



**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

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER - MESSAGE FROM FATHER EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

Jesus fulfilled the work of the Father completely; his prayer, like his sacrifice, extends until the end of time. The prayer of his hour fills the end-times and carries them toward their consummation. Jesus, the Son to whom the Father has given all things, has given himself wholly back to the Father, yet expresses himself with a sovereign freedom by virtue of the power the Father has given him over all flesh. The Son, who made himself servant, is Lord, the *Pantocrator*. Our high priest who prays for us is also the one who prays in us and the God who hears our prayer. CCC 2749

Reading the Acts of the Apostles we recount how after the Ascension of the Lord, the Apostles filled with joy, returned to Jerusalem and with one accord together with some women and Mary the Mother of Jesus and his brethren devoted themselves to prayer. By staying together and with one mind and heart, reflecting on the Life, passion, death and resurrection of Christ, they supported each other through prayer while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, the catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that; "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action.

The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit. Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth. But the simplest and most direct prayer is "Come, Holy Spirit," and every liturgical tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns.

The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church."

Let us continue to ask the Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord to send the Holy Spirit upon us that we may become more powerful in prayerful and as a Church, grow in unity and love for God and for one another.

Stay forever blessed and remain in God's love and care.

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.*

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

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‘There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple.’
(Seventh Sunday of Easter)

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

**People of the Parishes, NHS, Care Home’ Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.
Maureen and Jack Jenkins RIP (C&TJ)**

Monday: 25th May: Chiara Carpanini RIP (R,B&f)

Tuesday: 26th May: (St Philip Neri) Michael & Mary Dunphy RIP (M&RD)

Wednesday: 27th May: Wayne Tanner RIP (CT)

Thursday: 28th May: McDonnell family. RIP (BL)

Friday: 29th May: Eddie Doyle RIP (MB&f)

Saturday: 30th May: (St Paul VI Pope) Seamus Corcoran RIP (KK)

PENTECOST SUNDAY 31ST May:

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

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the souls of Eddie Doyle (father of Father Michael Doyle) who died unexpectedly at his home in Cymmer on Tuesday, 19th May; Seamus Corcoran (Ireland, who lived in Maesteg for many years), Lesley Sharman (cousin to the Keane family). May they rest in Perfect Peace and Rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the bereaved families at this sad and difficult time.

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.*

NATIONAL ROSARY RALLY - ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND

PENTECOST SUNDAY, 31ST MAY, 9 AM TO 9 PM

Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. The Pope encourages simple Rosaries, and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and has composed two prayers for this intention. You are invited to join in an initiative that follows on from the Pope's request, the Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally, from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm across Scotland England and Wales. Our Diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 12.00 noon and you are warmly invited to take part. It does not matter what time during the specified hour that the Rosary is prayed. At 9 pm the Rosary Rally will end with a Rosary being led by Bishop John Keenan from St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley. Further details available on the website.

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 onwards
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.

CLOSURE AND OPENING OF CHURCHES

The Archbishops of England and Wales are engaged with the Westminster Government on the desire of Catholics that their churches should be open for private prayer.

Such an opening would necessarily be restricted and subject to many of the current restrictions on social distancing, health and hygiene, stewarding etc.; they have produced a protocol as a discussion paper with the Government and the communication is continuing on a regular basis. Currently, the Government of Wales has placed its own restrictions on public movement in an attempt to control the spread of the virus.

The Faith Communities Forum is actively engaged with the Deputy First Minister, Jane Hutt, on how to lift restrictions on places of worship. The big questions relate to controlling and stewarding access and how places of worship are to be sanitised.

There is a further meeting on 3rd June.

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,

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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.

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