



**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*

**12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - "DAY FOR LIFE"  
MESSAGE FROM GEORGE STACK, ARCHBISHOP OF CARDIFF**

The Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Dioceses of Menevia and Wrexham welcomes the announcement by the First Minister that churches may be opened for private prayer from Monday 22nd June 2020. In the interests of your continued safety, given the measures that will need to be put in place in the coming days, **it seems that Saturday 28th June will be the likely date for those churches who fulfil the health and safety requirements to be opened for a specific time to be announced.** With the re-opening of churches, certain responsibilities are laid on both the parish and the diocese to ensure the health and safety of those who come to pray. Amongst these are the following:

1. Each parish will need to decide the hours of opening and these times will be published on the diocesan website, once the Risk Assessment has been made and the Health and Safety certificate has been issued.
2. Everyone visiting the church will be required to follow the necessary guidelines and signage to ensure the safety of all.
3. Each parish will need to provide two or three volunteers to ensure the safe flow and placement of people – seating, distance, cleaning, signage, stewards etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- a. That the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday remains dispensed.
- b. That social distancing (currently two metres) must be observed – except for household groups.
- c. Each person must sanitise their hands on entering and leaving the church.
- d. Should a person feel unwell, or has been to an infected place in the past 14 days, he or she should not enter the Church.

- e. That the numbers entering the church will be restricted – depending on the seating available. One-way entry and exit paths will need to be established.
- f. That churches must be cleaned every day prior to opening, and portions cleaned during the time it is opened. Special attention must be paid to pews and door handles. Where possible, windows should be open. Air circulation helps reduce infection.
- g. Hymn books, prayer books, pamphlets and leaflets and other items may not be left around for people to handle.
- i. That those who are “shielded” or self-isolating must remain at home and not come to the church for private prayer.
- j. Some of our churches will be unable to fulfil these requirements through being too small, or not being able to recruit the necessary volunteer stewards or cleaners. Hopefully, the main church in each deanery will be able to welcome visitors from elsewhere.
- k. Face coverings may be worn, but are not strictly necessary. Their use is voluntary and not disrespectful to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or the sacred space which is the church.
- l. Parents and guardians bringing children to the church should be mindful to care for them particularly by ensuring they touch as few surfaces as possible for their own safety.

“I rejoiced when I heard them say “Let us go to God’s house, and now our feet are standing within your gates O Jerusalem”. (Psalm 121:1-2)

*22nd June 2020 - Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Father Edmund will continue to celebrate a private Mass each day. *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. If you wish to submit an intention for a Mass, please do so via Parish Mobile or ring Parish Secretaries, clearly stating the intention for which the Mass is to be offered and your preferred date (numbers above), OR e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org. *Father agrees to celebrate these Masses on trust and the Mass Offering can be made when things return to normal or if you prefer, drop through the Presbytery letter box or send cheque made payable to Father Edmund Neizer.*

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.' (Gospel acclamation Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

**12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** (*Prayers for the protection of human life*)  
People of our Parishes. NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

**Monday: 22nd: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 12**  
Rose & Jim Lawler *RIP* (MDL)

**Tuesday: 23rd June: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 12**  
Sharon Macintosh *RIP* (Funeral Service at 11.30 am)  
Paul & Jackie Waters *RIP* (SW)

**Wednesday: 24<sup>th</sup> June: Nativity of St John the Baptist**  
Rev Canon David Hayman – Silver Jubilee (M&RD)

**Thursday: 25<sup>th</sup> June: Weekday in Ordinary Year II, Week 12**  
Raynor Lewis *RIP* (K&ML) (Funeral Service today)

**Friday: 26<sup>th</sup> June: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 12**  
Ellen, Brian, Peter, Eddie & Buckley Family *RIP* (M&f)

**Saturday: 27<sup>th</sup> June: Votive Memorial or Our Blessed Lady**  
Hilda Whitty *RIP* (KK)

**Ss PETER & PAUL SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> June:**  
People of our Parishes. NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the Repose of the souls of SHARON MACINTOSH whose funeral takes place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium and RAYNOR LEWIS whose funeral takes place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June. 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 in hospital
- 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.

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### **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:**

St Mary's Bridgend, (Father Tim McGrath) now LIVE STREAM –  
click on home page of their Website for timetable of Masses.

St Mary & All Saints, Stowhill, Newport (Father Michael Doyle)  
Change of times, check their Website.

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

A service for those of our parishioners and others, who are without access to the Internet  
"DIAL FOR MASS" service - 029 2267 0999

2 PM on Sunday and available during the week.

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

**THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR JUNE:** We pray that those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Fr Mark Rowles as he celebrates his Silver Jubilee on 30th June and our Deacons Philip, Anthony & Rob for their 14 years of service since their ordination. Please also pray for vocations to the priesthood and diaconate life.

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY:** To all fathers we thank you and pray for God's abundant blessings and favours upon you today. Remain in God's love and care. We love you with the Love of the Lord.

## RE-OPENING OF OUR PARISH CHURCHES

Given the Welsh Government's announcement that churches can re-open for private prayer from Monday (not Mass, the Sacraments or gatherings of any other kind); however, it is not that simple, there are many barriers to overcome before we can open and it will only be possible to open provided the necessary precautions are in place – risk assessments, the appropriate PPE available, cleaning regimes (a full clean of the Church daily and frequent sanitisation of surfaces), social distancing measures and signage in place, controlled entry and exit of Parishioners. We must have a certificate of compliance issued to us from the Archdiocese. We also need to decide what days and hours we will be open for so that we can ask our volunteers to be on hand. Numbers allowed into the church at any one time will be strictly limited. Toilet facilities will remain closed for the time being.

It will not be possible to open both churches at the same time for private prayers, the focus currently will be on opening Our Lady & St Patrick's, and hopefully decide later on St Roberts. One of our challenges is that many of our regular volunteers are in one or other of the vulnerable groups, so we are looking for volunteers from a wider group than usual to support re-opening. We currently have 6 volunteers from Maesteg discussing the way forward.

We need more volunteers willing to supervise and implement the strict hygiene rules during private prayer times; however, you must be below the age of 70 and with no underlying health issues. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Fr. Edmund with your name and contact details.

Stay safe and remain in God's love and care.

### 300 PLUS CLUB JUNE DRAW

- the six monthly special draw takes place this Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June;

thanks to Michael Banks arranging this, with his colleagues at work as witnesses:

Please be assured that all members registered 2019 and were unable to pay membership fees, due to the team being unavailable during this difficult time (catch up when we are able to get back to normal), are entered in the 2020 register and will be included in this draw.

*Grateful thanks and appreciation for your continued support.*

### STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS & BANK TRANSFERS FOR MAY 2020

St Robert Parish: £155; Our Lady & St Patrick Parish £699.00.

*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 or send a cheque, made payable to Our Lady & St Patrick's Parish OR St Robert's Parish and send to Father Edmund, The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY.

*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 for each Parish are as follows:*

Bank Name: BARCLAYS BANK PLC  
CITY OF CARDIFF, BRANCH CARDIFF, CF1 1SG

Account Name: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF  
PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK CHURCH, MAESTEG

Sort Code: 20-18-23

Account Number: 43706869

OR

Account Name: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF  
PARISH OF 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: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF  
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: ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF  
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 .....**

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