



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>

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29th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A, 18th October 2020

WORLD MISSION DAY

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

“Give to Caesar what belong to Caesar and to God what belongs to God”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: “It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one’s country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community.” (CCC 2239)

Beloved, in today’s gospel, the Pharisees, with the Herodians, came to Jesus to ensnare Him in His speech. They gave Him insincere praise and flattery to lower His guard but Jesus saw through their deceptive words and hypocrisy. They put a question to Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. After inquiring from them whose image they found on the Roman coin, Jesus answered them saying they should repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Jesus established that as Christians, we have the moral and civic duty and responsibility to pay taxes and contribute for the growth and development of the State.

As Christians, it is also our responsibility and duty to keep a pure and open heart and mind to the grace and will of God. The grace and plans of God work with and through anyone and any means God chooses. He is the one and only God and King of the universe who works miracles like in the first reading. God always has a plan and He sets out a way to accomplish it. Sometimes, the means and modalities through which His will and purpose unfold are out of the usual and the ordinary. It, therefore, takes the eyes of faith and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to appreciate and understand His workings and ways. Cyrus is an example of God’s majesty and authority over all creation and His power and liberty to use anyone and any means to accomplish His purpose and will. God chose Cyrus, a foreign king, to liberate His people Israel and to restore them to their land. Israel did not reject Cyrus nor oppose his rule and authority for they saw in him a “messiah”, an anointed of God.

Furthermore, as Christian we have the duty and responsibility to a life of prayer. When you pray, pray not only for yourself but also for those in need of the Divine assistance. The trials and tribulations we face in life must be offered up in fervent prayer to God. God, in His mercy and love, always listens and answers us. However, in most instances, we carve out subjective and parochial ways and means through which the will of God should unfold in our life. God, through Cyrus’ example, teaches us to be open in heart and mind to accommodate His will and plans. Let us Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

God love you all!

United in prayer

SACRAMENTS: Let us pray with GRACE PHILLIPS who will be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church and admitted to the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist on Wednesday 21st October, 2020 at 6pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church. Let us also pray with PHILIP MARTYN BERNSDEN and GRACE PHILLIPS who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony this Saturday 24th October 2020 at Our Lady and St. Patrick’s Church.

A DAY OF MERCY - CONFESSIONS & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

The Lord said: “I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in my fathomless mercy. Let the weak sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy” - St. Faustina Kowalska (1059)

Fr Edmund will be available on Friday for anyone who needs the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) or Spiritual Direction. Please contact him directly on the mobile number 07964366710 to book an appointment. God love you!

MASS INTENTIONS: *Father Edmund continues to celebrate Mass (public with restrictions and private Mass). There are several days free in the forthcoming months.* If you wish to have Mass celebrated for you, give your intention to Stewards when you attend Church, post through the Presbytery letter box, send by post, telephone the Parish number 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 OR e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org



Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.'
(Gospel Acclamation Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)



Saturday 5pm VIGIL MASS 29th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS AT ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)
Geoffrey Phiri RIP (BL)

Sunday, 18th October: 29th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
WORLD MISSION DAY

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

9am: Ellen Hughes, Brian, Peter & Eddie RIP (M&KJ)

11am: People of our Parishes, NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers

5pm: Bernard Bolger RIP (MB&F)

Monday: 19th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 29
Private Mass: Special Intention (Mff)

Tuesday: 20th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 29
10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply) Ken Lucas RIP (ML)

Wednesday: 21st October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 29
Private Mass: Maureen & Jack Jenkins RIP (C&TJ)

Thursday: 22nd October: St John Paul II, Pope
10am: Holy Mass (Restrictions apply) Terence, Denis, Brian and Eddie RIP (M&F)

Friday: 23rd October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 29
Private Mass: Archbishop George and Clergy & Religious of the Archdiocese

Saturday: 24th October: Votive Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
Private Mass: Sick and housebound, Sp. Int. of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

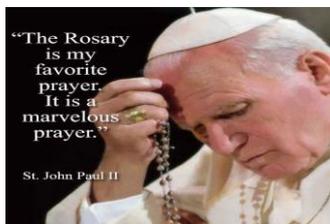
Saturday 5pm VIGIL MASS 30th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS AT ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)
Margaret Lonergan RIP (MMcD)
People of our Parishes, NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers

Sunday 25th October: 30th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)

9 am: Sheila Allan RIP (MD)

11am: Colin Edward Furlong RIP (EF) Danti Ascari RIP (AA)

5pm: Margaret Heath & Arthur Williams RIP (GBG)



October, the month of the Holy Rosary: *During this month, we join with Catholics all over the world and most especially Catholics across England, Wales, Scotland and the Isles to take our Rosaries for an intensive Rosary Whirlwind Mission as we pray together as a Mystical Body of Christ, for Faith, Life and Peace during these difficult and uncertain times.*

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the Repose of the soul of John Frederick Lawler who died on Saturday, 10th October. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to his bereaved family at this sad and difficult time.

We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic. Pray also for our parishioners and all who work in the hospitals/care homes, as pressure begins to grow on them once again.

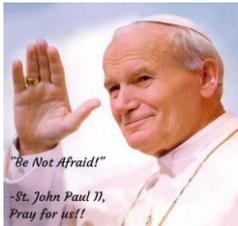
Jesus, I trust in you.

WE PRAY FOR:

- His holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop George, all clergy & men/women of Religious Orders
- the faithful departed parishioners, family, friends and those who have died from the pandemic; may they rest in peace. Amen.
- the sick at home/hospital 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.
- our pupils, teachers and staff of our Schools and our students who are at Universities, during this continued difficult time of the pandemic.

St. Pope John Paul II emphasised a message of putting your love and faith in God above all else.

He let that love radiate into his papacy, as well as his daily actions.



HAPPY MEMORIES OF A DAY OF GREAT JOY AND WORSHIP:

Remember Wednesday, the 2nd June 1982, when we travelled in several coaches to Pontcanna Fields, Cardiff, to join with crowds to see His Holiness Pope John Paul II; such a momentous occasion of being in his presence and taking part in the celebration of Holy Mass and First Holy Communions. In the afternoon our young people joined with thousands of others in the celebration of Holy Mass with His Holiness.

This Thursday, his Feast Day, let us remember his life and reflect on his words of spiritual conviction:

“What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return.

In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary.

And, without the love of Jesus, everything is useless.”

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS (Maesteg/Aberkenfig Parishes): Traditionally, during the month of November, we remember those who have died and gone before us. It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for our dead. As we are in very strange times and to give everyone an opportunity to submit their Holy Souls lists, the form is available online (News tab) and in our Churches. Please return to the Stewards, post through the Presbytery door or send by post to Father Edmund, The Presbytery, OL&SP, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY. Your lists will be compiled in special books and each day throughout November Mass will be offered for your departed family and friends.

ALL SOULS DAY, Monday 2nd November, Mass in Maesteg will be at 10 am and 6 pm when necessary.

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO ATTEND SHOULD CONTACT:

DENIS OR DEREK 01656 731767 (ANY DAY AFTER 2.00PM)

Kathleen Richards would like to express her thanks for the cards and kind words she received following the recent death of her brother Dermot Keane of Rosslaire, Ireland.

FINANCE MAESTEG PARISH: (Income received 11th October)

Gift Aid £193.50; Planned Giving/Loose £162.90; Donation £60, Red Bricks £20.67, Standing Orders September £1199.

GIFT AID RECLAIMED FOR 2019-2020 £8250; thanks to Parishioners for gift aiding contributions.

Restoration/Weekly Maintenance collections (Retiring Collections) – if you gift aid, could you please place in an envelope stating your gift aid number. Envelopes will be available shortly. *Sincere thanks.*

CAFOD: Our Parish raised £342.30 for the coronavirus appeal this Harvest Family Fast Day, in addition to donations made online and by text. Each and every donation will help families in the world's poorest communities face chronic food shortages, malnutrition and poverty. **Thank you for your generosity, and please pray that our sisters and brothers around the world can survive, rebuild and heal.”**

FINANCE ABERKENFIG PARISH: September Collections - £830.

GIFT AID/STANDING ORDER INFORMATION FOR MAESTEG & ABERKENFIG PARISHES

available on website and at both Churches. Please consider: gift aiding your donations if you pay tax; paying your offerings by standing order. *Thank you.*

World Mission Sunday is an opportunity, in this time of international turmoil and uncertainty, for the global family of the Catholic Church to stand together in solidarity, prayer and faith. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world missions, we will help missionaries share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Visit Missio's website for further information on their work, to give a single gift donation or to set up a Direct Debit if possible: **missio.org.uk**

53rd anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act, Tuesday, 27th October. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740. Refer to poster on our Website "NEWS" tab.

"THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: The Year of the Word 2020" – In partnership with the Bible Society the Catholic Church in Wales and England celebrates God's word. It is our prayer that during this Special Year we may all be enriched and renewed by the living Word of God. This month's theme is Bible translation in word and art. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. Control and click on the following link for two articles:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/st-jerome-and-bible-translation/revelation-and-reception-how-do-we-translate-the-bible/>

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/st-jerome-and-bible-translation/translation-and-transformation/>

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

Book in advance for Mass by telephoning the following Stewards. **Please do not attend if not booked and please advise Stewards if you are unable to attend.**

MAESTEG PARISH:

TUESDAY 10.00am Telephone: Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

THURSDAY 10.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565

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

11.00am Telephone: Collette on 07702023565

5.00pm Telephone: Michelle 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH

SATURDAY 5.00pm (Vigil Mass at St. Robert's Church)

Telephone: Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

- **Face masks are now required as advised by the Welsh Government**
- **Please 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 Church**
- **Online or phone Mass are valid alternatives and remain available; refer to previous Newsletter**

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.

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.