

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - 22nd FEBRUARY 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. 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 22nd February) 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) Helen Gethin (RIP) (Sheila Morgan & family) 10-30 a.m. Teresa Martin Diez (RIP) (Isabel & Peter).

First Sunday in Lent - Psalm Response “ Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned” (Sunday - Year A; Daily Mass Readings – Year II; Daily Office - Week 1)

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 Wednesday (25th) 9-30 a.m. Jan Sheridan (RIP) (Donie, Pat & family); 11-00 a.m. (St. John Kemble) Tom Parry Evans (RIP); Thursday (26th February) 9-30 a.m. Ellie Heffernon (Sp.Int.). Friday (27th) 9-30 a.m. **School Mass** (Votive Mass of St. David) Aileen Buckingham (RIP) (Peter & Isabel). 2-00 p.m.. Lent Study Group (in Parish Hall); 6-00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Mass Intentions next Sunday (Sunday 1st March – St. David) Saturday 4-00 p.m. St John Kemble - Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. St. Joseph's – Gillian Boland (RIP) (M & J Boland). 10-30 a.m. Maria Grabczewski (18th Birthday).

Congratulations to Maria celebrating her 18th birthday in the Parish Hall after Mass next Sunday (1st March) Everyone is invited to join Maria in the birthday party celebrations (from 11-30 a.m. to 4-00 p.m.).

Readers: **This Sunday** (22nd) 6-00 p.m. Ceri McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. **Next Sunday** (1st March) 6-00 p.m. Gerald Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

Candles: Sacred Heart – Maria Grabczewski (Sp.Int.); Our Lady – Ann Rowlings (RIP); St. Joseph – John Smith (RIP) .

Anniversaries Roland Webb (2020); Hilary Hipkin(2023); David Palfrey (2014); Stanley May (2008); Clive Roberts (2011).

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John Smith (RIP) John's Funeral Mass will take place here in St. Joseph's on Tuesday 10th 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 17th March.

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.

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.

World Day of Prayer Churches Together will hold a service of prayer at Orchard Place Baptist Church on Friday 6 March at 11-00 a.m. All welcome. Also, here in St. Joseph's, a **Holy Week Service** on Monday 30th March at 7-00 p.m. – entitled " Draw near to God "

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

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £465-30 (plus Direct Debits); St. John Kemble £67-00. Many thanks. **Next Sunday's Second Collection** is the annual CAFOD Lent Fast Collection. (This Friday is the CAFOD Fast Day).

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-assisi>

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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