



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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Registered Charity 1177272

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - SEA SUNDAY - 12th July 2020
MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.

Let us give praise and thanks to God for the love that He has lavished upon us, by letting us be called His children, and that is what we are indeed. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God made Flesh, and to them that believe in Him, He gives them power to become Children of God.

In Paragraph 305 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Jesus asks for childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children's smallest needs: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?". . . Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

To seek the Kingdom of God, today's liturgy, encourages us to open our hearts to the word of God that we may bear fruit. Jesus Christ is the Word of God that comes to us as Seed for the sower and Bread to the one who eats. He comes in Word and Sacrament to nourish and strengthen us for Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God.

When we open our hearts to Christ Jesus and His Kingdom, we shall surely yield a fruitful harvest of peace, joy and justice, and when we take delight in Him and meditate on His Law, day and night, the first Psalm verse 2-3 says: we shall yield fruit in season and we shall prosper in all that we do.

To be truly children of the Kingdom we must hear the word of God and Keep it. For Christ says, my brothers and sisters are those who hear the word of God and keep it. Moreover, He says, I am the good shepherd, my sheep hear my voice and they follow me and I lead them to greener pastures.

Beloved, Christ Jesus is the true Shepherd-King who is wise and skilful enough to direct our lives to the happiness, peace, and justice that our souls desire. Let us entrust ourselves completely to Jesus, the word of God, and we shall not want. For the Lord says, my word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

"Blessed is the man who Trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends its roots by the stream ... for it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8.

May the Word of God in all its richness nourish us and strengthen us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

United in prayers!

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. If you wish to submit an intention for a Mass, please telephone the Parish number 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 , clearly stating the intention for which the Mass is to be offered and your preferred date 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
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

'Thus says the Lordso 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.' (First Reading Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Isaiah 55:11)

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. SEA SUNDAY 12th July
Seafarers giving thanks for the crucial work they undertake
and those who have died at Sea
People of our Parishes. NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

Monday: 13th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 15
Lewis & Andrew James *RIP (MD)*

Tuesday: 14th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 15
Lyn Bumford *RIP (PB)*

Wednesday: 15th July: St Bonaventure
Kitty Gray *RIP (R&BJ)*

Thursday: 16th July: Weekday in Ordinary Year II, Week 15
Eddie Doyle *RIP (M&SK)*

Friday: 17th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 15
Noreen Blower *RIP (GBG)*

Saturday: 18th July: Votive Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
Lily Bolger *RIP (KK)*

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 19th July:
People of our Parishes. NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the soul of Emily McNamara, the 'Oldest' of the Parish who died recently at the age of 101years. Her funeral will take place on 20th July. Hopefully she would be brought to the Church at 11.45am for people to pay their last respect then to Maesteg Cemetery at 12noon. Also for Patrick Fenlon (uncle of Abigail Allan) who has died in Ireland. 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 faithful departed Parishioners who have anniversaries at this time.

RE-OPENING OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH CHURCH **EASING OF LOCKDOWN AND THE GRADUAL RETURN TO PUBLIC WORSHIP**

It was so special to welcome last week parishioners to our Church for private prayer. Thanks to the volunteers who are making this possible. The Church will continue to be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at the arranged times. As only a limited number of people can be allowed into the Church for a particular time, please contact the volunteer stewards to advise which day you wish to visit so that a slot can be booked for you. We need to know how many people to expect in order to protect your health and safety.

TIMES AND DAYS OF OPENING:

SUNDAY 11 am to 1 pm - COLLETTE 07702023565

TUESDAY 11 am to 1 pm - DEREK OR DENIS 01656 731767 (ANY AFTERNOON AFTER 2PM)

THURSDAY 10 am to 12 noon - COLLETTE 07702023565

The Church has been laid out with a one-way system in place and with specific places for you to sit. Stewards will be in attendance to assist you. Please adhere to the strict social distancing guidelines and use the hand sanitiser provided.

Please note that the toilet has to remain closed.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms or shielding please stay home.

May God richly bless you. Stay safe and remain in God's love and care.

EASING OF LOCKDOWN AND THE GRADUAL RETURN TO PUBLIC WORSHIP

- On Friday the Welsh Government announced the good news that places of worship can gradually begin to resume services subject to guidance to ensure a coronavirus safe way to operate according to our worship customs.
- Following the announcement, Archbishop George has advised us of the work that has been undertaken between our Bishops and the Government to operate in a safe way.
- His Grace also advised that given the time and resources required to make a church "Covid Safe" not all of our churches within the Archdiocese will re-open immediately.
- Tomorrow, we will receive the first set of guidelines to read and review before a Zoom Q&A on Thursday with the Welsh Government to clarify any points.
- Once the necessary measures are put into place, we will then need to seek certification that our worship practices have been deemed Covid-safe.

Therefore, whilst Friday's announcement has stated that we may begin gradually reintroducing services from tomorrow, Monday 13th, the reality is that we are not going to be in a position to do so this week. What the guidelines will contain is uncertain, but we can look forward to the gradual resumption of public worship.

Grateful thanks to our volunteers for their continued support and dedication enabling our Church to be open for private prayer. To open our Church for public worship, we need more volunteers to ensure the procedures and strict hygiene rules are followed and to help supervise; however, you must be below the age of 70 and with no underlying health issues.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Father Edmund with your name and contact details. *Let us give thanks to God for this great mercy.*

ST MARY & ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We pray and give grateful thanks for the dedication of our Head Teacher and Staff during the difficult past months and for caring and supporting the children who have visited the school on arranged days. Soon the School will close for the summer break; we wish all staff a deserved and restful few weeks before the school re-opens in September for all pupils.

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.

STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS & BANK TRANSFERS

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.

FOR FULL DETAILS REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AND USE “STANDING ORDER TAB”

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.

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.

