



**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

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

God is Good, All the time and All the time God is Good! Let us together with our minds and hearts, lifted up, give thanks and praise to the Lord for His Great Love is without end. For Scripture says in all things we should give thanks to the Lord. (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“By means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his Passion. Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he wills; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth, and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm. For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith” CCC, 645 It is my hope and prayer that each one of you is keeping safe, blessed and favoured in one way or the other with the grace, peace and joy of the presence of the Risen Lord in your hearts and homes. For those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose all things (including coronavirus or Covid 19) work together for good. (cf. Romans 8:28)

Even though churches are closed from public worship, in a wonderful way Jesus Christ has opened a church in every home and family. The family therefore is the domestic Church where we must learn to pray together each day and share the Word of God through which we encounter the Risen Lord Jesus Christ who encourages and strengthens our faith and renews our hope in the promises of God's love and mercy.

Never have I ever prayed like I have been doing, since the outbreak of this pandemic and the lockdown, for you and your families. Each day you my parishioners are kept foremost in my thoughts and prayers especially at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and I know most of you are doing the same for me and for one another and for the whole world in this uncertain time of our world's history.

Let us continue to pray for those who have been affected by the coronavirus, especially those who have died and those who have lost loved ones, that they may be consoled with the faith and hope of the presence of the Risen Lord till the end of time.

United in prayer, may we 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, 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 or ring Parish Secretaries), 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 26<sup>th</sup> April:**

**People of the Parishes, NHS and frontline workers/volunteers.**

**Thanksgiving 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Max Buckley. (MB&f)**

**Monday: 27<sup>th</sup> April: Kitty and Bob McGee RIP (JA&f)**

**Tuesday: 28<sup>th</sup> April: Angelo Rossetti RIP (KR)**

**Wednesday: 29<sup>th</sup> April: Wayne Tanner RIP (CT)**

**Thursday :30<sup>th</sup> April: Keith Carey RIP (St Robert's School)**

**Friday: 1<sup>st</sup> May (St Joseph the Worker): Lewis & Andrew Davies RIP (PB)**

**Thanksgiving for the lovely memories of Terry Furlong (60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) RIP (EF)**

**Saturday: 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Sick of the Parish and those suffering with Coronavirus.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Good Shepherd Sunday**

**World Day of Prayer for Vacation: People of our Parishes. Graham White RIP (TW)**

**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 Soul of Margaret Davies whose Funeral Service will take place on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 4 pm, at Llangynwyd Cemetery; also for WILLIAM NICHOLAS WHITTY, MARGARET CATHERINE JAMES (nee Carroll), JOAN PATRICIA THOMAS, and for all who have died with Coronavirus. 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.*



'Then he said to the ... 'Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.' Luke 24:25-27 (Third 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, for our sick 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'S INTENTION FOR MAY: We pray that Deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.**

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND EVERY BLESSING TO MAX BUCKLEY ON CELEBRATING HIS 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. HIS FAMILY AND PARISHIONERS SEND THEIR BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS.**

**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](http://catholicherald.co.uk)

[thecatholicuniverse.com](http://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.

.....  
**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. (However, if this is something you feel you are unable to do by all means hold onto your offerings until you are next able to attend Church.)**

*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.**