



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A, 23rd AUGUST MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

Today's liturgy calls our attention to the type of Leadership that the Lord desires for his kingdom here on earth. A kingdom where leaders show compassion, care and concern for the people.

Christ Jesus is the one given by God to lead all people to His Kingdom. He is the Way, the truth and the life. He came to serve and to lay down His life for the flock as the Good Shepherd. To His followers he asks "Who do people say that I am?" in other words what kind of leader do they think Jesus is? The father in heaven revealed this to Simon Peter to declare "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". So, Jesus proclaimed Peter blessed and said to him "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church..."

"The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the "rock" of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock. "The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head." This pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belongs to the Church's very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the Pope." (CCC 881)

The Church is the "Body of Christ" therefore if Peter is made the "rock", the foundation, on which the Church is to be built, then he is not to raise himself above the members of the "Body of Christ", but rather he is to be beneath them and support them - *Simon Peter, do you love me more than these...Feed my lambs,... feed my sheep* (John 21:15-17).

All aspects of leadership in the Church of God is for service of one another with love, respect and honour, not for domination, self-promotion or greed. It is to support the building of the whole body of Christ for the glory of God.

Shebna in the 1st reading, abused the authority given to him by God for his own self-interest, therefore the position was taken from him and given to Eliakim of the priestly clan who will discharge his dues according to the desires of the Lord.

May the story of Shebna teach us a lesson especially in moments when we are tempted to apply our positions and the gifts and talents God has freely given us to our own advantage, instead of the service of one another to the glory of God.

Let us also pray for all the Leaders of the Church that learning from the example of Christ Jesus, the Good shepherd and St. Peter, the Vicar of Christ they may apply themselves totally in service to the wellbeing of the flock entrusted to their care for the good of the Church and the Glory of God.

United in prayer.

CONGRATULATIONS: *To the glory of God we congratulate Mr. William Bamford Jones who yesterday at Our Lady and St. Patrick Church, was received and confirmed into full communion with the Holy Catholic Church. Let our prayers and support remain with him and his family.*

Following all health and safety protocols, anyone who desires to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), the Sacrament of the Sick or Baptism, or any other pastoral care/visit, should call Fr. Edmund on 07964366710 for private arrangement. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS: Father Edmund continues 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.*

'O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.' (Collect 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time)



**Saturday 5pm VIGIL MASS 21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS AT ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)**

5 pm: People of our Parishes, NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers

**Sunday 23rd August: 21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS OUR LADY& ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply):**

9am: Susan Griffiths RIP (GW)

11am: Margaret Lonergan RIP (JT)

5pm: Bob & Kitty McGee RIP (A&JB)

Monday: 24th August: St Bartholomew, Apostle

Private Mass: Private Intention (Mf&f)

Tuesday: 25th August: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 21

10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply)

Danti Ascari RIP (AA) Martynas John Rastaitis RIP

12.30pm: Maesteg Cemetery: Funeral Service Martynas John Rastaitis RIP

Wednesday: 26th August: St David Lewis, Priest Martyr

10am: Holy Mass at St. Robert's (Restrictions apply):

Douglas Hegarty RIP (M&RD)

Thursday: 27th August: St Monica

10 am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply)

Terence Furlong and Deceased members of Furlong & Wears families RIP (EF)

Winifred Connolly RIP (SG)

Friday: 28th August: St Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Private Mass: Winifred Morgan RIP (M&f) We pray for the Clergy

Saturday: 29th August: The Passion of St John the Baptist

Private Mass: Margaret Lonergan RIP (ML) Souls in Purgatory

Saturday 5pm VIGIL MASS 22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

HOLY MASS AT ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)

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

Sunday 30th August: 22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

HOLY MASS OUR LADY& ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply):

9am: Val Davies and Cara Eschuk RIP (LR)

11am: Henry Patrick McDonald RIP (MMcD)

5pm: Margaret Whitty RIP (M&SK)

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the souls of MARTYNAS JOHN RASTAITIS who died on 6th August; his funeral will take place on Tuesday, 25th August at Maesteg Cemetery and LYNN DANIEL who died on Wednesday, 19th August. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families at this sad and difficult time.

We pray for the faithful departed parishioners, family, friends and those who have died from the pandemic; may they rest in peace. Amen

FEAST OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST: The National Year of The God Who Speaks team has shared the following reflection about this famous painting by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio of St. John the Baptist whose feast we celebrate on Saturday, 29th August.



Salome with the Head of John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist followed in the footsteps of the great prophets of the Old Testament, calling upon the people to repent and be ready for the coming Messiah. He baptised with water but spoke of the One who would baptise with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). He pointed Jesus out as the promised Lamb of God (John 1:35-37) and baptised him (Matthew 3:13-17). He had a great following among the people but he always directed away from himself and lived an ascetic lifestyle. His life was centred on God and on his calling. Herod, despite fearful of John's popularity among the people, had John beheaded after an oath he made to Herodias at his birthday party (Matthew 14:1-12). St. John's cult is exceedingly ancient in both the East and West and he was particularly popular during the Middle Ages. St. John is believed to be buried in Samaria. He is the Patron Saint of the Knights Hospitalier and is believed to protect pilgrims to and from the Holy Land.

PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK & PARISH OF ST ROBERT

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. We need to know how many people to expect in order to protect your health and safety. **Please do not attend if not booked and please advise Stewards if you are unable to attend, so that another Parishioner can take your place.**

MAESTEG PARISH:

TUESDAY 10.00am Telephone: Maria Kelly-Harris on 07964965152

THURSDAY 10.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565

SUNDAY:

9.00am Telephone: Maria Kelly-Harris on 07964965152

11.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565

5.00pm Telephone: Michelle 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH

SATURDAY 5.00pm (Vigil Mass at St. Robert's Church) & WEDNESDAY 10.00am Telephone: Sarah on 07940267623

- **You should arrive between 20 and no later than 5 minutes before the start time of Mass**
- **Please adhere to the strict social distancing guidelines and follow the instructions and support of the Stewards**
- **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**
- **If you have any COVID-19 symptoms 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 NEEDED FOR OUR PARISHES:

In order for Mass provision to continue it is absolutely necessary that more volunteers come forward to help the existing teams who have generously volunteered as stewards/cleaners to ensure our Churches continue to be open for restricted public worship. We still have to abide by the strict Covid-19 risk assessments. This new way of doing things is going to be ongoing long term; if you can help out please contact: **for Maesteg:** Derek/Dennis (after 2pm 731767) or Colette (07702023565);

for Aberkenfig: Sarah Lewis on 07940 267623 or **telephone Father Edmund** (07964366710). 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. *Thank you.*

WE PRAY FOR: the sick and housebound of our Parishes, our friends, relatives, neighbours, fellow Parishioners and those who are suffering with Coronavirus; for the NHS/Care Home staff and frontline workers/volunteers.

TWELVE HOUR ROSARY BOUQUET organised by Michelle and Anthony Bumford:

Following the closure of our Churches, a Twelve Hour Rosary Bouquet to Our Blessed Lady, asking Her for protection and an end to this pandemic, was organised. 54 people signed up, each taking a 20 minute slot, 10 am to 10 pm. During the past 21 weeks over 7000 Rosaries have been said, 1700 hours in constant prayer. Sincere thanks to you for responding in such a fantastic way. As our Churches are gradually reopening for public worship, under Government guidelines and restrictions, and life is getting us out a little, we feel we should discontinue as a Prayer Circle, which will enable us all to pray the Rosary each day when we want. May be the end has not yet arrived, but we do believe we have been kept safe with Divine Protection (or nagging Our Blessed Lady!) Assuring you of our prayers always. *Michelle and Anthony.*

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our GCSE students on achieving a very impressive set of results under such difficult times; we wish them all the best for their future.

ARCHDIOCESE LEVY 2020-2021:

MAESTEG: Total annual charge £12,655.00; first payment £4,218.00, due 1st September.

ABERKENFIG: Total annual charge £3,825.00; first payment £1,275.00, due 1st September.

This Levy is a legitimate contribution from all Parishes in the Archdiocese to help fulfil all Curia and other administrative expenses to help the smooth running of the Archdiocese in general. Your generosity to help pay the Levy to the Archdiocese will be very much appreciated. May God richly bless 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.