

Third Sunday in Lent – 3rd March 2024

THE SEASON OF LENT

In Lent we enter a forty day pilgrimage to Holy Week and Easter. We shall follow the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6-00 p.m. in St. Joseph's and on Saturdays at 3-30 p.m. in St. John Kemble. On **Friday 22 March** at **7-00 p.m.** there will be a performance of the Clydach Passion Play, "The Road to Calvary" here in St. Joseph's, as we enter into Holy Week. Please make a note in your diary. We pray that this Holy Season may be a special time of grace for us.

Churches Together in Neath LENT SERVICES 2024 " Watch & Pray " All services start at 2-00 p.m. Monday 19th February – Orchard Place; Monday 26th February – Neath Methodist; **MONDAY 4th MARCH - ST. JOSEPH'S** ;Monday 11th March – St. David's Vestry; Monday 18th MARCH – Ebenezer Herbert Road.

Lent Alms This year to be divided between supporting Christian communities in the Holy Land and the work of Caritas in the Diocese of Menevia & the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Lent Alms Box is on the table by the Lady Chapel.

Mass intentions this Sunday (3rd March) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross 4-00 pm. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) Gillian Boland (RIP) (The Family); Sunday 10-30 a.m. Joseph Stanislaus (RIP) (The Family).

Weekday Mass Wednesday (6th) 9-30 a.m. (St. Joseph's) Yolanda Jones (RIP) (Gaynor & Dave); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Kitty Williams (RIP) ; Thursday (7th) 9-30 a.m. Mamie (Sp. Int.) (Ina Hooper); Friday (8th) 9-30 a.m. David Ejimofar (RIP) (Claire, Damian & family); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass intentions next Sunday (10th March – Laetare/Mothering Sunday) **Saturday** 4-00 p.m. (St. John Kemble) Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph's) William John Sullivan (RIP) (Pauline, Margaret & families); **Sunday** 10-30 a.m. Mavis Jones (RIP) (Angela & Maralyn).

Readers: This Sunday (3rd) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith. 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams. **Next Sunday** (10th March) 6-00 p.m. Volunteer please. 10-30 a.m. Peter Buckingham. **Please take the opportunity to arrive early and look at (and prepare) the readings beforehand. Thank you.**

Candles: Sacred Heart – Eireen, nee Harris (RIP); Our Lady – Betty Harris (RIP); St. Joseph – George McIntyre (RIP).

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time; Kenneth Hill (2005); Christine Gray (2009) ; Gillian Boland (2021); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

George McIntyre (RIP) Please remember George in your prayers and the family at this time. George's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's on Friday 22nd March at 1-00 p.m. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Damage to cars There has been a further incident of damage to cars parked on the road outside the church. You may wish to report such incidents to the police so that they can build up a file on such incidents should the culprit(s) be apprehended.

Reception into the Catholic Church Please keep in your prayers those who have expressed the desire to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. We meet together each Sunday after the 10-30 a.m. Mass for short sessions of catechesis and prayer. If you also are praying about this possibility, please have a word with Fr. Neil.

Easter Flowers – Donations toward the costs of decorating the church at Easter gratefully received.

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Mass Intentions Please note that weekend Mass intentions are now reserved into JULY and during weekdays into MAY and other dates have been reserved as far as December. Please be thinking ahead by several months if you would like a Mass intention for a loved one on a particular day/date – even so, some dates are reserved a year ahead and if so Mass will be said on the nearest date available to the request. Thank you.

First Holy Communion. We hope to have a First Holy Communion Mass in the summer. Please obtain an application form from Carolynn, Elaine or Mary. Regular attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation for First Holy Communion. Classes take place at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the 10-30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

SVP Celebration Our parish SVP are celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year. On Sunday 17th March they will renew their vows at the 10-30 a.m. Mass and invite you all to continue the celebration with cake and some music played by the Mikulka Ukrainian children in the hall afterwards. Funds raised will be for Ukraine.

“The Road to Calvary” Tickets for the Clydach Passion Play on Friday 22 March at 7-00 p.m. here in the Church are now available. Please see Angela or Geraint.

Jubilee Year 2025 Pope Francis has asked that 2024 should be a Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee Year 2025. Events and programmes to be announced.

Welsh Cakes & Cawl An evening of Welsh Cakes & Cawl this Monday 4th March at 7-00 p.m. in the Hall. Tickets £5 from Nora and Sheila.

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £391-54 (plus Direct Debits) CAFOD - £284-00. St John Kemble – £38-00. CAFOD - £14-50 . Many thanks.

Legion of Mary Every Tuesday evening at 4-45 p.m. in the Hall. New members very welcome. Please come along.

Parish Coffee Morning Every Thursday from 10-00a.m. to 11-00 a.m. The Parish Coffee Morning on Thursday 14th March will raise funds to help start a woman-led community shop in Bangladesh. Please come and support.

SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO) for Menevia. A part time role, home based (15 hours a week). It would suit someone comfortable giving presentations to large audiences and on a personal level with individuals. Having your own transport is essential. Travel expenses are paid for. For further information and how to apply, please contact Lance Philpott at lancep@svp.org.uk. Closing date – 24th March.

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, George Johnson, Cheryl Ford, Julie, Stephen & Jason Saunders, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna and Joe O'Brien, Margaret Jeffrey, Marion Brocksopp., Marlene John, Pat Day, Daniel John, David Reynolds, Adrian Macpherson-Jones, Roger Horton, Kath Davies, Robert Minty and David Hoy. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

“ 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).

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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