



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

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer  
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*Registered Charity 242380*

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you always.

"The truth that God is at work in all the actions of his creatures is inseparable from faith in God the Creator. God is the first cause who operates in and through secondary causes: "For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Far from diminishing the creature's dignity, this truth enhances it. Drawn from nothingness by God's power, wisdom and goodness, it can do nothing if it is cut off from its origin, for "without a Creator the creature vanishes." Still less can a creature attain its ultimate end without the help of God's grace." (CCC308)

Today's liturgy presents us with God who is very powerful, yet very lenient in judgement and patient to all His creatures. The delay of God to uproot evil, as it were, is to give us the hope and opportunity to repent and to be fruitful for the kingdom. The image of the all-patient God who is not quick to punish the evil doer is presented very clearly in the parable of Weeds among the wheat of the gospel: - Let the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest and I will tell the reapers....to gather the wheat into my barn (Mtt.13:20)

Beloved, just as in every community we can find both the good and the bad so also each one of us can find within our very selves both good and evil. In our hearts/lives we produce both good and bad things/thoughts. In fact, this will remain with us until the end of time. But God does not banish us with hasty judgements when we do bad things for He knows the goodness he has invested in our lives, and He does not want to lose that, He patiently allows us time to respond to His love, that the seed of His Word may grow within us in order to bear fruits for His kingdom.

As God by His patience and compassion offers us the opportunity to repent, let us accept this time as a moment of grace to make the right choices in our lives and learn from God as our first reading of today suggests, to be equally patient and lenient to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters in our judgement.

Beloved, let us rely on the presence and work of the Holy Spirit through prayer, to assist us to turn our focus away from our weakness and the deeds that brings us down; and lead us to concentrate on the good in our lives and in our community and allow God's Kingdom, through the word made flesh sown in our hearts, to flourish within us and transform us to live according to the will of God, who is full of compassion, patient and lenient to all His creatures.

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

Remain in God's love and care.

United in prayer.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Father Edmund will continue to celebrate Mass (public with restrictions and private Mass). If attending Church, give your Mass Intention to Stewards; or 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](mailto: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.*



'Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.'  
(Communion Antiphon Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)



**19<sup>TH</sup> July: 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A.**

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

**Monday: 20<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 16**

**Private Mass: Emily McNamara RIP**

The body of late Emily McNamara, Aged 101years, the oldest of the Parish, will be received into Church for a short period before her Funeral Service at Maesteg Cemetery. Those wishing to pay their respect may do so from Garn Street to the Church grounds only; **please be in place by 11.45am** and respect the safe distance rules. No parking facilities available.

***Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to her bereaved family at this sad and difficult time .***

**Tuesday: 21<sup>st</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 16**

**10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply) Ken Lucas RIP (ML)**

**Wednesday: 22<sup>nd</sup> July: St Mary Magdalene**

**Private Mass: Thomas Seldon RIP (MMcD&f)**

**Thursday: 23<sup>rd</sup> July: St Bridget of Sweden**

**10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply) Ralph & Winnie Cornish RIP (MB&f)**

**Friday: 24<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 16**

**Private Mass: Holy Souls (MB&f), Steffan ap Dafydd RIP (CJ&GH)**

**Saturday: 25<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 16**

**Private Mass: Keane Family RIP (S&MK) Dante Ascari RIP (AA)**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July: 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**HOLY MASS (Restrictions apply):**

**9am: NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers**

**11am: People of our Parishes and our Sick/housebound Parishioners**

**5pm: Josie Houston & June Hawker RIP (CW)**

**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.*

## **OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH CHURCH**

It was so special again to welcome parishioners to our Church for private prayer.

Thanks to the volunteers who continue to make this possible.

**The last day the Church will be open for private prayer is today, 11 am to 1 pm.**

**GOOD NEWS:** Thanks to the tremendous amount of work which has taken place by our volunteers, the Archdiocese has certified that Our Lady and St Patrick's is Covid-safe for gradual resumption of public worship. **From this Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, the celebration of Mass will resume gradually.**

Due to restrictions on numbers able to attend at each Mass, **you will need to book in advance** by telephoning the following Stewards which Mass you wish to attend (*please only book one Mass on weekend*). We need to know how many people to expect in order to protect your health and safety; **please do not attend if not booked.**

### **TIMES OF HOLY MASS**

**TUESDAY 10.00am Telephone: Derek or Denis on 01656 731767(Any afternoon after 2.00pm)**

**THURSDAY 10.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565**

**SATURDAY 6.00pm (Vigil Mass) Telephone: Collette on 07702023565**

### **SUNDAY:**

**9.00am Telephone: Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (any afternoon after 2 pm)**

**11.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565**

**5.00pm Telephone: Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (any afternoon after 2 pm)**

- You should arrive between 20 and 5 minutes before the start time of Mass
- Please adhere to the strict social distancing guidelines
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided
- The Church is laid out with a one-way system
- Please allow a Steward to show you to your seat
- Please wait to be invited up to Holy Communion
- Please note the toilet has to remain closed
- Offertory and retiring collections will be taken as you leave the church
- Planned Giving boxes available for collection

**If you have any COVID-19 symptoms(sore throat, cough, fatigue, lack of senses of taste and smell) or shielding please stay home.**

**The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. So please do not feel under any pressure to attend the Church. Online or phone Mass are valid alternatives and remain available; details below.**

*Let us give thanks to God for this great mercy.*

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

**VOLUNTEERS:** Thanks to the parishioners who have generously volunteered as stewards /cleaners to allow us to open our churches again for private prayer/public worship. For us to continue to be open for public worship and celebration of Mass it is absolutely necessary to have as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers need to be willing to steward and then clean the church after Mass. If you are willing to help as a volunteer for church opening then please contact Father Edmund on (0733282/07964366710), Derek/Dennis (after 2pm 731767) or Collette (07702023565). The more volunteers we have, the less the work for each person. Please note that to volunteer you must be below the age of 70 and with no underlying health issues.

**ST ROBERT CHURCH, ABERKENFIG:** Please we need volunteers as cleaners and stewards to be able to open the Church at St. Robert for private prayers and Mass. If you are below 70years and you are able to help or no someone who would be willing to help, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Edmund on 07964366710. It would be very much appreciated to have the church reopen for use. Thank you.

**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.**

**PRAY THE 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.**

**STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS & BANK TRANSFERS FOR JUNE 2020**

**St Robert Parish: £155; Our Lady & St Patrick Parish £989.**

***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.***