

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

## THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent, is a Forty Day pilgrimage to the events of Holy Week and Easter and provides us with 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 each Friday in the Parish Hall at 2-00 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 8<sup>th</sup> March ) Saturday ( St. John Kemble ) 3-30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. ( St. Joseph's ) John William Sullivan ( RIP ) ( Pauline, Margaret & families) 10-30 a.m. Stuart Michael (RIP) ( The family ).

**Third Sunday in Lent - Psalm Response** “ O that today you would listen to His voice. Harden not your hearts” ( Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 3 )

**PLEASE NOTE DURING LENT** The Gospel Acclamation ( before and after the Acclamation ) will be sung from Hymn **188** ( to the tune of “All glory, laud and honour” ). At the end of Mass after “ O Sacrament Most Holy”, we shall sing, “ *O Jesus! Who for love of me, Didst bear Thy Cross to Calvary, In Thy sweet mercy, grant to me, To suffer and to die with Thee*” ( to the tune, “ When I survey the wondrous Cross” ).

**Weekday Mass Times** Tuesday ( 10<sup>th</sup> ) 11-45 a.m. Funeral Mass John Smith (RIP); Wednesday ( 11<sup>th</sup> ) 9-30 a.m. Sid Leaker (RIP) ( The family ); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Nancy ( Sp.Int.) ( Bella & Reg ); Thursday ( 12<sup>th</sup> ) 9-30 a.m. Marie & Frank Nash (RIP) ( Nuala & Martin Rees) Friday (13<sup>th</sup>) 2-00 p.m.. Lent Study Group ( in Parish Hall ); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

**Mass Intentions next Sunday** ( Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday ) Saturday 4-00 p.m. St John Kemble - Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. St. Joseph's – David Reynolds (RIP) ( Nora ). 10-30 a.m. David Reynolds (RIP) ( S.V.P.).

**Readers: This Sunday** ( 8<sup>th</sup> March ) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Peter Buckingham. **Next Sunday** (15<sup>th</sup>) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Stephen Evans

**Candles:** Sacred Heart – Ann Orchard (RIP); Our Lady – Sid Leaker ( RIP ); St. Joseph – John Smith (RIP) .

**Anniversaries** Douglas Fursland ( 2015); Bernard Lee ( 2006); Sid Leaker ( 2025 ); Nora Solari (2015 ); Edward Doyle ( 2009 ).

**John Smith (RIP)** John's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's this Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 11-45 a.m. Please remember John in your prayers and the family at this time.

**Ann Orchard ( Rowlings ) ( RIP)** Please remember Ann in your prayers who was a regular member of the congregation here in St. Joseph's before moving to Hereford. Ann's Funeral Service will be held in Hereford on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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**Reception into the Catholic Church** In Mass next Sunday we shall receive Ben into the full communion of the Catholic Church, through the Sacrament of Confirmation. We rejoice with him and keep him in our prayers.

**Parish Guild Evening of Cawl & Welsh Cakes** A lovely evening was enjoyed by all last Monday in the Hall and the magnificent sum of £650 raised for parish funds. Many thanks to the Guild and to those attending.

**Donations** for flowers to decorate the church at Easter gratefully received. Many thanks.

**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 each Friday, during Lent. You don't need to attend every session, please come when you can.

**Churches Together Holy Week Service** here in St. Joseph's on Monday 30th March at 7-00 p.m. – entitled " Draw near to God ". Please come along and support this service.

**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.

**Parish Safeguarding** see [SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me](mailto:SafeguardingatStJosephsNeath@proton.me) to contact Mrs Anne Guest our Parish Safeguarding Representative – also the Diocesan Team [safeguarding@rcadc.org](mailto:safeguarding@rcadc.org)

**Last Sunday's Collection:** St. Joseph's £341-00 ( plus Direct Debits ) CAFOD £319-40; St. John Kemble £70-00. CAFOD £30-00. 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.retrouaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouaille.org.uk) Tel:+44 7887 296 983

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

**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-assisi>

**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](http://www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk)

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