



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

Telephone: 01656 733282 Parish Mobile 07964 366710

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

Parish e-mail: maesteg@rcadc.org Registered Charity 1177272

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) 13th DECEMBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice! For the Lord our God is near!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: “The prophetic texts that directly concern the sending of the Holy Spirit are oracles by which God speaks to the heart of his people in the language of the promise, with the accents of "love and fidelity." St. Peter will proclaim their fulfillment on the morning of Pentecost. According to these promises, at the "end time" the Lord's Spirit will renew the hearts of men, engraving a new law in them. He will gather and reconcile the scattered and divided peoples; he will transform the first creation, and God will dwell there with men in peace.” (CCC 715)

Beloved, the prophecy of Isaiah in our First Reading of today was quoted by Christ Jesus in the Temple when he began His public ministry, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord God has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor...”, whereupon He stated that, “Today this prophecy is fulfilled in your hearing”, indicating that He is the promised Messiah. The title “Christ” means the “Anointed one”, which indicates the fullness of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

My dear people of God, as Israel as a whole was chosen by God to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, so also in Christ, through our Baptism, we are all called to enjoy a share in the priesthood of Christ called the common priesthood of the Faithful, so that we can bring the good news of Christ to all nations.

Today in our Responsorial Psalm, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, let our souls proclaim the greatness of God for making us share in the common priesthood of Christ and let our Spirit rejoice in Christ Jesus Our Saviour, for He has done great things for us that we shall be called Children of God and that is what we are.

John the baptise gave testimony to the light but he was not the light. In the wisdom of God, by the gift of our Baptism and Confirmation, we have been made sharers in the Kingdom of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Therefore, Christ tell us “You are the light of the world” “let your light shine that all may see and give glory to God”.

Brothers and sisters, let us rejoice in the Lord always, for the true light which gives light to everyone has come to us through His Word and Sacrament. Let us rejoice heartily in the Lord for He has cloth us with the garment of Salvation, that we may be one with Him in Spirit to bring glad tidings to the poor and to proclaim His Love and mercy to all peoples.

Stay forever blessed and remain in God’s love and care. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice! God Love you all.

United in prayers!

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*



"In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him." John 1:1-3

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13th December 2020 (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

Psalter Week 3; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

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

9am: Emma Olive & Peter Anthony Walsh RIP (A&S&f)

11am: Edward, Ellen, Brian, Peter & Buckley family RIP (M&f)

5 pm: Sinnott Family RIP (CW) Fr. Michael Ronan (M&A B)

Monday: 14th December: St John of the Cross Priest and Doctor of the Church

Private Mass: Michael Davies RIP (F&VK) Private Intention

Tuesday: 15th December: 3rd Week of Advent

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Hazel Maureen Montgomery RIP Kathleen Donnelly RIP (P&CD)

12.30 pm FUNERAL SERVICE - Hazel Maureen Montgomery RIP

Wednesday: 16th December: 3rd Week of Advent

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

Andrew Minty RIP & Teresa Jones RIP (WE)

Thursday: 17th December: 3rd Week of Advent

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Daniel Price RIP (P&CD) Fr. Michael Ronan RIP (RB)

Friday: 18th December: 3rd Week of Advent

Private Mass: Bernard Bolger RIP (J&MB)

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

Saturday: 19th December: 3rd Week of Advent

Private Mass: Tom & Elizabeth Bumford RIP (R&P) Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 4; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

VIGIL MASS 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 20th December 2020

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

9am: Deceased Members of Petty & Hogan Families RIP (AP)

11am: Lynn Daniel & Matthew Morgan RIP (M&L)

5 pm: Richards Family Private Intention & Gwen, Nellie & Doris RIP (CW)

THIS WEEK BOOK IN ADVANCE FOR MASS by telephoning the following Stewards.

Please do not attend if not booked as we do not want to turn people away at the door.

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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Thursday 24th December: Christmas Vigil Masses

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 5 pm

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 7 pm & 9 pm

Friday 25th December: Christmas Day Masses

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 9 am

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 11 am

Sunday 27th December:

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 9 am, 11am & 5 pm

Saturday 26th December: St Stephen

Maesteg: No Morning Mass

VIGIL MASS St Robert's Aberkenfig: 5 pm

CHRISTMAS VIGIL AND DAY MASSES ARE NOW FULL. Please Note: Only those who have received confirmation of bookings from the Stewards are able to attend. **Please do not attend if not booked as we do not want to turn people away at the door.** We apologise to those who wanted to attend and whom we were unable to accommodate, as we have to limit numbers to ensure social distancing. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has asked us to remind all Catholics that in the Church's tradition, the celebration of Christmas Day is so important that it extends for the whole of the Christmas Octave. In the Church's liturgy, each day of the Octave is treated as if it is still Christmas Day, so those who were unable to be accommodated, will have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas on Saturday 26th Vigil (Aberkenfig), Sunday Masses 27th, and Weekday Masses celebrated until 1st January 2021.

Please advise the following Stewards if you are unable to attend Christmas Masses due to coronavirus symptoms or illness, as there are people on the stand-by lists who will be able to take your place.

Aberkenfig: December 24th Vigil Mass 5 pm & Christmas Day Mass 11 am - Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm)

Maesteg: December 24th Vigil Mass 7 pm - Collette 07702023565

Vigil Mass 9 pm - Michelle 07488322929

Maesteg: December 25th Christmas Day Mass 9 am - Michelle 07488322929

Aberkenfig: December 26th Vigil Mass: Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm)

Maesteg: December 27th Sunday Masses: 9 am - Maria 07964965152

11 am - Collette on 07702023565 5 pm - Michelle 07488322929

By registering to attend Mass (restrictions still apply):

- you confirm you to not show any symptoms of Coronavirus and should you develop symptoms before the service, you will NOT attend.
- Face masks must be worn in Church
- Hand sanitiser is available as you enter the Church
- 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 refrain from talking to your friends who are not part of your household
- No congregational singing is allowed at Mass and any responses should be made in a low tone, as singing and loud voices have been shown to spread the virus further
- 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
- Once Mass has ended please leave the Church promptly and disperse
- The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses 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 *Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience or distress these regulations may cause.*

They are a requirement to enable public worship to take place.

Let us all 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.

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.

CELEBRATING THE WONDERFUL SEASON OF CHRISTMAS: Christmas is going to be very different this year for many people, but the love, peace and joy that the infant Christ brings remains. His Grace Archbishop George has circulated to all clergy and parishes a guide to help us to reflect upon how we can celebrate Christmas in this time of social distancing, limited numbers at Church and limited family members at home. **The guide is available on our Parish Website, click on the “News Tab”.**

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls **HAZEL MAUREEN MONTGOMERY** who died on Saturday, 21st November. Her funeral service will take place on Tuesday 15th 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, PAUL SUTTON AND CHRISTINA BISAGNI**, who died recently. 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; may they rest in peace
- the sick at home/hospital and housebound of our Parishes, the homeless, 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.

Act of Spiritual Communion St Alphonsus Liguori: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come 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.

Prayer in the midst of the Covid Pandemic:

“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.”

FINANCE: MAESTEG: (Income received 6th December) Gift Aid £289.50; Planned Giving/Loose £386.70; SVP £175.00; Retiring £152.10. Standing Orders November £899.

ABERKENFIG: November Income: £1315.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE CLERGY: Envelopes are available for our Christmas offering to the Parish Clergy. There is no obligation attached to this, please give freely. Your offering will be very much appreciated. Collection will be taken at all Christmas Masses in both our Parishes. Thank you.

I sincerely thank parishioners who have continued to support our Parishes financially during these difficult months. May God abundantly bless you and multiply your generosity a hundredfold. God Love you!

PIETY SHOP: Open and available for Christmas cards/items.

RED GRAVE CANDLES AVAILABLE AT BOTH CHURCHES, £3 EACH.

MAESTEG 300 CLUB DECEMBER: Draw taken on 5th December at the Church by Parish Stewards. 1st John Summers 114 - £500; 2nd Lucas Jordan 105 - £250; 3rd Paul Williams 312 - £100; 4th Gaynor O’Neil 226 - £10.00. Cheques have been sent to the winners.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS: Draw taken on 8th December at the Church by Parishioners 1st £100 - 01086 Anna Jordan; 2nd Festive Food Hamper - 00203 Elijah MKH; 3rd Wine Collection - 00686 Tina Evans, 4th Bishop’s Christmas Hamper - 00909 Cheryl Davies; 5th Mulled Wine - 01621 Mary McDonnell.

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported.