



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

Registered Charity 1177272

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

Our Entrance Antiphon today encourages us to "Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people. Alleluia". Beloved, when the Lord sets you free you shall be free indeed.

ON THURSDAY, WE WILL CELEBRATE THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD.

The Lord Jesus says: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it. Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, "entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf." There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him". As "high priest of the good things to come" he is the centre and the principal actor of the liturgy that honours the Father in heaven.

Let us continue to praise and thank God and pray for the greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which Christ has promised to ask the Father to send to us. "Because the Holy Spirit is the anointing of Christ, it is Christ who, as the head of the Body, pours out the Spirit among his members to nourish, heal, and organize them in their mutual functions, to give them life, send them to bear witness, and associate them to his self-offering to the Father and to his intercession for the whole world. Through the Church's sacraments, Christ communicates his Holy and sanctifying Spirit to the members of his Body."

Beloved Brothers & Sisters, in preparation for the Fresh Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which is the body of Christ, let us in addition to devoting ourselves to the prayer of the Holy Rosary, embark on a simple Novena to the Holy Spirit with the reading of the First 10 Chapters of the Acts of the Apostles in the Sacred Scripture, beginning on Thursday 21st May, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the LORD till Pentecost Day, Sunday 31st May.

BEGIN EACH DAY WITH:

A Song to the Holy Spirit – Eg, Come Holy Ghost Creator Come ...

OPENING PRAYER: *Come Holy Spirit, fill the heart of thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created and thou shall renew the face of the earth...*

Read a Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles from the Bible

Have a moment of silence reflection and listen to the Lord

CONCLUDING PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: *Holy and Divine Spirit! Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your spouse, bring the fullness of your gifts into our hearts. Comforted and strengthened by you, may we live according to your will and may we die praising your infinite mercy. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

United in Prayers! 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.*

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

‘When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.’ (First Reading Sixth Sunday of Easter)

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6th Sunday of Easter, 17th May:

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

Monday: 18th May: Special Intention (*Kelly Family*)

Tuesday: 19th May: Canon John Rohan and Pat Brennan *RIP* (VB)

Peter Reynolds *RIP* (AR)

Wednesday: 20th May: Gertrude Joyce Whiteside *RIP* (CT)

Thursday: 21st May (ASCENSION OF THE LORD): Thomas McDonnell *RIP* (MMcD)

Friday: 22nd May: Adrian Jickles *RIP* (CT)

Saturday: 23rd May: (Dedication of the Cathedral Church, Cardiff)

Jim Hayes & Hayes family *RIP* (TP&S)

7th Sunday of Easter 24th May: (World Communications Day)

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

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the soul of Gertrude Joyce Whiteside, whose Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, 20th May at Coychurch Crematorium. May She 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.*

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE MAY

I will continue to pray each day, in spiritual union with you all, the Rosary and the special prayers provided by His Holiness Pope Francis for the circumstances we all find ourselves in at this difficult time. Take care. God Bless. *Father Edmund.*

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

Thanks for visiting "You Tube" and participating in the live streams within the Archdiocese, although we may be physically separated, we are spiritually united.

MESSAGE FROM HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP GEORGE assuring us that the Bishops are working very hard behind the scenes for an easing of the restrictions in order for our Churches to re-open for private prayer. If and when this happens, the health and hygiene conditions with which we have become familiar will need to be implemented and maintained just as rigorously as they are in other buildings that are open to the public. Social distancing will need to be strictly adhered to; only a limited number of people will be allowed into the Church at any one time and regular, routine sanitation will be needed. *Please include his Grace and all the Bishops in your prayers.*

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE,
THE VIGIL OF THE ASCENSION, WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY:**

Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country on this day. Normally thousands of people would hear about the National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life through their Parishes, with notices and posters. Sadly, at this time, this will not happen; please will you pray and pass on the message to family members and friends.

300 PLUS CLUB MAY DRAW – MAESTEG PARISH: 1ST (£50) 121 Louise Lakin; 2nd (£30) 47 Maureen Gentle; 3rd (£20) 50 Kate Kehoe; 4th (£10) 222 Gareth Heath.

JUNE DRAW – the six monthly special draw: Please be assured that all members registered 2019 are in the 2020 register and will be included in this draw; if due to the pandemic and team not available for you to pay membership fees – no problem – catch up when we are able to get back to normal. *Grateful thanks and appreciation for your continued support.*

THANKS:

STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS & BANK TRANSFERS FOR APRIL 2020

St Robert Parish: £155; Our Lady & St Patrick Parish £704.00.

Sincere thanks to all those who have responded giving via standing order to our Parishes.

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. You can do this through your own bank by telephone, mobile or Internet banking. The details you need are contained below. (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.)

It is understandable that in these difficult and uncertain times it may not be possible for people to give.

Whatever your circumstances thank you for your prayers and support.

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)

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