a surveyor in the next few months to design and cost tarmacking (and draining) the driveway/carpark and installing some form of lighting for the driveway/carpark.

Driveway Appeal Please see notice above. Thank you for the further anonymous donation of £100. Much appreciated. We now have £46,650 in the Driveway Appeal Fund. All donations gratefully received. Please remember that if you gift aid, an additional 25% is added to the value of your donation. We hope to raise a further £13,350 in the next few months. Thank you to all who have so generously donated to this Appeal. **Many thanks.**

Joseph Matthew (RIP) We extend our sympathies to Deepa and the family on the sudden death of Deepa's father in India on Wednesday. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. 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 and all those who are self-isolating because of the Pandemic. Especially at this time, Jason Saunders, Tess Court, Marjorie Grant, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Harold Jenkins, Maureen Pitt. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

DOMSEC Livestreamed Events in 2021 A full programme of (over 25) events! See www.domsec.org.uk or www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk to access the livestreams and click "Livestream" on the menu bar.

Online Retreat for Lent Daily prayers and readings, please visit the BBC Radio Four Website

PLEASE NOTE – To all stewards, readers and cleaners. **THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO COME TO CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OR COMFORTABLE TO DO SO.** Please let Fr. Neil know so that he can arrange a replacement. Thank you.

Readers: This Sunday 6-00p.m. Nora Reynolds; 8-00a.m. Gregory Page. 10-30a.m. Sandra Davies. **Next Sunday** 6-00p.m. Patrick McAteer; 8-00a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones. 10-30a.m. Peter Buckingham.

Stewarding This Sunday (7th) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. Luke & Lena. **Next Sunday** (14th) 6-00p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00a.m. Christopher and Gregory. 10-30a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia

Cleaning Teams. **This Sunday** (7th) 6-00p.m. Sian Loynes & volunteer please; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Ann/Joan/Volunteer please. **Next Sunday** (14TH) 6-00p.m. Volunteers please. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Volunteers please.

Holy week Services Following guidance from the Holy See, our Holy Week Services will be greatly simplified in accordance with the guidelines published by the Holy See at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Further details to follow.

YOUNG PEOPLE (age 18 – 30) A zoom discussion group for catholic young adults meeting on Monday evenings. Get to know other catholic young people in the Diocese. Please contact Fr. Matt Roche-Saunders at vocations@menevia.org for more information. Also check out <https://acutisproject.com/events/> providing free digital resources and training for young Catholics.

WARNING! A safeguarding alert has been reported by CSAS that the online game "Avakin Life" has been/is a grooming platform. Two million people currently use the game – half a million using it every day.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Douglas Fursland (2015); Bernard Lee (2006); Danilo Tambini(2003); Nora Solari (2015); Edward Doyle (2009); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection – St. Joseph's £615-65 (plus Direct Debits) and CAFOD - £240-11. St.John Kemble £29-00 and CAFOD - £25-00. Many thanks.

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**