



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

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20th DECEMBER 2020 – 3RD JANUARY 2021

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly beloved parishioners,

May the Lord God pour forth His grace into our hearts that we may be made worthy to embrace His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, that His blessings and favours may find acceptance in our homes and families this Christmas and remain with us in the Year 2012.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "Mary's prayer is revealed to us at the dawning of the fullness of time. Before the incarnation of the Son of God, and before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, her prayer cooperates in a unique way with the Father's plan of loving kindness: at the Annunciation, for Christ's conception; at Pentecost, for the formation of the Church, his Body. In the faith of His humble handmaid, the Gift of God found the acceptance he had awaited from the beginning of time. She whom the Almighty made "full of grace" responds by offering her whole being: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word." "Fiat": this is Christian prayer: to be wholly God's, because he is wholly ours." (CCC 2617)

My dear People of God, the year gone by may have had many challenges for us as individuals, families, parishes, nation and of course the world with this pandemic, but we can still look forward with new hope and strength with the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, this Christmas and joyfully expect God's promises and purpose which is always for our good, prosperity and welfare to be fulfilled in the New Year 2021.

As we approach the end of the year 2020, I will like to render my sincere thanks to everyone who has made me smile during this difficult year, and to all who have challenged and helped my faith to grow in total dependence and trust in Divine providence. To all our stewards, without them it would not have been possible to open our churches for Mass over the past months and to our volunteers who help to sanitise and clean the Church to keep it covid safe, I say thank you very much and God bless you. To all those who have kept all the many other tasks under control in order to keep both our Parishes functioning – taking care of the website, newsletters, events and finances; those caring for and staying in touch with the housebound/shielding and the sick, may you be rewarded accordingly and favoured by the Lord. As a Church, I pray that we will all continue to help each other along the way to salvation.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, join me in praying that the Year 2021 may be a joyful year for us all; a year trusting in the power of God's love and providence; a year of growth in grace and holiness, that each one of us may become the best version of ourselves, in the service of God, for our good and the good of all His Holy Church.

With every Spiritual Blessing I wish you, your families and loved ones a Happy and Holy Christmas and Spirit Filled New Year 2021; and I commit you to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary. God Love You!

United in Prayer!



"The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14



**(Psalter Week 4; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
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)

Monday: 21st December: St John of the Cross Priest and Doctor of the Church
Private Mass: John Kehoe RIP (KK) Father Michael Ronan RIP (KK)

Tuesday: 22nd December: 4th Week of Advent
10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Special Intention for the People of Scotland (SG) Private Intention

Wednesday: 23rd December: 4th Week of Advent
10 am: Holy Mass at St. Roberts (*Restrictions apply*): Cristina Bisagni RIP (CW)

CHRISTMASTIDE

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Thursday 24th December: CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES

- St Robert's Aberkenfig:**
5pm Angelo Rossetti RIP (KR)
Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg:
7pm Mary & Ron, Irene & Aidan, Cristina Bisagni RIP (MTB)
9pm Elizabeth & James Banks RIP (MB)



Friday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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| Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: | St Robert's Aberkenfig: |
| 9am Louise Ann Patricia, Lloyd & Theresa, Paola, Alex & Bethan | 11 am Took Family (CT) People of our Parishes/ NHS/Care Home' Staff & frontline workers/volunteers |

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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| <u>Saturday 26th December:</u> | <u>Sunday 27th December:</u> |
| VIGIL MASS St Robert's Aberkenfig: | Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: |
| 5 pm Father John Meredith RIP (M&f) | 9 am Ralph & Winnie Cornish RIP (MB&f) |
| Lewis Family People of our Parishes/ NHS/Care Home' Staff & frontline workers/volunteers | 11 am Mal Hughes/Margaret & Tom Maloney RIP (PH) |
| | 5 pm Bob McGee RIP (A&JB) |

Please advise the relevant Stewards if you are unable to attend Christmas Masses due to coronavirus symptoms or illness, as there are parishioners on the stand-by lists; also to reserve a place at the following Masses:

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| Aberkenfig: December 24th | Vigil Mass 5 pm - 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 25th | Christmas Day Mass 11 am - Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm) |
| Aberkenfig: December 26th | Vigil Mass 5 pm: Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm) |
| Maesteg: December 27th | Sunday Masses: 9 am - Maria 07964965152 |
| | 11 am - Collette 07702023565 5 pm - Michelle 07488322929 |
| Maesteg: December 29th | 10 am Maria 07964965152 |
| Aberkenfig: December 30th | 10 am Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm) |
| Maesteg: December 31st | 9 am Collette 07702023565 |

MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (SOLEMNITY)

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| Maesteg: December 31st | VIGIL MASS 11 pm Michelle 07488322929 |
| Maesteg: January 1st | HOLY MASS 11 am Michelle 07488322929 |
| Aberkenfig: January 2nd | Saturday Vigil Mass Aberkenfig 5 pm Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm) |
| Maesteg: January 3rd | SUNDAY MASSES 9am Maria 07964965152 |
| | 11am Collette on 07702023565 5pm Michelle 07488322929 |

Monday: 28th December: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Private Mass: Brian Maddock RIP (A&R) Private Intention

Tuesday: 29th December: Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas

10 am: (Restrictions apply): Mike Davies RIP (TW) Cristina Bisagni RIP (R&BJ)

Wednesday: 30th December: Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

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

Thursday: 31st December: Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas

9 am (Restrictions apply): Jackie & Paul Waters RIP (SW) David Samuel Morris RIP

10 am Funeral Service David Samuel Morris RIP (Family only) followed by interment Maesteg Cemetery

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (SOLEMNITY)

Thursday evening, 31st December, VIGIL MASS 11 pm:

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

Friday morning, 1st January 2021, HOLY MASS 11 am:

Maureen Montgomery RIP (EF) John, Julia & Rowlands family RIP (MB)

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

Saturday: 2nd January: Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

Private Mass: Maureen & Jack Jenkins RIP (C&TJ) Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

VIGIL MASS 2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Saturday 5 pm ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply) John Lowe RIP (KL)

2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 3rd January 2021

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

9am: Cristina Bisagni RIP (MB&f)

11am: Patrick, Janet & Michael Butler RIP

**5 pm: People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS, Care Home' Staff and frontline workers/volunteers**

CHRISTMAS MASSES ARE 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. The Bishops' Conference also confirm that the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains suspended. So please do not feel under any pressure to attend Church. *Please everyone take care and be safe.*

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 10 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
- 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
- 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.

CELEBRATING THE WONDERFUL SEASON OF CHRISTMAS GUIDE available on our Parish Website, click on the “News Tab”.

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls of DAVID SAMUEL MORRIS whose Funeral Service will take place on Thursday 31st December, MICHAEL DAVIES whose Requiem Mass will take place on 6th January 2012, at Our Lady & St. Patrick, PAUL SUTTON AND CRISTINA 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, those who are affected by and suffering with Coronavirus, the homeless, our friends, relatives, neighbours, fellow Parishioners
- our young people & students, Headteachers, Teachers, Staff & Governors of our Schools

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 13th December) Gift Aid £281.30; Planned Giving/Loose £85.80; Bricks £5; Funeral Donation £100; Retiring (Christmas Flowers) £118.60; Standing Orders November £899. **ABERKENFIG:** November Income: £1315.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE CLERGY: Envelopes are available for your Christmas offering to the Parish Clergy. There is no obligation attached to this, please give freely. Thank you. Your offering will be very much appreciated. Collection will be taken at all Christmas Masses in both our Parishes. If you are unable to attend Mass, cheques can be made payable and posted to Father Edmund at The Presbytery at Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY, or posted through the Presbytery letter box. You can also make your offering by a credit transfer to the parish bank account Our Lady & St Patrick’s Parish account no. 43706869, sort code: 20-18-23 or St Robert’s Parish account no. 73394867, sort code 20-18-23. 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.

*Let us give thanks to God for this great Love and Mercy has no end.
May God richly bless you. Stay safe and remain in God’s love and care.*

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A SPIRIT FILLED NEW YEAR 2021