



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

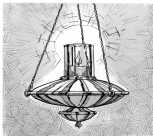
**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Michael Doyle  
Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY  
Telephone: 01656 733282 Parish Mobile 07951 350593 Website

**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

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017  Retiring Collection Maesteg - Levy Fund</b>	<b>Aberkenfig 9 am</b>	<b>Billy &amp; Molly Stocking &amp; Marcia Rogers <i>RIP (A&amp;D)</i></b>
	<b>Maesteg 11 am  12.30 pm Sacrament of Baptism</b>	<b>Delyth Waters <i>RIP (MS&amp;f)</i> People of the Parish Readers: Keith Lewis &amp; Ray Rees BP Maria Cahalane  Nancy Tessa Sainsbury</b>
	<b>Maesteg 4.45 pm CONFESSIONS 4 pm - 4.30 pm</b>	<b>Gary Donoghue <i>RIP (AC)</i> Readers: Jessica, Lucy &amp; Matthew</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>	<b>Maesteg 5.30 pm 6 pm MASS  6.30 pm Lenten Talk</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross Nicholas, Winifred &amp; Terence Pierce <i>RIP (E&amp;MD)</i> Reader: Eileen Davies "Journeying through Lent " - Deacon Pasquale Cinotti</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>	<b>Maesteg 9.15 am  Aberkenfig 10.30 am</b>	<b>Graham White <i>RIP (TW)</i> Reader: Tess White  Mary Sullivan <i>RIP</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>	<b>7.30 am Maesteg 11.30 am Maesteg  6.30 pm Aberkenfig</b>	<b>Sick of the Parish Special Intention <i>RIP (ED)</i> Reader: Janet Butler Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent</b>	<b>Maesteg 9.15 am  Aberkenfig 6.30 pm Confessions 5.45 - 6.15 pm</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Catherine Codd <i>RIP (C&amp;TJ)</i> Reader: Keith Lewis  Private Intention <i>Please note this will take place each Thursday during Lent in Aberkenfig</i></b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent Family Fast Day</b>	<b>Maesteg 10 am  Maesteg 10.30 am</b>	<b>Pat Brennan &amp; Canon John Rohan <i>RIP (VB)</i> Reader: Jacqui Summers  Stations of the Cross Exposition to 3.30 pm</b>

<p>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 We welcome today Fr Andrejz who will celebrate the Mass and hear Confessions</p>	<p>Maesteg 10 am 10.45 - 11.15 am <i>Confessions and Exposition</i></p>	<p>Louise Ann Patricia <i>RIP</i> (F&amp;VK) Reader: Nicola Kelly Fisher</p>
<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Retiring Collection CAFOD FAMILY FAST</p>	<p>Aberkenfig 9 am</p>	<p>People of the Parish</p>
 <p>Our Lady &amp; St Patrick Parish Blessed Sacrament Lamp: May &amp; Cyril Griffiths <i>RIP</i> Our Lady's Lamp: Private Intention</p>	<p>Maesteg 11 am</p>	<p>Jim Connolly, Connolly Family &amp; Margaret, Thomas &amp; Mary McDonald. Readers: Jacqui Summers &amp; Eileen Davies. BP Ray Rees.</p>
	<p>Maesteg 4.45 pm <b>CONFESSIONS</b> 4 pm - 4.30 pm</p>	<p><b>Tina Rastaitis</b> <i>RIP</i> (AT) Readers: Angela Brennan BP Michael Lawler</p>

**LENTEN REFLECTION 13th MARCH** - As part of our journey through the season of Lent we are actively encouraged to increase our time in prayer and to reflect on ourselves and our relationship with the Lord. On Monday 13th March at 7:00pm St. Robert's will be holding their annual Lenten Reflection service. I strongly encourage both parishes to come together during this journey through Lent as one people making the same journey. I look forward to seeing you there.

**DEANERY CONFESSIONS** - Begin Tuesday of this week starting at 7:00pm in Porthcawl. Reconciliation is a necessary part of Christian Living. St. James calls us to "confess our sins to one another." (James 5:16), and Our Lord passed the authority to forgive sins on to the Church (John 20:22-23). We are all obliged (bar age, infirmity or some other good reason) to make Confession at least once a year around Easter time and immediately when we are conscious of grave sin. There will be plenty of opportunity this Lent to make Confession starting with the Deanery Confessions. There will also be a visiting priest hearing Confessions at Our Lady and St. Patrick this coming Saturday. Do make the most of the opportunities being made available.

**CAFOD FAST DAY** - The CAFOD LENT FAST DAY is this coming Friday. Envelopes are available today at the back of our churches - collection next Sunday.

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL** - The Annual 40 Day Prayer Vigil for the protection of the unborn is now underway on St. Mary's Street Cardiff. This is a peaceful prayer vigil, details of which are on the noticeboard. If you wish to take part in the vigil which runs between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm each day until Palm Sunday; please let the organisers know by contacting Janet Thomas on [jelthomas@btinternet.com](mailto:jelthomas@btinternet.com) or 07901713077. A worthwhile cause; we shall pray for each day.

**LENTEN RETREAT** - a day retreat for Lent held at St. David's Sixth Form College in Cardiff on Saturday 1st April 10:30am-3:00pm. Contact Christian Mahoney on 07764515864 for more information.

**WEEK OF PRAYER & AWARENESS FOR DEMENTIA** - ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK for people with Dementia and their carers will be celebrated on Saturday 18th March at 2:30 pm in Llantarnam Abbey, Cwmbran.

**PARISH OF ST ROBERT ABERKENFIG** :TEA AND TOAST: in the Sacristy next Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March Lenten Breakfast after 10.30a.m. Mass. Come along if you have some time. Proceeds to support Syrian Refugees Archdiocesan Fund. **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**: please pray for the children who will make their First Holy Communion this year. If you would like to partner a child please put your name on the poster displayed on the Confessional door and pray for him/her. Many thanks.

**PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK MAESTEG**

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**: Gift Aid £347.50, Planned/Loose £169.19, Maintenance Fund £115.28.

**GRATEFUL APPRECIATION** TO EVERYONE who attended Carnivali Della, Madonna edi San Patrizio and to formally welcome Fr Michael to the Parish; ALSO to those who cooked and helped prepare the evening.

**EASTER RAFFLE BOOKS AVAILABLE (10 PENCE PER TICKET)**: Please sell to your family & friends.

## **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](http://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk) or [aberkenfigcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.**