



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

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Registered Charity 1177272

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER - MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

God is Good, All the Time! And All the time God is good!

Today St. Peter reminds us that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people, set apart to announce the praises of God who has called us out of darkness into his own wonderful light.

The catechism of the Catholic Church affirms this, "Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church 'a kingdom, priests for God and Father.' The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are 'consecrated to be ... a holy priesthood.' (CCC, 1546)

As Priestly people we have a twofold duty; firstly to offer spiritual sacrifice to God, in prayer of praise and thanksgiving, and secondly to proclaim the mighty deeds of the Lord by our actions, words and deeds, especially when we give testimonies to what the Lord has done in general, what He continues to do in our daily lives, and our hope in His promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Beloved, in our fight against this global pandemic, Covid-19, we are given daily briefing on the number of people affected; the number tested; the number of people who have died; and measures put in place to fight this pandemic without which we believe it could be worse, this is all good. We pray for the repose of the souls of the dead and God's mercy and consolation for those directly affected by the Pandemic. However, let us be mindful that this battle is not against flesh and blood, it is nothing like the others that has come to pass.

Therefore, as priestly People, let us put on our 'priestly garments' – the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (cf. Ephesians 6:11ff) and invoke the supernatural power of the Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, the redeemer of the world and the sanctifier of our race, for His intervention. Let us follow the way of Our Lord Jesus Christ who conquered all evil and even death itself and has brought us to new life. For 'He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.'

Beloved, this week, may I suggest that we shift our attention to the goodness and blessings of the Lord, by thinking of the many Children born around this time; the number of people who so far have been saved and protected from this virus, including you and me; those who have tested negative and the many who have recovered from Covid-19 after testing positive; and the many talents, virtues and abilities which have been unearthed during this time by the NHS and care workers and society in general. May these encourage us to recount the wonderful deeds of God and deepen our faith and trust in His ability to work behind the scenes to overcome this evil Pandemic for our good.

Finally, let us live in hope that, even though it is said that this pandemic is the worse in our generation, the Almighty and Eternal Father, the Ever-Merciful God, will bring the best out of the present situation to the praise and glory of His Holy Name. For scripture say, 'all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose.' (cf. Romans8;28)

Together as Priestly people, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the Angels and Saints, to the praise and glory of God, shall we believe and declare the reign of God and Divine healing over our Land in the Name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

United in prayer! God love you all!

MASS INTENTIONS: Father Edmund continues to celebrate a private Mass each day during this difficult period. On Sundays, Father celebrates Mass for all the People of both our Parishes, for the NHS, Care Home Staff 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.***

‘For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.’ (Responsorial Psalm Fifth Sunday of Easter)

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5th Sunday of Easter, 10th May:

People of the Parishes, NHS, Care Home’ Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

Monday: 11th May: Annie Scourfield RIP (St)

Tuesday: 12th May: Norah Crumbie RIP (MMcD)

Wednesday: 13th May: (Our Lady of Fatima) John Stephen McNally RIP

SVP Deceased Members & Benefactors RIP (SVP)

Thursday: 14th May (St Matthias): Arthur Cleary RIP (MMcD)

Friday: 15th May: Albert Williams RIP (P&C)

Saturday: 16th May: Winnie Connolly RIP (Anniversary)

6th Sunday of Easter 17th May:

People of our Parishes. NHS, Care Home’ Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the soul of John Stephen McNally who died on Thursday 30th April, 2020. His body will be cremated and His Ashes Buried on Wednesday 13th May 2020 at Sarn Cemetery. May He Rest in Perfect Peace and Rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the bereaved family.

WE PRAY FOR

- those suffering with Coronavirus and to the many who have died from the virus (*we plead for the end to the pandemic*)
- those who are working/volunteering in the NHS, Care Homes, on the frontline, in the fight against Coronavirus; **WHICH INCLUDE SEVERAL OF OUR PARISHIONERS.** (*Thank you for your care, love, commitment and compassion*)
 - our Parishioners who are sick and housebound and for those who care for them
 - our Parishioners undergoing tests and treatments
 - our relatives, friends, neighbours and fellow parishioners during this difficult time of isolation (*let us be kind, keep safe, look after each other*)
 - our Parishioners who have died recently. (*May they rest in peace and rise in Eternal Glory; our sympathies and prayers be with their families*).
 - *our faithful departed Parishioners who have anniversaries at this time.*
 - **VE Day Heroes (75th Anniversary)**

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE MAY

His Holiness Pope Francis, in his Apostolic letter, encourages us to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home throughout this month and provides us with two prayers to Our Lady that we can recite at the end of the Rosary.

I will pray each day too, in spiritual union with you all, the Rosary and these special prayers for the circumstances we all find ourselves in at this difficult time.

Take care. God Bless. *Father Edmund.*

First Prayer: O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer: "We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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.

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:

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.

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.

All funerals will take place privately in line with current advice from the Welsh Assembly Government.

SUNDAY AND DAILY MASS:

Father Tim You Tube, St Mary's Bridgend, 10 am
St Mary & All Saints, Stowhill, Newport (Father Michael Doyle)

- Sunday 9 am, 11 am, 6 pm - Weekday 10 am

St Teilo's, Whitchurch, Cardiff, 10 am (Canon William Isaac)

If you have no access to the internet and livestream Mass, a local telephone number has been set up which will lead you in a 10-15minute period of prayer and reflection relating to the Sunday readings.

Telephone: 01633 982483

Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales – click on the News Tab.

CAFOD launched its Coronavirus emergency appeal on 30th April; full details = click on the NEWS TAB.

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 'Restoration or Maintenance' 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 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.)

Whatever your circumstances thank you for your prayers and support. *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**

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.

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