



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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10th January 2021

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

Praise the Lord! Now and forever!!

May the Peace and Joy of Christ Jesus be with you all.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: The baptism of Jesus is on his part the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant. He allows himself to be numbered among sinners; he is already "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Already he is anticipating the "baptism" of his bloody death. Already he is coming to "fulfill all righteousness", that is, he is submitting himself entirely to his Father's will: out of love he consents to this baptism of death for the remission of our sins. The Father's voice responds to the Son's acceptance, proclaiming his entire delight in his Son. The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to "rest on him". Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind. At his baptism "the heavens were opened" - the heavens that Adam's sin had closed - and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation.

Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life":

Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him; and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.

Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God. Hence by the Grace of God in our baptism we are chosen to participate in God's life in union with Christ Jesus Our Lord as "Adopted sons" through the power of the Holy Spirit which enables us to call God "Abba, Father".

My dear people of God, by the Sacrament of Baptism we are introduced into the intimate life of the Holy Trinity, and we are made heirs of the Father and joint heirs with Christ Jesus, the "Beloved Son"; we are made children of the Kingdom of God, which is the Church guided by the Holy Spirit as one Body and one Family in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

May the Blessing and Favour of God rest upon us and remain with us now and forever. Amen.

God love you all!

United in prayer!

MASS INTENTIONS: *I will continue to celebrate Mass (public with restrictions and private Mass). 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 Father Edmund, The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY; telephone the Parish 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 or e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org*



'The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour' (Psalm 28:9-10)



(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
VIGIL MASS THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9th January 2021
Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (*Restrictions apply*)

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 10th January 2021
HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (*Restrictions apply*)

9am: Matthew Morgan *RIP (L&AM)*

11am: Mary Candlish (Birthday) *RIP (TC)*

5 pm: June Hawker *RIP (CW)*

Monday: 11th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 1

Private Mass: Paul Sutton *RIP (KK)* Private Intention

Tuesday: 12th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 1

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Peter & Catherine Codd *RIP (C&TJ)*

Wednesday: 13th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 1

ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG (*Restrictions apply*)

10 am: Kerry Heatley *RIP (BL)*

Thursday: 14th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 1

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Edward & Adrian Scourfield *RIP (IT)*

Friday: 15th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 1

Private Mass: Daniel & Kathleen Donnelly *RIP (ND)*

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

1 pm to 6 pm EXPOSITION and PRIVATE PRAYER (*Need to book a time-details below*)

Saturday: 16th January 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Lady

Private Mass: David Whelan *RIP (F&VK)* Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) PEACE SUNDAY
Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (*Restrictions apply*)

Bill Tipping *RIP (KL)*

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

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 17th January 2021 PEACE SUNDAY

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

9am: Mike Davies *RIP (KR)*

11am: Cristina Bisagni *RIP (L&AC)*

5 pm: Bill Heath *RIP (GBG)*

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls of DAVID WHELAN who passed on the 26th December 2020, his Funeral Service will take place on Friday 29th January 2021 at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick, and JACQUELINE WILLIAMS who passed on the 24th December 2020, her Funeral Service will take place on Monday 25th January 2021 at Our Lady & St. Patrick ELAINE KELLY, who passed on the 1st January 2021, her Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick, and TERRY MARONEY who passed recently.

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

Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Fr. Edmund would be available this Friday from 1pm - 6pm for Confessions and Spiritual Direction. Anyone who would like to see him should book an appointment directly with him on the mobile number 07964366710.

ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER

The Church will be open between 1.00 pm and 6.00pm on Fridays for Adoration and Private Prayers. Those wishing to attend should contact Collette on 07702023565 to arrange a time slot.

To attend Masses please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH:

TUESDAY 10.00am Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)
THURSDAY 10.00am Collette on 07702023565
SUNDAY: 9.00am Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)
11.00am Collette on 07702023565 5.00pm Michelle 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH

WEDNESDAY 10 am & SATURDAY Vigil Mass 5 pm - Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

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

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. *Please everyone take care and be safe.*
- 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 during 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.

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/volunteers, as great 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, those suffering with loneliness, financial difficulties, job losses due to this Pandemic
- 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 3rd January 2021)

Gift Aid £122.10; Planned Giving/Loose £100.50; Crib donations £29;
Funeral Donation £100; Retiring (Maintenance/Restoration) £119.50;
Standing Orders November £899.

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH MAESTEG 300+ Club, 2021

Dear parishioners and friends,

We are delighted to inform you that we are launching the 300+ Club memberships for 2021 over the next four weeks, from Sunday, 10th January, making the January draw in the second week of February, once we have coordinated member's interest. Given the continued heavy restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to do things differently in respect to enrolling your involvement, participation and collection for membership monies. Similar to the 2020 Grand Christmas Raffle, it is likely we shall not receive the number of membership names we have enjoyed in previous years, such as when you were able to attend Mass freely, making your payments in person, consequently, in recognition of this we shall make some adjustments to the high cash prizes for **June** and **December**, reducing them by a 1/3, in line with an anticipated 200 names, as opposed to the current 298 members, the other 10 months shall remain as is. Similarly, the membership shall remain at £1 per month, £12 for a full year. Final date for inclusion in the January draw is Sunday, 7th February.

So how shall we achieve your participation and involvement?

Envelopes will be delivered where possible with your address and 300 PLUS membership number included, which you can use to return. PLEASE NOTE AS THERE ARE SO MANY SPARE NUMBERS NOW WE HAVE AMENDED THE LIST AND THOSE WITH LATTER NUMBERS ON THE REGISTER HAVE NEW NUMBERS.

Winners' payments shall be mailed to you or dropped off to you by the fundraising team or church stewards.

1. If you are able to attend Mass, please drop off your membership payment at church where our stewards shall collect your envelope and secure them for reconciliation. If you are not able to attend Mass, but have a family member or friend who is attending Mass, please would you give your envelopes to them for drop off at church.

2. **'Click & Collect'** - Below are a list of names you can telephone to confirm your interest, where once you have confirmed your interest, we shall log your membership and one of the team shall arrange to visit you to pick up your money and to hand over to you your membership card from a safe distance.

- Michael Banks: 07584177456
- Maria Kelly-Harris: 07964965152
- Dennis & Derek Horton, after 2.00pm: 01656 731767
- Collette: 07702023565
- Linda Morgan: 07966699750
- Angela Brennan: 07572274646
- Gillian Williams 07852946337

3. **Drop Off Points** – if it is more convenient for you, you may drop off your envelopes at the following addresses:-

- Angela Brennan: 6 Turberville St, Garth, Maesteg
- Michael Banks: 38 Caerau Road, Caerau
- Maria Davies: 4 Heol Cynwyd, Llangynwed
- The Presbytery Letter Box: Monica Street, Maesteg
- Gillian Williams 40 Station Street Maesteg

As you can imagine, progressing this year's membership in line with COVID restriction shall be a challenge to say the least, but we rose to the challenge for the Grand Christmas Raffle, it worked and we did it. However, in order to simplify the process, if it is at all possible for you, could you make your payment for the full year £12, or ½ year £6. That being said, if you can only manage your payment monthly at £1, that shall be fine and we'll sort that out with you.

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to ***Our Lady & St Patrick's 300+ Club Monthly Draw, 2021.***

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2020; REALISED £1200 FOR PARISH FUNDS.