



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. . . . Behold, the Lamb of God." (CCC 719)

Beloved, John the Baptist is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the preacher in the wilderness, calling people to prepare the way of the Lord. John is considered the last and the greatest of the prophets. His austere life of prayer and penance made him a strong witness to the Lord's coming. He, however, considered himself unworthy even to be associated with the Messiah. Although John's Baptism was "of repentance" rather than sacramental, it called people to conversion and pointed to the definitive Baptism from Christ, which would forgive sin through the power of Holy Spirit.

My dear people of God, the salvation and glory of God was made known to all peoples when John baptised the Christ in the Jordan; the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the appearance of a dove; and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Beloved Son; Listen to Him!"

Brothers and sisters, the Voice orders for a way to be prepared for the Word of God, and the pathless and rugged waste-lands levelled, so that at His coming, our God might find the road clear for His advance. "Prepare the way of the Lord"; this is the Gospel preaching, the new consolation, the ardent desire that the salvation of God come to the knowledge of all mankind.

In this season of Advent, let us open ourselves up to the Word of God and prayer in the Holy Spirit; and desire that the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ may find us ready to go and proclaim the Good News of God's Salvation, with peace and joy in the Holy Spirit to all mankind in faith and Charity.

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!

***"To fall in Love with God is the Greatest Romance; to seek Him, the Greatest Adventure; to find Him, the Greatest Human Achievement."***

*(St. Augustine of Hippo)*

**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)



"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to give the good news to the poor."  
(Lk 4:18)



**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)**

**Monday: 7<sup>th</sup> December: St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**10 am: Funeral Service Bernard James McCormack RIP**

**Private Mass: Bernard James McCormack RIP Private Intention**

**Tuesday: 8<sup>th</sup> December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**10 am: (Restrictions apply): Pope's Intention (SVP) Dante Ascari RIP (AA)**

**Wednesday: 9<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**

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

**Father Michael Ronan RIP (35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination) MD&f**

**Bev Howe RIP (KH)**

**Thursday: 10<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**

**10 am (Restrictions apply): Nancy & Terry Hayes RIP (PT&S) Fr. Michael Ronan RIP (PB)**

**Friday: 11<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**

**Private Mass: David & Christine Lambert RIP (A&R)**

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

**Saturday: 12<sup>th</sup> December: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent**

**Private Mass: Albert and Connie RIP (C&P) Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)**

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

**VIGIL MASS 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**

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

**Rev Father John Owen RIP (Anniversary)**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13th December 2020 (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**

**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)**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Vigil Masses

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 5 pm

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

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day Masses

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 9 am

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 11 am

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December:

#### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December: St Stephen

Maesteg: No Morning Mass

VIGIL MASS St Robert's Aberkenfig: 5 pm

Bookings for Christmas Masses can be made from Monday 7th December by telephoning the following Stewards:

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

Maesteg: December 24<sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass 7 pm - Collette 07702023565

Vigil Mass 9 pm - Michelle 07488322929

Maesteg: December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Mass 9 am - Michelle 07488322929

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December VIGIL MASS Aberkenfig: Bill Ennis 724855 (after 6.30 pm)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December Maesteg: 9 am Maria 07964965152

11 am Collette on 07702023565 5 pm Michelle 07488322929

By registering to attend Mass:

- 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 Mass 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.*

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the repose of the souls of 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 and PAUL SUTTON, 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, 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.”

**SVP APPEAL:** The SVP is so grateful for your donation of £1500. Thanks to your generosity we are able to help 58 families for Christmas. Many thanks. If you still wish to donate please place your donation in an envelope marked SVP and either place in the collection or post through the Presbytery door.

**FINANCE: MAESTEG:** (Income received 29<sup>th</sup> November)

Gift Aid £259.50; Planned Giving/Loose £405; SVP £1369; Bricks £8.30;

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)

## **ABERKENFIG 100 CLUB:**

April - 1st Mrs D Day (93) £40, 2nd Mrs C Lowe (26) £10, 3rd Mr D Riley (99) £10

May - 1st Mr D Riley (83) £40, 2nd Mrs M McDonnell (13) £10, 3rd Mrs A Hiddlestone (16) £10

June - 1st Mrs M Merchant (77) £40, 2nd N Keane (95) £10, 3rd Mrs C Took (48) £10

**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.

**MESSAGE FROM CAFOD:** Thanks for your prayers, support and generous donations throughout this difficult year. We are truly grateful that you did not forget our brothers and sisters across the world. The need this year has been huge and challenging across the world, but thanks to you we have been able to continue our international work. Through CAFOD, you have supported some of poorest communities most impacted by the virus. You have reached people in more than 33 countries, with over six million people receiving health and prevention advice and more than half a million people receiving safe hygiene supplies and services to prevent and reduce infection. Many more poor and vulnerable families have been supported with food supplies when there was no way to earn a living in the face of lockdown.