



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

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2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and Joy of Christ be with you all!

Today the second Sunday of Easter we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy.

St. John Paul II instituted this feast in May 2000 after the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, who was the main advocate of the Divine Mercy Devotion. It's an Easter Gift that the Church receives from the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

On this feast Holy Mother Church invites us to celebrate God's Mercy to receive 'Special Graces' through the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and with trusting faith invoking the Merciful Lord Jesus with a contrite heart for the forgiveness of our sins and those of the whole world and Receiving Holy Communion, as well as praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The Catechism of the catholic Church tells us that, "The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it: "All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks." Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation: "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." (CCC 1816)

My dear brothers and sisters with this Lockdown, at 3pm I suggest you follow the steps below in the comfort of our homes, trusting that as Jesus in today's Gospel even though the doors were locked where the disciples were, He came and stood in their midst and said "Peace be with you" so will he bring you the promised grace and mercy that brings true peace to our souls.

1. Make a sacred Space in your Home
2. Make an Act of Contrition
3. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Trustfully invoke God's Mercy.
4. Make an Act of Spiritual Communion
5. Exercise Mercy to your love ones and those around you

Be assured that I will be united with you in prayers especially at 3pm before the Blessed Sacrament invoking God's mercy for our sins and those of the whole World.

God love you all!

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, NHS and FRONTLINE WORKERS/VOLUNTEERS. 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.

2nd Sunday of Easter, (Divine Mercy) 19th April: People of the Parishes.

Monday: 20th April: Doris and Brian Jarvis RIP (CW)

Tuesday: 21st April: Marcia Rogers RIP (D&AD)

Wednesday: 22nd April: Christine Thomas RIP (PO'B)

Thursday: 23rd April: Sue Philippart RIP (BL)

Friday: 24th April: William Nicholas (Nick) Whitty RIP (KK)

Saturday: 25th April: Mrs Noreen Blower RIP (MB)

3rd Sunday of Easter 26th April: People of our Parishes.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, THE SICK & DYING: Sadly because of the restrictions Priests are unable to visit the sick in hospital or at home at this time. If you have sick or dying family, please do continue to contact Father Edmund (07964366710) who will discuss the way forward.

FUNERALS: Please be advised that Priests and Deacons can only conduct a Funeral service in the Crematorium or at the graveside during this time. No Requiem Masses or services are allowed in Church. A Memorial Service for those deceased may be held later once all returns to normal.

ETERNAL REST: Please pray for the repose of the Souls of WILLIAM NICHOLAS WHITTY whose funeral will take place this Friday, 24th April 2020 at 11am at Coychurch Crematorium, MARGARET CATHERINE JAMES (nee Carroll), and JOAN PATRICIA THOMAS, whose funerals took place recently. May they rest in peace and rise in Eternal Glory; our sympathies and prayers be with their families. *We continue to pray for those who have anniversaries at this time.*

Divine Mercy Sunday: *Today is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Pope John Paul II declared Divine Mercy Sunday as a Feast of the Universal Church in 2000, on the occasion of the Canonisation of Sister Faustina Kowalska. St. Faustina was prompted by the Lord to promote the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.*

The Novena for the Divine Mercy begun on Good Friday. Be encouraged to join in if you have not started already, for 'It better late than never' as it is said.



“The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ John 20:19 (2nd Sunday of Easter) Talks arranged at the Cornerstone for May, June and July are postponed until 2021.



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 Act 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.

MESSAGE FROM HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP GEORGE STACK:

Please continue to pray for those suffering with Coronavirus, those who have died from the virus and most importantly plead for the end of the pandemic

A Plenary Indulgence is available to all who pray for these intentions under the usual conditions of making Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion (both as soon as possible after the lockdown) and prayers for the intentions of Pope Francis (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be). Acts to be performed for the indulgence include read the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or recite the Rosary or the Way of the Cross. As is evident to all, the recitation of prayers and the reading of the Bible can be done without leaving home, and therefore in full compliance with the rules to counter the spread of the virus.

PRAYER FOR THIS TIME OF TRIAL: God Our Father, each person is precious to You. You are the Giver of life. Have mercy on us and protect us at this time, as the Coronavirus threatens health and life. You are an ever-present Helper in time of trouble. Watch over those who are suffering, Give strength to those who are aiding the Sick and give courage to all in this time of anxiety. Amen.

PRAYER FOR US IN THIS TIME OF NEED:

As we continue in lockdown for a further three weeks let us continue to pray for all our parishioners and those who are working on the frontline at this time. Please also continue to pray for those suffering with Coronavirus, those who have died from the virus and plead for the end to the pandemic.

Heavenly Father, who sent the ten plagues to free his children, and protected them by the blood of the Lamb, bless all those affected by the Coronavirus. Encourage and strengthen those who seek a cure. Protect all who care or work in the NHS and FRONT LINE. Send your Holy Angels to guard us and bring us safely through this time of trial. May your Holy Mother care for us as she did for the sick child Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Follow this with one Our Father, three Hail Marys) Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for us.

St. Raphael Archangel. Pray for us. St Luke, the Physician. Pray for us.

St. Bernadette. Pray for us.

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.

Online Resources which can support our prayer life during this time when we will be unable to worship publicly.

- **Daily Mass Readings can be found at: <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>**
- **Magnificat - a spiritual guide to help you develop your prayer life is offering its resources free during the current crises – <https://us.magnificat.net/free>**
- **Daily Mass is broadcast in English on: EWTN at 12noon**
(<https://www.ewtn.co.uk/live/tv>) o **Shalom World TV at 10am – repeated at 10pm**
(Follow this with one Our Father, three Hail Marys) **Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for us. St. Raphael Archangel. Pray for us. St Luke, the Physician. Pray for us. St. Bernadette. Pray for us.**

(<https://shalomworld.org/watchlive>)

Both EWTN and Shalom World produce Mass of broadcast quality. If however you are happy to watch less polished events via webcams you can access many from the UK and elsewhere at: <https://www.churchservices.tv/> - you can search by Church or Mass time. In addition – a full list of the churches can be found here: ➤ <https://rcadc.org/staying-connected/>

Resources to – aid to 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>

CARDIFF PEOPLE: Many of you will be used to picking up a copy of the Catholic People – the Official Newspaper of the Archdiocese each month. Due to the closure of the churches, the April Edition of the Catholic People is online. This month’s paper includes a tribute to the late Archbishop Smith along with other articles of interest to people across the Archdiocese.

Websites for Catholic newspapers are:

catholicherald.co.uk

thecatholicuniverse.com

NEWS AND UPDATES CAN BE FOUND BY CLICKING ON THE NEWS TAB AT THE TOP OF THE SCREEN ON THE WEBSITE WHERE YOU WILL SEE A “DROP DOWN MENU” WITH THE RELEVANT ARTICLES.

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FUNDRAISING NEWS OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH:

• **300 PLUS CLUB DRAW - MARCH AND APRIL 2020**

March: 1st (£50) Amira/Lola/Nancy & Lilah, C/o Mrs J Barry (56)

2nd (£30) Marilyn James (293) 3rd (£20) Norma Donoghue (195)

4th (£10) Kieron Petty (30)

April: 1st (£50) Mrs Kerry Thomas (244) 2nd (£30) Petrer Nessman (318)

3rd (£20) Ann Brennan (198) 4th (£10) Mr J Tompkins (334)

Cheques are being sent to home addresses.

ARE YOU ABLE TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER FOR YOU PARISH?

Dear Parishioners

Sincere thanks for contributing to our Parishes via Standing Orders or weekly envelopes/loose; however, due to the current circumstances with our Churches closed for public worship, weekly giving is not possible.

During this difficult time, our Parishes still have expenses that will continue to mount even though there are no public acts of worship or regular collections. Your contributions are a very important part of our parish income and are very much appreciated and it would be most helpful if you could consider giving your donations by setting up a Standing Order, if you do not already donate in this way. You can do this through your own bank by telephone, 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 request a copy by contacting the Parish Secretaries; on receiving it please complete and send it to your own bank. One-off donations for example for 'Easter Offering' may also be made direct to the Parish Accounts using the appropriate sort code and account number from the forms below. 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
CITY OF CARDIFF BRANCH CARDIFF CF1 1SG**

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

MARCH STANDING ORDER COLLECTIONS:

Aberkenfig £175. Maesteg £549.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank / Building Society *

Address

..... Post Code.....

Please set up a new standing order to:

**Barclays Bank PLC,
City of Cardiff Branch,
Cardiff CF1 1SG**

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

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank / Building Society *

Address

..... Post Code.....

Please set up a new standing order to:

Barclays Bank PLC,

City of Cardiff Branch,

Cardiff, CF1 1SG

Sort Code: 20-18-23

Account Name:

PARISH OF ST ROBERT ABERKENFIG

Account No.: 73394867

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.