



## 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

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

Today we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The day when Mary was taken up body and soul to heaven, to join her son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, by Divine plan was Immaculately conceived. Born into the world, she dedicated herself to the will of the Father. By her 'Yes' to the message of the angel of God to the Father's plan, she conceived of the Holy Spirit and the Word took flesh in her. Her life was intimately guided by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God so much so that, just by her greetings Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and the baby in her womb leapt for joy. Mary gave birth to the Son of God, through whom we are saved and made children of God by Faith.

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death." The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians: *In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.* (CCC 966)

It can conveniently be said that the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the '*Daughter of the Father*', '*the Spouse of the Holy Spirit*' and '*the Mother of the Son*'

The declaration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a Dogma of the Church was the result of many years of studies and work by Church Fathers and Theologians guided by the Holy Spirit to a deeper and clearer understanding of Mary's role in Sacred Scriptures for the salvation of the world. It was only in 1950 that Pope Pius XII declared Mary's assumption as an official teaching of the Church.

Beloved, the Blessed Virgin Mary therefore, is above all creation both in heaven and of earth, for the Eternal God chose her to be the mother of Christ, the saviour of the world. Christ gave her mother to the Church as a perfect example of faith. She listened to the Lord and brought forth the Word of the Lord to the world. Strengthened by the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit she stood at the foot of the cross, and was filled with the joy of the resurrection.

By the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may our sorrows be lightened and our hope be reinforced, that her assumption into heaven may remain a sure sign of hope and comfort to us, the body of Christ as we make our pilgrim journey to our eternal home. God love you all.

United in prayer!

#### **RECEPTION AND CONFIRMATION INTO FULL COMMUNION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Let us praise and thank God with **William Bamford Jones** who will be admitted to sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist and so into full communion with the Holy Catholic Church on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2020 at 11am at Our Lady and St. Patrick, Maesteg. May the Blessings and favour of God rest upon 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 not hesitate to contact 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](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.*

*'Thus says the Lord: have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.'* (First Reading 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Isaiah 56:1)  
*"Alleluia, alleluia. Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults. Alleluia, alleluia* (Gospel Acclamation – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August: VIGIL MASS THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
HOLY MASS AT ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)**

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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
HOLY MASS OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply):**

**9am: Margaret Whitty RIP (TW)**

**11am: Bernard Bolger Thanksgiving 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (KK)**

**5pm: William Heath RIP (GBG)**

**Monday: 17<sup>th</sup> August: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 20**

**Private Mass: Elias Family RIP (M&SK)**

**Tuesday: 18<sup>th</sup> August: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 20**

**10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply)**

**Noreen Blower RIP (R&BJ)**

**3 pm Margam Crematorium: Funeral Service Terence Alfred Brewer RIP**

**Wednesday: 19<sup>th</sup> August: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 20**

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

**Jennet Ann Woods RIP (BE)**

**Thursday: 20<sup>th</sup> August: St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church**

**10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply)**

**Windsor, Nora & Teresa Morgan RIP (CT)**

**Friday: 21<sup>st</sup> August: St Pius X Pope**

**Private Mass: Janet Butler RIP (Family members), for the Clergy (AA)**

**Saturday: 22<sup>nd</sup> August: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Private Mass: William Bamford Jones & Family, Souls in Purgatory**

**Saturday 5pm VIGIL MASS 21<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> August: 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

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

**9am: Susan Griffiths RIP (GW)**

**11am: Margaret Lonergan (JT)**

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

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the Repose of the souls of Terence Alfred Brewer who died on 6<sup>th</sup> August and whose funeral service will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> August at Margam Crematorium, and Martynas John Rastaitis who died on 6<sup>th</sup> August and his funeral will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August at Maesteg Cemetery. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families at this sad and difficult time.

**WE PRAY FOR:**

- the people of Beirut, victims of the devastating explosion, those who have died tragically, the thousands wounded and the hundreds still missing; and for the families who have lost their loved ones.
  - 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 recently died and who have anniversaries at this time.*
- THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST:** We pray for all those who work and live from the sea; among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

**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 (*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.**

**MAESTEG PARISH:**

**PLEASE NOTE TEMPORARY CHANGE OF CONTACT UNTIL 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER FOR SUNDAY 9 AM AND TUESDAY MASSES**

**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
- 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 (Maesteg Parish)

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 FOR OUR PARISHES:** Thanks to the parishioners who have generously volunteered as stewards /cleaners to allow us to open our churches again for restricted 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 our churches then please contact: for Maesteg: Derek/Dennis (after 2pm 731767) or Colette (07702023565); for Aberkenfig: Sarah Lewis on 07940 267623.

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.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS AT ARCHBISHOP McGRATH HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR "A" LEVEL AND WELSH BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HEAD AND STAFF FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT – ANOTHER GREAT YEAR UNDER DIFFICULT TIMES.**

**FINANCE – ST ROBERT PARISH:**

Standing orders have increased to £290 per month; thank you. Please consider giving this way; details below. If you would like to have your collection monies collected please contact either Bill Ennis on 724855 or Bernadette Lewis on 07854 699349

**FINANCE MAESTEG PARISH: INCOME RECEIVED 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2020**

Gift Aid £753.00; Planned Giving/Loose £427.00; (July standing orders £949); Donations £108; Maintenance/Restoration £100.09.

**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**

*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.*