



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) (SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ Jesus be with you.

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "All Christ's faithful are to "direct their affections rightly, lest they be hindered in their pursuit of perfect charity by the use of worldly things and by an adherence to riches which is contrary to the spirit of evangelical poverty." (CCC 2545)

In our 1st Reading the prophet Jonah now in obedience to God's word preached to the people of Nineveh the intended destruction of God of their city. The entire city, led by the King, repented and called for a period of fasting. Thus, Nineveh was spared the anticipated destruction by God's mercy. This event foreshadows the positive response on the part of all peoples to Christ Jesus' call to repentance and believe in the Gospel.

My dear people of God, to repent and believe in the Gospel means a profound conversion of heart. This grace of conversion and the capacity for a life of holiness is conferred personally to each one of us in Baptism. The apostles' prompt acceptance and unconditional response to the invitation of Christ exemplifies the proper disposition to embrace discipleship. Repentance is not reserved for only the beginning of the Christian life but must be a constant disposition throughout each day of our lives.

Beloved, to be invited to come after Christ Jesus, indicate the nature of our calling to win other souls for Christ. Jonah was called to preach to the people of Nineveh and his message yielded a positive response of conversion of hearts for the good of the people. The Apostles were call to preach in the name of Christ with the aim of bringing the Gospel to all people that the word of God may bring salvation to those who believe and repent. The call of Christ to discipleship is direct and personal to each one of us. At Galilee, Jesus met Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake. Those first disciples had no idea where Jesus would lead them or how it would all end up, but they accepted the invitation, abandoned their livelihood, possessions and their family ties and followed Him.

The Word of God has the power to change all those who hear it. It is like a two-edged sword that brings joy to some and upset others. Nevertheless, Jesus invites his disciples to follow him. This is a life changing encounter that the church summarizes in the catechism, that it is the will of God that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh in the Holy Spirit (CCC 51).

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ in proclaiming the Good News invites us to reflect on the richness of the Word of God, repent and become his disciples that through us others may come to receive the grace and mercy of God.

The invitation to focus on the Word of God is crucial on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time. This was announced by Pope Francis on September 30, 2019, the memorial of St. Jerome. In his Apostolic letter, Pope Francis acknowledged that, the relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers, that is, the Church, and the Sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. This is because without "the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible"

Beloved, the world in its present form is passing away, therefore let us promptly respond like the people of Nineveh and the first disciples to the Lord's invitation to repentance and believe in the Gospel, that through the mercy of God the world may be saved for our good and for the Greater Glory of God. 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*



'By this revelation then, the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them in to his own company.' Dei Verbum n2

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 23rd January 2021

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

Private Intention (BL)

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 24th January 2021

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

9am: People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS/Care Home' Staff/frontline workers/volunteers

11am: James Connolly *RIP* (SG)

5 pm: Cristina Bisagni *RIP* (CW) Erwin Cyba *RIP* (LM)

Monday: 25th January 2021: The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

Private Mass: Dante Ascari *RIP* (AA) Jacqueline Williams *RIP*

1.15pm Funeral Service Jacqueline Williams *RIP*

Tuesday: 26th January 2021: Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops

10 am: (Restrictions apply): Howard Evans *RIP* (TW) **Private Intention**

Wednesday: 27th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 3

ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG (Restrictions apply)

10 am: Winifred Cleary *RIP* (MMcD)

Thursday: 28th January 2021: St Thomas Aquinas Priest and Doctor of the Church

10 am (Restrictions apply): William and May McBride *RIP* (PS&L)

Friday: 29th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 3

Private Mass: Gary Donoghue *RIP* (ND) David Whelan *RIP*

1 pm Funeral Service David Whelan *RIP*

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

Saturday: 30th January 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Lady

Private Mass: Sean Edwards *RIP* (PS&L)

Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 4; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

Racial Justice Day

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

Mike Davies *RIP* (MMcD)

4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 31st January 2021

Racial Justice Day

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

9am: People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS/Care Home' Staff/frontline workers/volunteers

11am: Raynor Lewis *RIP* (M&KL)

5 pm: Nellie, Thomas & Frank Davies *RIP* (CT)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Fr. Edmund will be available this Friday from 3pm - 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.

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls of ELAINE KELLY who passed on the 1st January 2021 and MAUREEN MARGARET JENKINS who passed on 9th January 2021 whose Funeral Services will take place on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 1pm and Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 1pm respectfully at Our Lady & St. Patrick; and TERRY MARONEY who passed on the 7th January 2021, and CHRISTINA JEAN PEARCE who passed on the 15th January 2021, their his funeral services will take place on Monday 8th February at 1pm and Friday 19th February at 1pm respectfully at Our Lady & St. Patrick; and JANICE ANN OWEN who passed on the 10th January 2021, her funeral service will take place at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday 5th February at 2,45pm. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the bereaved families.*

ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER (Need to book a time-details below)

The Church will be open between 3 pm and 6 pm this Friday 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 the published restrictions still apply.

- 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 *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.”

Sunday, January 24th: is the Sunday of the Word of God, a special day inaugurated by Pope Francis to promote greater love of the Bible in our faith and daily lives. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." Pope Francis – 'Aperuit Allis'. All the Faithful are encouraged to bring their Bibles to Mass or to have them with them at their livestreamed Mass to be blessed during the Sunday of the Word of God as decreed by Pope Francis. • The faithful are encouraged to own a copy of the Bible and to read it prayerfully. • Reading and meditation on Sacred Scripture is of paramount importance in the life of the Church, different approaches to reading Scripture and on the particular readings at any liturgical celebration must be taken seriously. Begin the reading of the Bible with a prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you and guide you; read prayerfully and meditatively. Conclude each day's reading with a prayer of Thanksgiving.

Prayer of Blessing: "Everlasting God, when He read in the synagogue at Nazareth, Your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation for which He would give up His life. Bless all who will read from these sacred texts. As they read, listen and reflect on your words of life, strengthen their faith so that what they read in hope, they may live in love and charity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

FINANCE: MAESTEG: (Income received 17TH January 2021)
Gift Aid £176.50; Planned Giving/Loose £120; SVP £20; Crib £20,
Retiring (Maintenance/Restoration) £237.30; Standing Orders December £1009.

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH 300+ Club, 2021: Sincere thanks for your continued support. Even though reduced membership, with your support we raised £1200 for our Church funds in 2020.

GOOD NEWS: We are delighted to inform you that just 10 days after the launch announcement, membership for the 300+ Club, is progressing very well, with 168 names registered, we need just 32 more names to achieve our 2021 target of 200 names, but let's not stop there, the more the merrier, '**All are Welcome**'. The January draw shall take place after Mass, on Tuesday, 9th February; should you wish to be included in the January draw, membership monies must be received by Sunday, 7th February latest, this shall also ensure you are eligible for the big Christmas draw, all subsequent months can be paid ongoing.

So how shall we achieve your continued participation and involvement.

NB: In all cases, please ensure your membership payments are presented in sealed envelopes, indicating 300+ Club, with your membership name, address or contact number enclosed inside the envelope, or on the envelop itself. 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
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, Llangynwyd
 - The Presbytery Letter Box: Monica Street, Maesteg