

SIXTH SUNDAY (Ordinary Time) – 15th FEBRUARY 2026

THE SEASON OF LENT

This Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) we enter the Season of Lent, a Forty Day pilgrimage to the events of Holy Week and Easter and the opportunity to reflect more deeply on our spiritual lives through abstinence and acts of self-denial (perhaps in greater service to others, almsgiving and fasting) and to pray for a New Pentecost in our lives and in the life of the Church. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) and on Saturday at 3-30 p.m. (St. John Kemble). The Lent Study Group will meet in the Parish Hall each Friday at 2-00 p.m. starting this Friday (20th). The Deanery Station Mass with Archbishop Mark is on Thursday 5th March at 7-00 p.m. at Holy Cross, Gendros, Swansea preceded by the Sacrament of Confession beginning at 6-00 p.m.

“ 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 regn of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love ad 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 Intentions this Sunday (Sunday 15th February) Saturday 4-00 p.m. St John Kemble - Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. St. Joseph's – Kevin Halloran (RIP) (M & J Boland). 10-30 a.m. Roger Fluck (RIP) (Peter & Isabel).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (18th – **ASH WEDNESDAY**) 9-30 a.m. John Hickey (RIP) (Peter & Isabel); **11-30** a.m. St. John Kemble James O'Brien (RIP) (Frances & Rose); 6-00 p.m. Monica & Barry Weld-Richards (RIP) (Deacon Jim & family). Thursday (19th February) 9-30 a.m. Mike O'Hea (RIP) (M & J Boland). Friday (20th) 2-00 p.m.. Lent Study Group (in Parish Hall); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (Sunday 8th February) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Statins of the Cross. 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Helen Gethin (RIP) (Sheila Morgan & family) 10-30 a.m. Teresa Martin Diez (RIP) (Isabel & Peter).

Fifth Sunday - Psalm Response “ **Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord**” (Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 2)

Readers: **This Sunday** (15th) 6-00 p.m. Maureen McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (22nd) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Luke Saunders (Sp.Int.); Our Lady – Angela Healey (Sp.Int.); St. Joseph – Fr. Neil (Sp.Int.).

Anniversaries Rita Newton (2018); Gerald Shillingford (2020); Julia Watkins (2011); Bridget Sagatis (2009); Bridget Mullane (2009); Luisa Pistotnik (2025); Howell Gwyn (2016); George McIntyre (2024). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

John Smith (RIP) Please remember John in your prayers who died peacefully on Thursday morning, and Jane and the family at this time.

Ann Orchard (Rawlings) (RIP) Please remember Ann in your prayers who was a regular member of the congregation here in St. Joseph's before moving to Hereford.

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Parish Guild Monday 2nd March **Evening of Cawl & Welsh Cakes** 7-00 p.m. (prompt) in the Parish Hall Tickets £7=50 for parish funds – from Brenda and Nora.

Catechesis - will resume later on in the year.

Lenten Reflections. Archbishop Mark is publishing six Lenten/Easter Reflections. Our Parish Faith Group will discuss one each Friday from 2-00 p.m. to 3-00 p.m. in the Parish Hall starting this Friday, February 20th. You don't need to attend all, please come when you can.

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.

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

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £334-15 (plus Direct Debits); St. John Kemble £89-50. Many thanks.

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.

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

2026 Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo and Assisi led by Archbishop Mark from 28 September to 2 October at £1,275 per person, half board for twin/double room (limited single rooms at a supplement of £175).. For further information – <https://rcadc.org/pilgrimage-to-sangiiovanni-rotondo-and-assis>

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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