



# 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*

## **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

Jesus Christ filled with the Spirit begun his ministry by saying: "the time has come and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the good news" (Mk. 1:14-15, Mtt.4:17)

What is this Kingdom of God which Jesus keeps talking about? St. Paul says in Romans, the Kingdom of God is "... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom14:17).

Jesus Christ is the one appointed by God as shepherd after his own heart, who will shepherd His people wisely and prudently (Jer.3:14ff). He is the "Sun of righteousness referred to in Malachi 4:2, and called "the Lord of righteousness" by the prophet Jeremiah (Jer.23:6). He is also called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father and Prince of Peace, by the prophet Isaiah (Is. 9:6). He is the posterity of David whom God found 'a man after my own heart who will do all my will'. (Acts 13:22ff)

Beloved, eternal life is knowing the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom God had sent to the world (cf. John 17:3). Christ Jesus is the word of God. Listening to the word of God and pondering over the word day and night with understanding heart [Love] will bring transformation into our life, so that in all things God will reign in us in righteousness and bring us peace and Joy in the holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and all other things shall come along with it. For all things were created through the Word of God. Solomon asked for an Understanding heart and he was blessed in abundance with the wealth and wisdom of the world. Someone found the Kingdom of God (a treasure and the precious pearl) and he sells all that he has and buys it.

There is nothing more precious and lasting in this world than the word of God taking flesh and living among us. Loving anything more the word of God is not worthy of the kingdom of God. For all things will pass away, but the word is eternal life.

St Paul says in our second reading of today, 'that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose'. And the will of God is that we should be saved and conformed to the image of His Son, Christ Jesus. In other words, our life should be modelled by the word of God. To Love God, therefore is to keep his commandment [The Word].

We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere "to the end" and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ. In hope, the Church prays for "all men to be saved." She longs to be united with Christ, her Bridegroom, in the glory of heaven: Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one. Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved, in a happiness and rapture that can never end. (CCC,1821)

God love you all. Stay forever blessed and 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

*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.*



'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.'

(Communion Antiphon Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)



**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, Peter Catt RIP (L&P)**

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

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

**Monday: 27<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 17**

***Private Mass: Jean Seldon RIP (S&MK)***

**Tuesday: 28<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 17**

**10am: Holy Mass (*Restrictions apply*) Mr & Mrs Lambert RIP (ML)**

**Thanksgiving – Mary Downey 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (CT&BL)**

**Wednesday: 29<sup>th</sup> July: St Martha**

***Private Mass: Lily Bolger RIP (MB&f)***

**Thursday: 30<sup>th</sup> July: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 17**

**10am: Holy Mass (*Restrictions apply*) May and Cyril Griffiths RIP (MB&f)**

**Friday: 31st July: St Ignatius of Loyola**

***Private Mass: Margaret Lonergan RIP (KR), Sick and Housebound of the Parishes***

**11am: Funeral Service (*Restrictions apply*) Margaret Lonergan RIP**

**Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> August: St Alphonsus Liguori**

***Private Mass: Noreen Blower RIP (CT), Souls in Purgatory (AA)***

**6 pm VIGIL MASS 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**HOLY MASS (*Restrictions apply*)**

**Margaret Whitty RIP (L&P)**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: 18<sup>H</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**HOLY MASS (*Restrictions apply*):**

**9am: People of our Parishes and our Sick/housebound Parishioners**

**11am: Annie & Eddie Scourfield RIP (St)**

**5pm: Steffan ap Dafydd RIP (EH)**

**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.*

**Eternal Rest:** Let us pray for the repose of the soul of MARGARET LONERGAN who passed away on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Her Funeral service will be on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 11am at Our lady & St. Patrick Church, followed by interment at Maesteg Cemetery at 12noon. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the bereaved family. May she rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.

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

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. **The celebration of Holy Mass gradually resumes.**

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: Maria 07964965152**

### **SUNDAY:**

**9.00am Telephone: Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (any afternoon after 2 pm)**  
**11.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565**  
**5.00pm Telephone: Michelle 07488322929**

- **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 and receive in your hand**
- **Please note the toilet has to remain closed**
- **Offertory collection will be taken as you enter the Church and retiring collection 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 know someone who would be willing to help, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Lewis on 07940267623. Thanks to Sarah and all those who have so far volunteered for their hard work to help to reopen the church as soon as we are cleared. Thank you very much. God love you all.

**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.***

