



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, YEAR A, SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you,

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: Though already present in his Church, Christ's reign is nevertheless yet to be fulfilled "with power and great glory" by the King's return to earth. This reign is still under attack by the evil powers, even though they have been defeated definitively by Christ's Passover. Until everything is subject to him, "until there be realized new heavens and a new earth in which justice dwells, the pilgrim Church, in her sacraments and institutions, which belong to this present age, carries the mark of this world which will pass, and she herself takes her place among the creatures which groan and travail yet and await the revelation of the sons of God." That is why Christians pray, above all in the Eucharist, to hasten Christ's return by saying to him: *Marana tha!* "Our Lord, come!" (CCC 671)

Beloved, the feast of Christ the King celebrates God's love and justice revealed in Christ Jesus' sovereignty over all creation; in the fact that all things were created through Him, all things were redeemed through Him, and all peoples will be judged by him as a true shepherd. In the first reading, God is presented as a shepherd who cares for each of His sheep. He seeks each out, knows each by name, strengthens, heals and bandages the wounded. Christ the good shepherd deepens this understanding in the story of the shepherd who seeks out the one lost sheep and carries it home on His shoulders. To this story of God's love, we are called to respond and follow in discipleship.

The Story of the last judgement in the Gospel is a reminder that we are called to take responsibility for our lives and the commandments of love is the invitation to be followed. God does not reject us, but in freedom we have the possibility of rejecting God and His invitation to love. Through our actions we determine how God will judge us. "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto me".

Christ the King presents an image of humble love and service to others. God knows our weakness and need for healing but invites us out of our brokenness to be close to those who are weakest in society. It is important to recognise the need to be compassionate to others as the Lord is to us.

At the end of the liturgical year as we prepare for Advent, we are called to take stock of our lives and recognise the action of God's grace in shepherding us throughout the past year. Let us thank God for the way we have responded to the needs of those who are poor and weak. And in times when selfishness and carelessness has dominated our lives, let us repent and ask for God's healing, forgiveness and restoration to new life in Christ the King of the Universe.

On this Feast of Christ the King, we are called to recognise and celebrate God's love, which extends to the ends of the earth in praise and thanksgiving to Him who rescues us from the kingdom of darkness and brings us to the Kingdom of light and love. God love you!

United in prayer.

SACRAMENT: Let us pray for **FFION OLIVIA BISHOP** who will be Baptised on Saturday 28th November for God's healing and divine grace for her parents who would be the first teachers of the faith to their little girl.

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD: The resurrection of the dead is key to our hope of Eternal life. Therefore, in this month of November, let us continue to pray for our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of the Cross. Let us light candles in their memory and where possible visit their graves. Be assured that Holy Masses will be celebrated throughout the Month for those whose names are given on our November dead list. **Blessing of Graves:** It is a tradition in our Parishes to visit the Cemeteries in November to bless the graves. However, with restrictions in numbers brought about by the Pandemic, I will be available by appointment and upon request by any Parishioner who wishes me to accompany them to Bless the graves of their loved ones. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. God Love them.*

MASS INTENTIONS: *I will continue 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, give your intention to the Stewards when you come to Church; post through the Presbytery letter box; send by post to The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY; telephone the Parish number 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 OR e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org*



'The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God remains forever.' (Isaiah 40:8)



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, YEAR A SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2020
HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (*Restrictions apply*)

9am: Louise Ann Patricia RIP (Kf)

11am: Mary Paget RIP (R&BJ)

5 pm: Margaret Whitty RIP (LR&f)

(At all Masses we pray for the Faithful departed and deceased relatives and friends listed in November Dead Lists)

Monday: 23rd November: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Wk 34

Private Mass: David & Christine Lambert RIP

Deceased on the November Dead Lists

Tuesday: 24th November: St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Peter Catt RIP (L,S&P) Dante Ascari RIP (AA)

Deceased on the November Dead Lists

Wednesday: 25th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Wk 34

11.30 am: REQUIEM MASS FATHER MICHAEL PATRICK RONAN RIP

Celebrant: His Grace Archbishop George Stack

Thursday: 26th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Wk 34

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Ernie Pratt RIP (TW) Paul & Jackie Waters RIP (SW)

Deceased on the November Dead Lists

Friday: 27th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year II, Wk 34

Private Mass: Private Intention Deceased on the November Dead Lists

We pray for Archbishop George and all Clergy & Religious Men and Women

Saturday: 28th November: Votive Memorial of Our Lady

Private Mass: David Treharne RIP (CT) Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

Deceased on the November Dead Lists

(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (*Restrictions apply*)

VIGIL MASS 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father Dewi Davies RIP (BL)

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

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29TH NOVEMBER 2020

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

9am: Father Michael Ronan RIP (M&f)

11am: Wayne Tanner RIP (CT) Edward Scourfield RIP (CBE)

5 pm: Arthur & Gwen Richards RIP (CW)

**At all Masses we pray for the Faithful departed
and deceased relatives and friends listed in November Dead Lists**

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the soul of FR. MICHAEL PATRICK RONAN who died on Monday 2nd November. His requiem will be on Wednesday, 25th November at 11.30 am at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg (*Restricted - family*); followed by service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15 pm (*Restricted - family*). The service at Coychurch Crematorium will be available on Webcast on Wednesday, 25th November 2020 at 1.15 pm; login details are as follows and available on our Website "News Tab": <https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> Login / Order ID: 56529 Password: takzfazb

**Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the entire bereaved family.
(*Instead of flowers, the family would like donations to be made to Ty Hafan.*)**

Let us pray also for the repose of the souls of **FR. AMBROSE WALSH** who died on Tuesday 12th November. His requiem will be on Friday 27th November at 12.30pm at St. Mary's Canton, Cardiff, followed by Cremation at Thorn Hill Crematorium at 2.15pm. and **BERNARD JAMES McCORMACK**, who died on Wednesday 11th November. His funeral service will take place on Monday 7th December at 10am at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, followed by interment at Maesteg Cemetery at 11am. And for **WILLIAM JOHN OHARA** who died on Tuesday 12th November. His funeral service will take place at Rosemount Funeral Home on Monday 30th November at 1pm followed by interment at Bridgend Cemetery at 2pm.

May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.

Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families.

WE PRAY FOR:

- His holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop George, all clergy & men/women of Religious Orders
- an end to the Pandemic and for our parishioners and all who work in the hospitals/care homes and our frontline workers, as pressure is on them once again
- the faithful departed parishioners, family, friends and those who have died from the Pandemic; family and friends on the November Dead list; may they rest in peace
- the sick at home/hospital and housebound of our Parishes, our friends, relatives, neighbours, fellow Parishioners and those who are suffering with Coronavirus;
- our pupils, teachers and staff of our Schools and our students who are at Universities, during this continued difficult time of the pandemic.

Prayer in the midst of the Covid Pandemic: This week's prayer reminds us of the importance of faith in the Lord Jesus during these times, which are challenging and difficult for many people.

"Lord Jesus, Just as You journeyed alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, be alongside us as we journey through these dark times. Help us to reflect and find comfort from the comforting words of the Bible where divine love, mercy and justice are ever present. We remember all those whose lives have been touched by the Covid virus. May Your loving kindness keep them close to You. Inspire us with Your message of hope in the Resurrection, as we seek to keep ourselves and those who are close to us safe and well in these challenging times. We ask this prayer in your name's sake. Amen."

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

WEDNESDAY 10 am and SATURDAY 5.00pm (Vigil Mass at St. Robert's Church)

Telephone: Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

- Conditions of attendance remain unchanged
- The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended
- Online or phone Mass are valid alternatives and remain available; refer to previous Newsletter

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.

SVP APPEAL: Due to the Pandemic there are more families than ever who are struggling. If you, or anyone you know, wish to kindly donate to the SVP to help needy families this Christmas, please place your donation in an envelope marked SVP and either place in the basket at the back of our Church or post to SVP Society, The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY. Many thanks.

FINANCE: MAESTEG: (Income received 15th November)

Gift Aid £683.00; Planned Giving/Loose £277.10; (Retiring Maintenance/Restoration) £347.40;

Bricks £10.20; Standing Orders October £949.00. **ABERKENFIG:** Offertory and other collections £585.

I sincerely thank parishioners who have continued to support our Parishes financially during these difficult months.

The Bishop's Christmas Prayer Tree "For the Over 70's"

In the first week of Advent, we shall be setting up a '*Christmas Prayer Tree*' on the lawn, in front of the presbytery, where we invite you to come along to help to dress the tree by adding your personal Christmas Prayer, which if you wish, can be attached to a Christmas bauble. Similar to the *Bishop's Garden Party*, the event shall be sponsored by the Archbishop. The dressing of the tree shall take place in the afternoon of the 5th December, weather permitting, where we shall be serving Mulled Wine, warm mince pies, and other festive foods to lift your spirits and to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Who knows, there might even be a surprise for you under the tree!

This is once again an opportunity for you to come out to meet friends and parishioners, spending an hour in a safe, controlled environment, following 'Social Distancing' regulations. We shall be following the same successful procedures we adopted for the Bishop's Garden Party. Numbers are restricted, but if interest exceeds the limit, then we shall hold more than one event through Advent. If you would like to join us, please register and confirm your intention to attend our outdoor Christmas Tree decoration party, with any of the following people:-

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



Further details to follow.

Grand Christmas Raffle 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.



Dear Parishioners

Sincere thanks for responding to our request to participate in the 'Grand Christmas Raffle 2020'. Tickets are still available at all Masses. With '*COVID*' still affecting many, you can still access tickets by contacting the following people, where we can drop off tickets securely and safely to your home, or 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.

PIETY SHOP: Open and available for Christmas cards/items. For those unable to attend Church, Maria is available to take orders and arrange delivery; please contact her on mobile number 07964 965152 or e-mail mkelhar@aol.com