



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

(AS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT OUR PARISHES WILL BE CLOSED
FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP UNTIL WEEK COMMENCING 9TH NOVEMBER)

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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30th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A, 25th October 2020

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

Jesus said to his disciples: *"Love one another even as I have loved you."*

The Catechism of the catholic Church teaches that: "In response to the question about the first of the commandments, Jesus says: 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The apostle St. Paul reminds us of this: "He who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."

Beloved, Our Lord Jesus Christ makes it very clear that "the first and greatest commandment" has no limits: "with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind". This means that we can always live it better. We should therefore look for every opportunity to love as a goal for our entire life.

The greatest goal of the life of a Christian is holiness, and holiness is to love God above all things. Christ Jesus makes it clear, in Matthew 25, that loving our neighbour is "like" loving Him. It is in fact the same love: the love of giving oneself to others, of taking an interest in their needs, of seeking the best for them, without thinking of oneself. Indeed, the love for God and for others is true love, a love that fills us up and makes us better persons.

From these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Although they had asked Christ for only "the greatest commandment of the Law", He answers them with two because, deep down, they are inseparable: no one can truly love God without loving others; and he who tries to love God more ends up loving his neighbour more. So, in the end, either we learn to love our neighbour —and of cause our first neighbour is God, because we owe everything to Him— or we will love only ourselves. That is why it is so important that we learn to forget about ourselves, and instead spend more time thinking about God and others.

Let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to help us take seriously the service to others in small and concrete things. May we strive each day to give some love to one of those who live with us. In this way, we will also be giving love to God, because we will be fulfilling what He asked of His disciples of all times: "By this they will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). *"Love one another, even as I have loved you"*.

May Jesus, help us to grow every day in this capacity to love, because nothing is more important to us as Christians than learning to forget about ourselves in order to give ourselves to God and others in love. God love you all.

United in prayer!

CONGRATULATIONS: To the glory of God we congratulate Grace Phillips who last Wednesday at Our Lady and St. Patrick Church, was received and confirmed into full communion with the Holy Catholic Church and congratulations and every blessing to Philip Martyn and Grace Bernsden who celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony yesterday.

MASS INTENTIONS: *Father Edmund WILL CONTINUE to celebrate private Masses during the lockdown period. There are several days free in the forthcoming months.* If you wish to have Mass celebrated for your intentions please either place in the Presbytery letter box, send by post to Father Edmund, The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY, telephone the Parish number 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 OR e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org



'You are holding something divine in your hands: a book that is like fire! A book though which God speaks.' (Pope Francis's, preface to the Youcat Bible of the Catholic Church.)



**Sunday, 25th October: 30th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
HOLY MASS (PRIVATE): OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG**
INTENTIONS: People of our Parishes, NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers
Sheila Allan *RIP* (MD) ; Colin Edward Furlong *RIP* (EF); Danti Ascari *RIP* (AA);
Margaret Heath & Arthur Williams *RIP* (GBG)

Monday: 26th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 30
Private Mass: Father Peter Wareing RIP (CJ)

Tuesday: 27th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 30
Private Mass: Private Intention (Sick Person & Family & Friends)

Wednesday: 28th October: Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles
Private Mass: Margaret Lonergan RIP (MMcD&f)

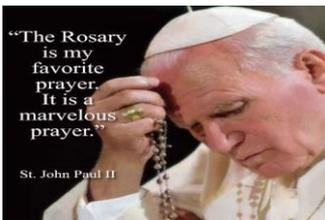
Thursday: 29th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 30
Private Mass: Thanksgiving/Special Intentions 60th Wedding Anniversary
Rowena and Hywel Watts (M&M)

Friday: 30th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Week 30
Private Mass: Bernard Bolger RIP (M&JB)
We pray for Archbishop George and all Clergy & Religious Men and Women

Saturday: 31st October: Votive Memorial of Our Blessed Lady
Private Mass: Morlais Davies RIP (CT) Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

**Sunday 1ST NOVEMBER: ALL SAINTS
HOLY MASS (PRIVATE): OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG**
INTENTION: People of our Parishes, NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers

**Monday 2nd NOVEMBER: ALL SOULS
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**
Private Mass: Faithful Departed His Holiness Pope Francis



October, the month of the Holy Rosary: *During this month, we continue to 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.*

Saturday October 31st – Eve of All Saints - National Rosary relay Rally from 9am to 9pm – where the Dioceses of the British Isles are invited to pray the

Rosary at a specific hour. The designated hour for our Diocese is 12:00-1:00 pm. The culmination of the Rosary Mission will be on Sunday November 1st – Solemnity of All Saints with Bishop John Keenan of Paisley who will lead a thanksgiving Rosary at 8 pm from his Cathedral.

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the **Rest** 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 and our front line workers, 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.

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 last week available in our Churches. Due to the lockdown until 9th November, please return to the Presbytery or send by post to Father Edmund, The Presbytery, OL&SP, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY. Your lists will be compiled in a Remembrance Book and each day throughout November Mass will be offered for your departed family and friends.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS FOR OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST NOVEMBER (Maesteg/Aberkenfig Parishes): Due to the current circumstances it is not possible to invite families to an Annual Requiem Mass; however, Father Edmund will celebrate a Requiem Mass for those who died during the past year on Wednesday, 4th November; the prayer leaflet will be placed on the Altars, will be available on our Website "News tab", included in next week's Newsletter and sent to the families.

Grand Christmas Raffle

Dear Parishioners

We are very pleased to announce that Our Lady & St Patrick's '**Grand Christmas Raffle**' has ARRIVED, launching week commencing 19th October, with tickets available at all Masses from that date. Tickets are priced at £1.00, in books of 5 tickets. Prizes are:-

- **First prize:** £100 cash prize.
- **Second prize:** Festive Food Hamper
- **Third prize:** Celebration Wine Collection with Christmas Crackers.
- Plus many more exciting prizes.
- The draw shall take place, Tuesday, 8th December.



With the '**COVID Firebreak Lockdown**' now in place until the 9th November, for those of you who would like to participate in the Grand Christmas Raffle' by taking the opportunity to support our only fundraising event for 2020, you may access tickets by contacting the following people, where we can drop off tickets securely and safely to your home, or rather like '**Children in Need**' you might like to ring us and make a '**PLEDGE**' to buy a number of tickets, where nominated stewards shall fill out ticket stubs on your behalf; once your payment is made, the completed tickets shall be allocated to the draw.

Contacts:

- Michael Banks: 07584177456
- Denis & Derek Horton, any day after 2pm: 01656 731767
- Maria Davies: 07779532212
- Maria Kelly Harris: 07964965152
- Collette: 07702023565

We look forward to hearing from you and to helping us to make our Christmas Grand Raffle one of the best ever.

NB: Watch this space for details to come for an open-air, socially distanced event in the grounds of our church during Advent, in preparation for Christmas.

CAFOD: Thanks to our Primary School children and staff for raising £250.82 for the Harvest Family Fast Day Coronavirus Appeal; in total £593.12 will be sent from the Parish to CAFOD, in addition to donations made online and by text.

ST MARY & ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2021: The school admissions process for September 2021 intake is now open; for further information and application form please ring the School 01656 815585.

FINANCE MAESTEG PARISH: (Income received 18th October)

Gift Aid £195.50; Planned Giving/Loose £260.00; Donation Funeral £100, Red Bricks £4.91, Restoration £248.30, Standing Orders September £1199. **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.*

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.*

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/>

CORONAVIRUS FIREBREAK LOCKDOWN: As Wales is in a Coronavirus firebreak lockdown from 6pm Friday, October 23rd until Monday, November 9th, **OUR PARISH CHURCHES** will not be open for parishioners during this period.

- Father Edmund will continue to celebrate Holy Mass privately for intentions received.
- The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.
- Mass will continue to be broadcast online each day at various locations, information below:

SUNDAY AND DAILY MASS:

Live stream Masses available on “YOU TUBE” click on home page of Websites for:
St Mary’s Bridgend, (Fr Tim McGrath); St Mary & All Saints, Stowhill, Newport (Fr Michael Doyle);
St Teilo’s, Whitchurch, Cardiff, 10 am (Canon William Isaac)

Telephone 01633 982483 for a 10-15minute period of prayer and reflection relating to the Sunday readings.

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.

Also available: “schedule of all live services throughout each week on “Church Services.tv”

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.