



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

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

Telephone: 01656 733282 Parish Mobile 07964 366710

Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>

**Parish Secretaries: Maesteg:** Margaret Buckley Mobile Number 07712 625493

**Aberkenfig:** Bernadette Lewis 07854 699349

**5TH SUNDAY IN LENT MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth.” *Psalm 121.*

I hope and pray you are all keeping safe and well in this difficult time...

I will like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have been calling and texting to check on me to make sure I am doing well. Thanks be to God, by His grace and mercy, I am blessed, highly favoured and protected in the Precious Blood of the Lamb, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. and pray you are all equally Blessed and favoured.

It is my greatest hope that even though the Church building is closed from public worship due to the coronavirus pandemic, our hearts are widely open to the Lord, the Most Holy Trinity and to all the Holy Angels and Saints, that the worship of the One True God may continue, wherever we are, in Spirit and in Truth. (*Cf. John 4:23-24*)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered daily for your intentions and the ‘Light of Hope’ is lit in the Church on your behalf. Please remember that no matter the ‘darkness’ that may surround us, the little flame of the candle light can lead us through to the promises of God.

May we be encouraged not to focus our attention so much on the ‘darkness’ presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic which brings anxiety and distress, but rather fix our gaze on Christ Jesus, Our Saviour and redeemer who is the true Light of the World and says “anyone who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (*John 8:12*) and has promised that he will be with us until the end of time. (*Cf. Matthew 28:20*)

Let us endeavour to create a sacred moment in our lives each day to read the Word of God, for “blessed is the one who delights in the Law of the Lord and meditates on the Law day and night” (*Cf. Psalm 1:2*); Pray the Holy Rosary and practice some of the rich devotions of the Church and call upon the Name of the Lord our God to come to our aid that this Pandemic may be overcome and His glory be revealed.

Trusting in the Lord I am sure that at the end, we will all come out stronger in faith, unity and Love as witnesses of God’s goodness and salvation in the world.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Mary and all the Saints, may we be strengthened and Blessed with God’s favour and protection, that we may see His goodness and mercies all the days of our life and come to share in His Eternal Glory at the end of time.

Stay blessed and safe and remain in God’s love and care.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Father Edmund will continue to celebrate a private Mass each day during this period. On Sundays, Father will celebrate Mass for all the People of both Parishes. On other days in addition to Mass for the people he will pray for a specific intention. Due to the fact that we have now only one Mass on Sunday, Sunday intentions already received will be moved to weekdays. If you wish to submit an intention for a Mass, please do so via Parish Mobile (number above), clearly stating the intention for which the Mass is to be offered and your preferred date. Father agrees to celebrate these Masses on trust and the Mass Offering can be made when things return to normal.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March: People of our Parishes.**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>: Alan Hammond *RIP (ML)***

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Phyllis Burr ridge *RIP (MD)***

**Wednesday: 1<sup>st</sup> April: Sean Edwards *RIP (L&S)***

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> John Morgan *RIP (R&MD)***

**Friday: 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Tom Bumford *RIP (R&P)***

**Saturday: 4<sup>th</sup> : Terry & Nancy Hayes *RIP (TP&S)***

**To maintain and develop our faith and spiritual life, we will like to encourage all Parishioners to join in prayers and devotions in the comfort of their homes:**

Please create a sacred space in your home.

Pray the Holy Rosary daily individually or as a family

Read and reflect on the daily readings of the Mass

Join the live Streaming Mass online or EWTN if you have SKY TV at Channel 588

Pray the Acts of Spiritual Communion

#### **ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least Spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

**The Archdiocese provides links for Masses from Churches in Wales which have webcams. Currently the following Parishes have live webcam feeds of Masses:**

➤ St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff ➤ St. Mary of the Angels, Canton ➤ All Saints Parish, Newport .

**Resources to aid your prayer of the Rosary can be found here:**

<https://www.rosarycentre.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

**Aids to praying the Chaplet of Mercy can be found here:**

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

#### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**'O Mary You shine continuously along our journey as a sign of salvation and hope "We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the Sick, who at the Cross were near to the pain of Jesus Keeping your faith firm. "You, Salvation of the Roman people, Know what we need, and we trust that you will provide for those needs so that, as at Cana of Galilee joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial "Help us. Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and took up our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas. We who are put to the test And deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.**

.....

*Several Parishioners have asked, as there are no Sunday Masses and no regular collections, how do they continue to support the Church as expenses will continue during this period. Any parishioner who is able, and does not already donate in this way, is encouraged to set-up a standing order. You can do this through your own bank by phone, mobile or Internet banking. The details you need are contained in the form below. If you wish to complete a standing order on paper, please forward it to your own bank. I realise that these are uncertain times and that some of you may not be in a position to give as generously as you normally do. Thank you for your generous giving. Father Edmund.*

**To set up a standing order or Bank Transfer the details are as follows:**

**Bank Name: BARCLAYS BANK PLC**

**Account Name: OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK CHURCH, MAESTEG**

**Sort Code: 20-18-23**

**Account Number: 43706869**

**OR**

**Account Name: ST. ROBERT CHURCH, ABERKENFIG**

**Sort Code: 20-18-23**

**Account Number: 73394867**

**Below is a Standing order Mandate format which could be used and sent to your bank. But please make sure the correct bank details of the Parish Account you intend to contribute to is used to that effect.**

**Thank you for your generosity to the Parishes. God Love you.**

**Fr. Edmund**

**STANDING ORDER MANDATE**

To ..... **Bank / Building Society \***

Address .....

..... **Post Code**.....

**Please set up a new standing order to:**

**Barclays Bank PLC,**

**Sort Code: 20-18-23**

**Account Name:**

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

**Account No.: 43706869**

**Please debit my/our bank account as follows:**

**Account Name: .....**

**Account No.: .....**

**Sort Code: .....**

**the sum of £..... (amount in words) .....**

**starting on the..... day of (month) .....(year) .....**

**and on the same day every month until further notice.**

**Signature(s) .....**

.....

**Address .....**

.....

..... **Post Code** .....

**Please cancel any previous standing order in favour of the same beneficiary. This standing order supersedes all former arrangements.**

**Please send this form to your bank.**