

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 23rd August 2020 - The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

At St. Joseph's, if you are thinking of returning to Mass and want to be sure of a place to sit in the church, it would be wise to attend the Sunday 8-00a.m. Mass. At present, St. Joseph's can only accommodate about 58 people. The 6-00p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass is attended by approx. 55 people, whereas the attendance at the 8-00a.m. Mass is about 15. It is anticipated that at the 10-30a.m. Mass it will be difficult to accommodate all those wishing to attend. If you are able to do so, you might consider attending the 8-00a.m. Mass to leave room for others at the 10-30a.m. Mass. We hope to avoid the alternative of having to issue tickets (!) to come to Mass. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and co-operation.

At St. John Kemble, we can accommodate about 12 – but a few more if couples/families sit together. If in doubt about the availability of seating, please give June a ring.

A] YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES. - PLEASE NOTE MASKS MUST NOW BE WORN IN MASS

Please be aware (and prepare beforehand!) the **TOILETS ARE CLOSED** and cannot be accessed - in order to avoid cross-contamination.

- (i) Entrance to the Church is only via the main door (except for disabled access)
- (ii) On entering, hands **MUST** be washed using the sanitising soap/gel provided.
- (iii) **NEW REGULATION - MASKS MUST NOW BE WORN** – but gloves are optional
- (iv) Please place your collection/donation in the box provided. There is no Offertory Procession.
- (v) Please follow the arrows/directions of the stewards. **UP** the central aisle. **DOWN** the side aisles, or, in St. John Kemble, anti-clockwise around the central pews.
- (vi) Every other pew is cordoned off. Three individuals may sit (apart) in a pew (as marked), or, in St. John Kemble, two individuals. Families, couples, those sharing a “bubble” may sit together – keeping social distance from others.
- (vii) Readers to wear gloves,
- (viii) Receiving the Blessed Sacrament. Approach the Altar by the central aisle **ONLY**. Form one queue, standing two metres apart. The Sacrament will be administered to you across the Prie dieu/kneeler. Return to your pew via the side aisle, or, in St. John Kemble, anti-clockwise.
- (ix) At the end of Mass, leave your pew via the central aisle (all the time being careful to observe social distancing); walk toward the Altar (genuflect) and turn right and exit through the Lady Chapel, sanitising your hands on the way out. (In St. John Kemble, via the backdoor). Please exit the church slowly and carefully, not congregating with others when sanitising your hands. Conversations/catching up with friends can take place outside the church, observing social distancing.
- (x) The church must be cleaned after every Mass.

B] THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

There will be no hymns, no holy water, no Bidding Prayers, no Sharing of the Peace, no Offertory Procession, no altar servers. Readers must wear gloves.

Any newsletters/information sheets/booklets that may be provided – **IF YOU TOUCH THEM** – must not be replaced on the table but **MUST** be taken home with you.

An extra Mass will be celebrated at 8-00a.m. on Sunday morning for a temporary/experimental period. Please consider attending this Mass to allow space for others to attend the Saturday Vigil Mass and 10-30 a.m. Mass.

Newsletters (and Sunday Missals) These are available as you leave church. **IF YOU PICK UP A COPY TO LOOK AT, YOU MUST TAKE IT AWAY WITH YOU!** – DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE! Thank you.

Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. Why not come early to Mass and spend a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? (If you bring the prayer card with you – you must not leave it behind in the pew!).

PLEASE RESPECT THE WISH OF OTHERS TO HAVE A TIME OF QUIET PRAYER BEFORE MASS AND OBSERVE A REVERENT SILENCE BEFORE MASS. THANK YOU

Mass Intentions – This Sunday: –**The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (23rd August)

St John Kemble: Saturday 4-00p.m. Tom Evans (RIP) (All at St John Kemble); **St Joseph's** 6-00p.m. Parish and People. Sunday 8-00a.m. Tom Evans (RIP) (Parishioners); 10-30a.m. Barbara Green (RIP) (David and June Vaudin). **Next Sunday** (30th August) St.John Kemble: Saturday 4-00p.m. Parish & People; St.Joseph's 6-00p.m. Pastor Clifford Thomas (RIP) (Nora and David); Sunday 8-00a.m. John Fogarty (RIP) (Donie and Pat); 10-30a.m. Brian Collins (RIP) (Agnes).

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Week beginning 23rd August) Wednesday 26th August – **St.Joseph's** 9-30a.m. Veale Family (RIP) (Nuala and Martin); **St.John Kemble** 11-00a.m. Fred Tippsley (Sp.Int.); Thursday 27th August – 9-30a.m. Mary Rees (RIP).

The Parish S.V.P Group/St.Joseph's Community Support Group/Legion of Mary (and others). I have paid tribute to the amazing work (ministry) carried out in the parish over these last few months keeping us together and providing much needed support. We are very grateful to all those who have kept in contact by phone and helped out with shopping and in other ways, often behind the scene and unknown to others. **THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!**

A Coronavirus Prayer. “ Lord Jesus Christ, You travelled through towns and villages ‘ curing every disease and illness’. At Your command, the sick were made well. Come now to our aid, in the midst of this global pandemic, and send down Your blessing and healing upon us and protect our healthcare workers. Bring us through to Resurrection and a New Pentecost. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.

Last Week's Collection: St.Joseph's £558-30 (including Diocesan Levy); St.John Kemble £114-00

Candles: Our Lady – Mary Rees (RIP)

The Church Driveway I am pleased to announce that (after 86 years!) we now own the driveway in front of the church and presbytery! - and I record our very grateful thanks to Councillor Mrs Sheila Penry (Mayor, Neath Town Council) for her help and assistance in overseeing and guiding the paperwork through the NPT Legal Department on our behalf, and also to Mrs Clare Tregoning, at Gomer Williams & Co Ltd (Karen and Doug's daughter) for thoroughly researching and investigating our claim over many months and generously acting as our Solicitor (without costs) to obtain the driveway for us; and to the anonymous and generous benefactor for paying the costs of the survey and purchase of the driveway and meeting the legal costs of NPT.

Having already met the challenge of raising funds for removing asbestos from the church boiler room, installing a new boiler, dismantling the chimney, repairing the sanctuary arch and redecorating and refurbishing the church (a total cost of approx. £25,000), **we now have the further challenge to raise a similarly larger sum (approx. £35,000?) to tarmac and properly drain the driveway.....donations gratefully received!** Grateful thanks for our first donation to this special fund – further donations gratefully received.

Also, with regard to the driveway and grounds, we would like to establish a group of volunteers to help Kevin maintain the grounds around the church and presbytery, as we continue to be very grateful to Kevin for his many years of commitment to maintaining the grounds for us and keeping everything in such splendid order, involving many hours of (freely given) hard work throughout the year. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered – to Chris, to John, and to Martin & Nuala.

The Reverend Deacon Robert Davies. Please pray for Robert (from Port Talbot parish) who will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at St.Joseph's Cathedral on Saturday 5th September. Attendance (limited) by invitation only. Fr.Robert has been appointed assistant-priest at St.David's Priory, Swansea. Canon Michael Fluck is retiring from parish ministry at the end of September, and Canon Paul Watson has been appointed as the new parish priest of St.David's. Fr.Andrezej Kuklinski (Sacred Heart, Moriston) has been appointed the new parish priest at Our Lady of Margam. Please continue to keep the Diocese in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS! – to all those receiving their exam results at this time. Please remember our young people and children in your prayers during this challenging time in the disruption of their studies.

CLEANERS! Volunteers please to help clean the church. Please have a word with Sheila.