

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT– 14th DECEMBER 2025

The Season of Advent

In Advent, we begin a New Year in the liturgical calendar of the Church as we look forward in eager expectation to the celebration of Christmas and remind ourselves that, “unto us is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour Who is Christ the Lord ” whose Divinity is “ veiled in flesh” until that Day when He shall return upon the clouds of heaven in the fullness of His Glory and Majesty and establish His Kingdom in a New Heaven and a New Earth, and thus we pray in Advent, “ Come, Lord Jesus!”.

“Come Holy Spirit and renew the hearts of the faithful; enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created and You will renew the face of the earth. O God Who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Holy Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.”

“ 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).

Advent 3 Psalm Response “ Come, Lord, and save us ” (We are now in Year A and Week 2 in the Breviary/Missal)

Mass Intentions this Sunday (Sunday 14th December) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St.Joseph’s) Michael & Edna McAteer (RIP.) (The family); 10-30 a.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) (Adrian & Paula) – followed by our Christmas Party in the Hall.

Christmas Party This Sunday 14th December after morning Mass. The **Christmas Raffle Draw** will take place at the party. Please return all the stubs (and the money!!) **today!** Also, **Guess the Weight**. Des has kindly donated a home-baked Christmas Cake to raise funds for the SVP. to provide Christmas presents for the house-bound. Please guess the weight and donate £1 (or more!) signing the form at the back of the church. Many thanks.

Weekday Mass Wednesday (17th December) St. Joseph’s 9-30 a.m. St. Joseph’s Eileen Cahill (RIP.) (James & Glenda); 11-00 a.m. St. John Kemble - Angela Healey (Sp. Int.) (Lorna & Joe); Thursday (18th) 9-30 a.m. **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MASS** Michael O’Hea (RIP).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (December 21st) Saturday (St. John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; 6-00 p.m. (St. Joseph’s) Paul and Alan Cameron (RIP) (Betty & Roger Horton); 10-30 a.m. Maureen Kirby (RIP) (Peter & Isabel).

Christmas Mass Times (Lessons and Carols Sunday 21st December at 6-00 p.m. **followed by** mince pies, mulled wine, tea & coffee) **Christmas Eve** (Thursday 24th December) (3-30 Carols) 4-00 p.m. St. John Kemble; 6-00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass; 10-00 p.m. “Midnight” Mass. **Christmas Day** 10-30 Mass of Christmas Day.

Mass Intentions Please note Mass Intentions are now reserved into **March** (weekdays and weekends) – many dates are also already reserved later on in 2026. Please think several months ahead if you would like a Mass said for a loved one. At present, it takes about twelve weeks (three months) for a reserved Mass to be celebrated.

Readers: This Sunday (14th) 6-00 p.m. Patrick McAteer; 10-30 a.m. Bridget Zambrano. Next Sunday (21st) 6-00 p.m. Mandy Smith; 10-30 a.m. Sheila Williams.

Candles: Sacred Heart - Joe & Lorna (Sp.Int.); Our Lady – Daphne Winter (RIP); St. Joseph – Gareth Perkins (RIP).

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Anniversaries Laurence Macpherson-Jones (2020); Patricia Curnow (2023); Madeline Lewis(2016); Kevin O'Brien (2017). Desmond Comerford (2011); Anthony Oakley (2021). *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Gareth Perkins (RIP) Please remember Gareth in your prayers and Joan and Ian at this time. Gareth's Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Friday 19th December at 2-30 p.m. (Lay Celebrant).

Daphne Winter (RIP) Please remember Daphne in your prayers and the family at this time. Daphne's Funeral Service will take place at Margam Crematorium on Tuesday 16 December at 12 noon. (Lay Celebrant).

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Christmas Flowers Donations toward the cost of decorating the church at Christmas gratefully received.

Faith Study Group studying " We dare to hope" booklet (following the earlier study of " We dare to say") for five weeks, each Friday at 2-00 p.m. (for one hour only) in the Parish Hall, November 21st, 28th; December 5th, 12th, 19th. All welcome – please come along even if you cannot commit to all the sessions.

Relaunched Instagram Page – " Emmaus Catholic Youth" for regular comments, content and updates.

Young Adults Event (ages 18 to 35) to take place on Saturday 13th December at Our Lady and St. Michael's Church, Abergavenny. Registration via youth@rcadc.org If you are interested the parish will cover all costs.

Vocation to the Priesthood? Fr. Matt Roche-Saunders, Director of Priestly Vocations and Youth Mission always available for information and conversation at vocations@rcadc.org or vocations@menevia.org

Opposing Assisted Suicide in Wales The Bishops' Conference has launched an e-action urging Members of the Senedd to protect vulnerable people and support palliative care. Take part at <https://rcadc.org/archbishop-mark-issues-urgent-call-to-oppose-assisted-suicide/>

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, 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, Cynthia Cronin, Angela Healey., Mark Thomas, Siobhan Fitchett, Donie O'Connell, Dennis Huxtable. 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

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

Last Sunday's Collection: St. Joseph's £335-75 (plus Direct Debits); St John Kemble £37-00. Many thanks.

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.

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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