



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

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**PALM SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND**

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week is here, a period where we are invited to participate in the Paschal Mystery by 'taking up our Cross and' follow Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through His Passion, Death and Resurrection for our salvation and the salvation of the world.

I think our present situation in the world where we have been restricted to Stay at Home to save lives, very challenging as it is at the moment, has given the Church a unique opportunity to produce many valuable Liturgical resources to help us in the comforts of our homes to intimately associate with Christ Jesus in His redemptive Suffering for our Salvation in this Holy Week. Please be encourage to make the best use of these resources.

Each day as I enter into the presence of God on your behalf to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in thanksgiving for His grace and mercy, I think of all of you and give thanks and praise to God for those of you who are making His presence known to those most in need, especially the NHS family, all those working in Care Homes, all in frontline of affairs, those of you reaching out to the elderly, housebound and those living on their own, and everyone else offering an extraordinary service in our communities. I pray that you will all continue your good works in the Name of the Lord and that at the end your efforts may be crowned with fruitfulness for the glory of God.

In this Holy Week be assured that I will keep you and your love ones daily in my prayers, with the hope that you will be doing the same for me and each member of our Parishes.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary, the first and most intimate Disciple of Christ Jesus, and all the Saints may we be blessed with all the needed graces and mercies to journey with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery to a Glorious Easter Celebration.

God Love You All!

United in Prayer  
Fr. Edmund

**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.

**Palm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April: People of our Parishes.**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>: Canon Felix Connolly RIP (M&f) Tuesday : 7<sup>th</sup> April: Keith Carey RIP (BL)**

**Wednesday: 8<sup>th</sup> April: Bernard Kenny RIP (ER)**

**Maundy Thursday: 9<sup>th</sup> April: Patrick & Mary Kehoe RIP (KK)**

**Good Friday: 10<sup>th</sup> April: Day of Prayer.**

**Holy Saturday: 11<sup>th</sup> Jules & Renea Lagaule RIP (MM)**

**Easter Sunday: 12<sup>th</sup> April: People of our Parishes.**



'The Lord has given me a disciples tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me with speech.'  
Isaiah 50:4 (The Mass of Palm Sunday)

'Yes as the rain and the snow came down from the (Night) heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.' Isaiah 55:11(The Easter Vigil )



**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.**

**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.

**Palm Sunday** of the Passion of the Lord On this day, the Church enters into the mystery of the Passion and Death of her Lord, bringing together the Triumphal Procession of Christ as King and the proclamation of His Passion. Both aspects of the Paschal Mystery are celebrated today as we recall the Lord's Messianic entry into Jerusalem and His Passion and Death. In line with the special Vatican decree for celebrating Holy Week this year we will not be able to process into the Church or bless palms but we will start Mass with the Entrance Antiphon which speaks of the triumphant entry of the Lord and as usual will listen attentively to the reading of the Passion according to Matthew.

**Chrism Mass** In line with the Vatican decree the Chrism Mass will be transferred to a later date in the year. We will continue to use the sacred oils blessed at last year's Chrism Mass, until such a time as the Chrism Mass can take place.

**Maundy Thursday** – Mass of the Lord's Supper With the celebration of Mass on the evening of Holy Thursday, the Church begins the Easter Triduum, the holiest three days of the year. The Mass recalls the Last Supper at which the Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, showing His love for those who were His own in the world, gave His Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine offering them to His Father. He gave them to the Apostles so that they might partake of them. He commanded them and their successors in the priesthood to perpetuate this offering.

Even though we are not able to receive the Blessed Sacrament this Holy Week, we can take part in the offering by joining our prayers with the prayer of the priest as he joins himself with Jesus' offering of Himself for the whole world.

**Maundy Thursday** - Watching at the Altar of Repose While we can pray before the Blessed Sacrament online - the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have agreed that St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham will be the focus of national coverage of Watching on Holy Thursday. Join with the wider Catholic community; go to: [www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)

**Good Friday** – Day of Fasting and Abstinence - Good Friday is a day of penance observed by the whole Church. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

**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: o EWTN at 12noon (<https://www.ewtn.co.uk/live/tv>) o Shalom World TV at 10am – repeated at 10pm (<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 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>

**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 Margaret James (nee Carroll), Nick Whitty and Joan Thomas. May they rest in peace and rise in Eternal Glory. May our sympathies and prayers be with their families. *We continue to pray for those who have anniversaries at this time.*

**PRAYER FOR US IN THIS TIME OF NEED:**

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. 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.

**HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO MAURICE KEHOE.**

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**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**

*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.**

**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**

**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 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) .....**

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