



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

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

## **MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners

May the Grace, Peace and Joy from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: “The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the "First Covenant". He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.” (CCC 522)

Beloved, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight. It is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the first coming of Christ, the Son of God, to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time, when by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful are called to renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

Brothers and Sisters, to stay awake and keep watch for the coming of Christ, let us keep building ourselves on our Most Sacred Faith given to us by the Apostles through Divine Revelation (Sacred Scripture and Teachings of the Church) and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and keep ourselves in the love of God. Let us live sober, upright and godly lives in the world; and be concern for one another, encouraging one another to show love and do good, as we await the blessed day for which we hope, when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ will appear in His Mercy to give us eternal life.

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and bring you faultless and joyful before His glorious presence - to the only God our saviour, through Jesus Christ Our Lord be all Glory, Majesty, might, and authority, from ages past, and now, and forever and ever! Amen.

United in Prayer, I wish you and all your families and friends a fruitful Season of Advent that leads to a joyful and glorious coming of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

God love you.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

FR. Edmund would be available on Fridays from 1.00pm – 6.00pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick's Church, Maesteg, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions) by appointment only. To book in advance of confession please telephone the mobile number 07964366710 or send a text message and wait for response before you attend. Thank you.

Let us continue to pray for **FFION OLIVIA BISHOP** who celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism yesterday for God's healing and divine grace and for her parents who will be the first teachers of the faith to their little girl.

**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](mailto:maesteg@rcadc.org)*



O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.



**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29<sup>TH</sup> 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)**

**Monday: 30<sup>th</sup> November: St Andrew Apostle, Patron Saint of Scotland**

***Private Mass: Special Intention (F&F). Deceased on the November Dead Lists***

**Tuesday: 1<sup>st</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent**

**10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Margaret & Will Lambert *RIP* (ML) Ann & James Keane *RIP* (CE&f)**

**Wednesday: 2<sup>nd</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent**

**10 am: Holy Mass at St. Roberts (*Restrictions apply*):**

**Bernard Bolger *RIP* (MMcD&f)**

**Thursday: 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Francis Xavier, Priest**

**10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Members of the Dwyer & Crowley Families *RIP* (MD)**

**Friday: 4<sup>th</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent**

***Private Mass: Nelli Thomas *RIP* (CT) David & Christine Lambert *RIP* (TW) Johanna Evans *RIP* (TW)***

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

**Saturday: 5<sup>th</sup> December: 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent**

***Private Mass: Thanksgiving 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary - Pat & John O'Brien.***

***Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)***

**(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)**

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

**VIGIL MASS 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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

**9am: Colin Furlong *RIP* (EF)**

**11am: Thanksgiving 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary - Pat & John O'Brien**

**5 pm: Kathryn Richards *RIP* (GBG)**

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the repose of the souls of **BERNARD JAMES McCORMACK**, who died on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. His funeral service will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10am at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, followed by interment at Maesteg Cemetery at 11am; for **WILLIAM JOHN OHARA** who died on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. His funeral service will take place at Rosemount Funeral Home on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm followed by interment at Bridgend Cemetery at 2pm; and for **HAZEL MAUREEN MONTGOMERY** who died on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November. Her funeral service will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Also, let us pray for **MICHAEL DAVIES** who died Yesterday. God Love Them.

**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.

### **CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE :**

The 'obligation' to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation remains suspended during the pandemic. We know that many of you will wish to attend Mass at Christmas. There is still a lot of uncertainty as to what Christmas will look like this year, but what we can be certain is that the Covid-19 measures in place at places of worship will still be in force. This week Archbishop George wrote to the clergy of the Diocese to reassure Parishioners that you will all have a chance to celebrate Christmas in the presence of the Lord.

THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE is the first full week of the Christmas Season and to quote the Archbishop "Each day is referred to as if it were still Christmas Day". Christmas Mass Times will be announced shortly, once guidance from the Archdiocese and Welsh Government guidelines are known. Sadly, this will be a very difficult Christmas for many and very different to what we are used to. Let us continue to pray that in 2021 this pandemic will cease to have such a hold over our lives, normality can be resumed and the doors to our Churches once again be open. Take care, stay safe. God Bless. Father Edmund.

**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 22<sup>ND</sup> November)

Gift Aid £395.50; Planned Giving/Loose £152.40; (Retiring Maintenance) £120.80;

Bricks £21.00; 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.

**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](mailto:mkelhar@aol.com)



## **THE BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE** **FOR THE OVER 70s.**

Thank you to everyone who has registered their intentions to attend 'The Bishop's Christmas Prayer Tree Lighting' on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, the response has been rewarding. Plans are well under way to make our '*socially distancing celebration*' a memorable occasion, which shall include mulled wine, mince, pies, a savoury, tea and coffee. Over the next few days each of you who have registered to attend the party shall receive a short letter to inform you of how we

shall co-ordinate the event in line with Government Guidelines, to ensure you safety, wellbeing and enjoyment.

There are just a few spaces available for anyone who may be interested in attending the garden party. Please contact any of the following:

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

We ask you all to pray for good weather for the day and for the safe keeping of all in our parish in these troublesome times.

**To all parishioners, after the 5<sup>th</sup> December, you are invited to add your own prayer card/letter to the tree as we lead up to the glorious celebration of Christmas. The location of the tree shall be confirmed next week.**

**Grand Christmas Raffle** : Sincere thanks for responding to our request to participate in the 'Grand Christmas Raffle 2020'. Tickets are still available at Masses. **TICKETS TO BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. DRAW TAKES PLACE ON TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**

**300 PLUS CLUB NOVEMBER:** 1st David Treharne 352 £50.00; 2nd Ann Kehoe 89 £30.00;

3rd Barry Greilly 171 £20.00; 4th Paul Grady 206 £10.00. Cheques have been sent to the winners. Thanks to Michael Banks for arranging the Draw, with his colleagues at work as witnesses.

**ABERKENFIG 100 CLUB MAR 2020:** 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mrs A Merchant 105; 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mrs J Ennis 144; 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mrs P Pritchard 32

**CHILDRENS' LITURGY:** Mission Together are aware that due to covid restrictions our children are not able to attend school mass, clergy are not going into schools and Volunteers are not able to provide Mission Together Assemblies. In order to support the children's faith Mission Together has put the following on their website - Sunday activity sheets, Advent Calendar, Advent Liturgy and Activity, Christmas crib Liturgy and Blessing. Please go to [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk) to download and help support our children's faith.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE – CATHOLIC EDUCATION:** It is NOT too late to act to save Catholic Education The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill currently progressing through the Senedd will have a detrimental impact on Catholic schools and Catholic families across Wales. This Bill seeks to end the rights of parents to withdraw their children from Relationship and Sex Education and Religious Education. This is a vital right for parents, especially Catholic parents who can't send their children to a Catholic school, as it ensures these sensitive subjects can be delivered in line with Church teaching. We are asking that people write to their Members of the Senedd to ask them to halt these changes. If you visit the website link below it will produce a template letter for your Member of the Senedd. All you need to do is type in your name, address and email and click submit.

<http://catholiceducation.org.uk/welshparents>

We need Members of the Senedd to know how serious an issue this is for the Catholic community, so please take part in this campaign and share this with friends and family.”