

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 17th MAY 2026

On Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead and during which forty days Jesus continued His teaching ministry showing how the Law and the Prophets find their fulfilment in Him. After the Ascension, the Apostles with Mary and others remain in Jerusalem, waiting and praying in the Upper Room for “power from on high”, the promise of the Holy Spirit Whom Jesus said would come upon them, mediating His Own Risen Presence to their hearts and empowering them in their witness to His Death and Resurrection. The Church today continues to pray (during this “novena” of prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost) that the Risen, Ascended and Glorified Jesus will pour out the Holy Spirit in a New Pentecost in the life of the Church as we await His Return on the clouds of heaven “ in the same way as you now see Him ascend into heaven”. Come, Holy Spirit!” “ Come, Lord Jesus!”. Thus we pray -

“ 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 next Sunday (Sunday 17th May) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Teresa Smith (Neville) (RIP) (John & Linda Slattery); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Deta May (RIP) (The family).

Weekday Mass Times No celebrations of Mass this week – Fr. Neil has laryngitis and (after this weekend) must rest his voice! (Happy Birthday! Congratulations to anyone celebrating a special birthday this week!!)

Mass next Sunday (24th May – PENTECOST) Saturday 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Dennis Taylor (RIP) (Vi Taylor); 10-30 a.m. Evan Elias (RIP) (The family)

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Psalm Response “ I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living” (Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 3)

Welsh National Pilgrimage - THIS SUNDAY (17th) - Our Lady of the Taper, Cardigan, led by Bishop Peter Bignall – please see poster. Confessions 1-30 p.m. Rosary Procession 2-30 p.m. Holy Mass 3-00 p.m..

Readers: This Sunday (17th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Peter Buckingham. Next Sunday (24th Pentecost) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans.

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 – Edna & Michael McAteer (RIP); Our Lady – Elizabeth Fluck (RIP); St. Joseph – Jason Green (Sp.Int.)

Anniversaries Patricia Lloyd (2008); Patricia Clifford (2019); Norman Price (2012); Wendy Baker (2014).; Mary Fletcher (2016); Edna McAteer (2021); Evan Elias (2011).

Catholic (Teaching) C.D. and D.V.D. Library If you would like to borrow a C.D. or D.V.D. please write your name, the name of the CD/DVD you are borrowing and the date out/returned in the book provided (in the Lady Chapel).

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The Parish S.V.P. Over the last twelve months the St. Joseph's S.V.P. have supported 51 beneficiaries (in their homes, care homes and hospitals) on 442 occasions. We have helped families in need and provided transport on 106 occasions Members volunteer at the Bridge Church Breakfast Club on Saturdays and we donated 200 Vinnie packs over the winter months. We support the Salvation Army Food Bank. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of parishioners and will warmly welcome new members. The Parish S,V,P are also delighted to announce that through your generosity we have collected the £800 needed for the Buffalo Project in just 18 months! We are applying for another project and the Sunday teas money will continue to fund this. **MANY THANKS** to our S.V.P. Group in their Christian witness and outreach to those in need.

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, 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, Nancy Nedza. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

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.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £331-00 (plus Direct Debits) Parish S.V.P. £424-69; St. John Kemble £87-00. Parish S.V.P. £Many thanks.

Second Collection this weekend (Sunday 17th May) – **World Communications Day**; (in support of the mission of the Church); Sunday 31 May – **Priests' Training Fund**.

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

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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