

EASTER SUNDAY – 5th APRIL 2026

EASTER MESSAGE

Today, with great joy, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ from the dead – **“He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!”** The Risen Jesus rises through all our preconceptions and presuppositions, challenging us to look again at how we see the world – and how we **experience** it. Are we living “in the world” - or are we living “in Christ” and “from” Christ? Jesus invites us on this glorious Easter morning to situate ourselves within His Resurrection Presence – to “abide” in Him, as He invites us to do. May we open our hearts and our homes to receive Him in all His Resurrection power over this glorious Eastertide!

VOCATIONS PRAYER Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself, more faithful to You. Make me generous enough to want sincerely to do Your will whatever it may be. Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others. Grant Lord that those whom You call to enter the priesthood, diaconate or religious life may have the generosity to answer Your call, so that those who need Your help may find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

“ 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).

“ Come, Holy Spirit and renew the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created and You will renew the face of the earth. O God, Who hast taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Mass this Sunday (Sunday 5th April – **EASTER DAY**) Saturday 8-00 p.m. **EASTER VIGIL** Sunday (St. John Kemble) 9-00 a.m. Barrie Thomas and Philip (Sp.Int.); (St. Joseph’s) 10-30 a.m. Karen Hardie (RIP) (Doug Hardie).

Easter Sunday - Psalm Response - (Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 1)

Readers: **This Sunday** (Easter Sunday) 10-30 a.m. Mary Walker. **Next Sunday** (12th) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 6-00 p.m. Des Nicholas.

Readers Please come early so that you have the opportunity before Mass to look at the readings beforehand. If you are unable to keep your place on the rota please arrange for someone to take your place (!!).

Candles: Sacred Heart – Annie & William Cochrane (RIP); Our Lady – Parish Catechumens (those preparing to be received into the Church); St. Joseph – The Middle East.

Anniversaries Bridget Davies (2012); Benetia Whittington (2020); Dorothy Palfrey (2006); Mario Berni (2009).

Weekday Mass Times (Wednesday 8th) (St. Joseph’s) 9-30 a.m. Mr. Joseph (RIP) (Sebastian Joseph); 11-00 a.m. Barrie Thomas & Philip (Sp.Int.).

Mass next Sunday (12th April) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Gareth Perkins (RIP) (Paula & Adrian); 10-30 a.m. Michele O’Brien (RIP) (Philip & Patrick)

Nancy Morris (RIP) Please remember Nancy, a former parishioner, in your prayers. *Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

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Parish Safeguarding see SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me to contact Mrs Anne Guest our Parish Safeguarding Representative – also the Diocesan Team safeguarding@rcadc.org

Teachers for the First Holy Communion Class After many years Carolynn and Mary are retiring from teaching the First Holy Communion Class. We thank them very much indeed for their service and commitment over the years (and also to Elaine) and if you are able to take on this role (with others) please have a word with Fr. Neil. Each teacher will need to be DBS checked.

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, Bridie Johnson, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders and Luke, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, David Vaudin, Agnes Collins, Angela Healey., Mark Thomas, Siobhan Fitchett, Jane Smith, Donie O'Connell, Dennis Huxtable, Colin Mulligan, Sheila Morgan, Mary Bowen, Kay Mead, Deacon Jim. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

The Sick & Housebound If you know of someone who (at their request) would appreciate contact with the church through a home visit from the S.V.P. please contact Anne Guest, the Secretary on aguest77@yahoo.com or Pat O'Connell for a visit from the Legion of Mary.

Parish S.V.P. Over the last 12 months our SVP group made 942 home visits and provided lifts and assistance on 143 occasions. We help at Bridge Street breakfast club for the homeless and the Salvation Army food bank. We are always humbled and grateful for your generosity in supporting our appeals but we are a small group and our membership needs to increase. Please consider joining the SVP to help us continue to support others. If interested please approach a member of the SVP.

Mass Intentions Please note Mass Intentions are now reserved into **May** (weekdays and weekends) – many dates are also already reserved later on in 2026. Please think several months ahead if you would like a Mass said for a loved one. At present, it takes about eight weeks (two months) for a reserved Mass to be celebrated.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £467-09 (plus Direct Debits); St. John Kemble £50-00. Many thanks.

PLEASE NOTE The Second Collection Boxes of Envelopes are now available for collection at the back of the church. If you also would like to donate regularly through the envelope scheme please see Robert.

Parish Hall Caretaker We are looking for a person willing to take on this role. This involves opening and closing the hall for coffee mornings, hall bookings and general cleaning duties. Remuneration - £40/week. If you are interested please contact Brenda Grant on 07817 656 157

On-Line Archdiocesan Newsletter Read/Sign up today <https://bit.ly/ACMSeptNewsletter>

Marriage Support Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel:+44 7887 296 983

Relaunched Instagram Page – “ **Emmaus Catholic Youth** ” for regular comments, content and updates.

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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