



**NEWSLETTER
THE PARISHES OF
OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK MAESTEG
ST. ROBERT ABERKENFIG**

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Michael Doyle
Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY
Telephone: 01656 733282 Parish Mobile 07951 350593


HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS: PLEASE INFORM FR TIM McGRATH 01656 652034

Parish Secretaries: Maesteg: Margaret Buckley Mobile Number 07712 625493

Aberkenfig: Bernadette Lewis 07854 699349

Safeguarding Officer: (Aberkenfig & Maesteg); Mrs. Catherine Devonshire

Sunday 26th February 2017 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A Day of Prayer for the Unemployed Retiring Collection Maintenance Fund	Aberkenfig 9 am	PRIVATE INTENTION People of the Parish
	Maesteg 11 am	Thanksgiving 80th birthday Mary Daniel Olphert & Tidball Families <i>RIP</i> (DGP) Readers: Ray Rees & Eileen Davies BP Jacqui Summers
	Maesteg 4.45 pm CONFESSIONS 4 pm - 4.30 pm	Mary & Jack & John McGrath <i>RIP</i> (MP&f) Readers: Paul Donoghue BP: Anthony Petty
Monday 27th February 2017 Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1 Week 8	Maesteg 9.15 am	Rita Catts <i>RIP</i> (Family) Reader: Tess White
Tuesday 28th February 2017 ST DAVID	Maesteg 9.30 am Aberkenfig 6.30 pm	Audrey & Frankie Banks <i>RIP</i> (MB) Readers: Children Kath Tipping <i>RIP</i>
Ash Wednesday 1st March 2017	7.30 am Maesteg 9.30 am St Robert's School-Parish welcome 1.30 pm -St Mary & St Patrick's School 7 pm Maesteg	Private Intention Private Intention Service and Distribution of Ashes – Parish welcome Madeline Gannon <i>RIP</i> (C,E,J) READER: Jane Richards
Thursday after Ash Wednesday 2nd March 2017	Maesteg 9.15 am Aberkenfig 11 am Aberkenfig 6.30 pm Confessions 5.45 - 6.15 pm	Warlow Grzbmski (Poland) <i>RIP</i> Reader: Janet Butler Funeral Service Catherine Amos Private Intention <i>Please note this will take place each Thursday during Lent in Aberkenfig</i>
Friday after Ash Wednesday 3rd March 2017 Women's World Day of Prayer	Maesteg 10 am	Holy Souls (MB) Reader: Jacqui Summers
Saturday after Ash Wednesday 4th March 2017	Maesteg 10 am Confessions and Exposition 10.45 - 11.15 am	Eddie Buckley, Ellen Hughes & Buckley family (<i>RIP</i>) M&f Reader: Margaret Buckley

<p>1st Sunday of Lent Sunday 5th March 2017</p> <p>Retiring Collection Maesteg Levy Fund</p>	<p>Aberkenfig 9 am</p>	<p>Billy & Molly Stocking & Maria Rogers <i>RIP (A&D)</i></p>
 <p>Our Lady & St Patrick Parish Blessed Sacrament Lamp: James & Elizabeth Banks <i>RIP</i> Our Lady's Lamp: Private Intention</p>	<p>Maesteg 11 am</p> <p>12.30 pm Sacrament of Baptism</p>	<p>Delyth Waters <i>RIP (MS&f)</i> People of the Parish Readers: Keith Lewis & Ray Rees BP Maria Cahalane</p> <p>Nancy Tessa Sainsbury</p>
	<p>Maesteg 4.45 pm <i>CONFESSIONS</i> 4 pm - 4.30 pm</p>	<p>Gary Donoghue <i>RIP (AC)</i> Readers: Jessica, Lucy & Matthew</p>

PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK MAESTEG

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME WILL RESUME THIS WEDNESDAY AT 3.40 PM.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS: Gift Aid £318, Planned/Loose £311.09, Restoration Fund £432.88 plus donation of £500 (sincere thanks).

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR THIS FRIDAY, 3RD MARCH, 7 PM. Meryl Streep has broken all records by achieving her 20th Academy Award Nomination in 2017. To celebrate this talented actress' success and for all you "would be cooks", Director's Chair proudly presents "JULIE & JULIA" – two true stories.

PARISH OF ST ROBERT ABERKENFIG

1. **BAPTISM:** today we welcome Gwennyth Ann Marie Mary Walsh into our Catholic family and congratulate her parents.
2. **PLEASE PRAY:** for the repose of the soul of Catherine (Marion) Amos who died recently. Her funeral will take place at 11a.m. in St. Robert's Church. Please remember her family in your prayers.
3. **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** in the Sacristy Tuesday 7th March Lenten Breakfast after 10.30a.m. Mass. Come along if you have some time. Proceeds to support Syrian Refugees Archdiocesan Fund.

NOTICES FOR BOTH PARISHES

New website - The old website for Our Lady & St. Patrick's disappeared some months ago, and St. Robert's have never had a website. In the modern world it is essential that both our parishes be accessible to the word on the Internet. So today is an exciting day as we have launched a new combined parish website. There is a lot of information on the site and I'd like to encourage you to visit the site and explore. You can access the site by visiting either maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk or aberkenfigcatholicchurch.org.uk. Those who would eventually like to have electronic copies of the newsletter can subscribe to the newsletter at the bottom of the homepage and we'll start that service in the coming weeks. Thanks to all who supplied information, photographs etc. for the site.

Prayer Intentions - We have recently introduced into the weekday Mass a slot for prayers for the sick and the deceased. If you have anyone to be added to our list of sick who need praying for by name please let Fr. Michael know to add them to the list. Please also let him know when they can be removed else the list will get impossibly long!

LENT - This week we begin the penitential season of Lent a time of conversion recalling the 40 year journey of the Israelites through the desert out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. 40 is very significant in the Scriptures a testing number that leads to the fulfilment of promises. In Lent we undertake exercises to root out the weeds we may have in the garden of our souls so that come Easter the garden is transformed and new life begins within us. During this Lenten season there will be a number of initiatives taking place in our parishes. Each Wednesday of Lent in Maesteg I will be holding an extra early morning Mass at 7:30am (a good penance for me as I am not a morning person). In Aberkenfig we will move the Thursday Mass from morning to evening and I will hold a set period of regular Confessions beforehand. On alternate Mondays in Lent there will be a guest speaker after the evening Mass in Maesteg and we will share a Lenten Supper of soup and a roll. This will begin on Monday 6th March when Deacon Pasquale Cinotti of my former parish in Newport will talk on journeying through Lent with the Church. Aberkenfig will be holding its series of Lenten breakfasts so keep an eye on the newsletter for more information. And finally the traditional observance in lent is of course the Stations of the Cross. Stations will take place in Maesteg before Monday evening Mass and after Friday Morning Mass, followed by Exposition of Our Blessed Lord until 3.30 pm; in Aberkenfig they will take place on 8th and 22nd March at 6.30 pm. There is plenty of opportunity in Lent to enter into the journey. Let us support each other with our prayers for a fruitful Lenten season.

40 Days for Life - The Annual 40 Days for Life witness on St. Mary's Street in Cardiff will begin on Ash Wednesday (1st March) and end on Palm Sunday. It gathers outside Elgin House opposite the abortion facility on the street. Details are available on the noticeboard should anyone wish to join the prayer vigil on site. Throughout Lent let us pray for the success of this important witness to protect the unborn. Let us also pray for an end to abortion in these lands and pray for women who struggle in making choices during pregnancy. Let us also remember those who have been deeply affected by past decisions.

Prayer Circle, supporting each other with prayer - St. Robert's Aberkenfig have a prayers circle started by one of the parishioners. It is a very good initiative where Paddy Bailey (number 1) is contacted to be asked to pray for a particular intention. Number 1 then phones number 2 in the circle and so on, forming a prayer chain for the intention. What a brilliant idea and an initiative I feel should be shared by both our parishes.! If anyone (Maesteg or Aberkenfig) is interested in joining the circle please speak with me with me after Mass so we can come up with a plan!

ANNOUNCEMENT - As we worked on the new parish website I realised that I was priest number 9 the parish of Maesteg has given to the Church. Well 9 is about to become 10! After enquiries with those responsible for his formation, the Archbishop has formally called Daniel Stanton to ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. Daniel's ordination will take place at St. David's Cathedral on Saturday 22nd July time to be confirmed. His First Mass will take place at Our Lady & St. Patrick's on Sunday 23rd July at 11:00. We wish Daniel every blessing as he makes his final preparations for ordination and we support him with our prayers. In the coming weeks we will make arrangements for these joys celebrations, more news to follow.

ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL CARDIFF: Lenten Fasting Lunch (Bread & Soup) at the Cornerstones in support of the Syrian Family Refuge Project each Friday of Lent at 1.30 pm (following 12.45 Mass in the Cathedral). During Lunch Lenten Meditation will be given by Archbishop George.

LENTEN ALMS BOX WILL BE PLACED WITHIN BOTH CHURCHES DURING LENT FOR THE SYRIAN FAMILY REFUGE PROJECT.