



## 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](mailto:maesteg@rcadc.org) Registered Charity 1177272

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

### MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly beloved parishioners,

Praise the Lord! Now and forever!!

“The Church thus confesses that Jesus is inseparably true God and true man. He is truly the Son of God who, without ceasing to be God and Lord, became a man and our brother: "What he was, he remained and what he was not, he assumed", sings the Roman Liturgy. And the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom proclaims and sings: "O only-begotten Son and Word of God, immortal being, you who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, you who without change became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, you who by your death have crushed death, you who are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us!" (CCC 469)

My dear People of God, this New Year 2021, I pray the Lord to continue to bless you and keep you and let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you, may He look upon you and give you peace. I pray that the Lord will rejoice over you and renew your strength in His Love, that we may Know Him, Love Him and Serve Him with Love.

Let us join the Psalmist to Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His powerful deeds; praise Him for His surpassing greatness. Let all that is within us and everything that has breath praise the Lord; for His great love has no end.

We are blessed with the gift of God's eternal Son, the Word made flesh, to be our Brother and Saviour; and His the Blessed Ever-virgin Mary, the Mother of God, to be the Mother of the Church; she teaches us to treasure the Word of God and ponder upon it in our hearts.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, through the Word and the Sacraments, we become one in Christ and share in the divinity of Him who took our flesh in the Blessed Ever-virgin Mary to share in our humanity. Therefore, in our daily life experiences, if we turn to the God who lives amongst us in His Word and in the Sacraments, He will surely lead our hearts to praise Him. If we could praise God perfectly as Mary, our Mother did in the Magnificat, we would love Him completely and our joy will be full. We will experience the new heavens and the new earth promised by the word of God; for everyone and everything in us will glorify God fully and enjoy Him forever.

So, dearly beloved, in this New Year 2021, wherever we are, for everything we do, and in every way, let everyone and everything that has breath give praise to the Lord.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Ever-virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, may the Lord bless us always with hearts full of praise and gratitude for all he has done for us.

I wish you all A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR. God Love you all!

**APPRECIATION:** *My sincere thanks go to you all for your presence at the Christmas and New Year celebrations, for the Christmas presents, best wishes and offerings, I am forever grateful. To all our stewards/volunteers, without them it would not have been possible to open our churches for Mass over the past months, 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 – washing the Altar linens and Albs, 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 all 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. 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](mailto:maesteg@rcadc.org)*



When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.'  
(Entrance Antiphon Second Sunday after the Nativity)



**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY 3<sup>RD</sup> January 2021** (*Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B*)

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

9am: Cristina Bisagni *RIP* (MB&F)                      11am: Patrick, Janet & Michael Butler *RIP* (BF)

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

**Monday: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Weekday of Christmas Time**

*Private Mass:* Rita Catt *RIP* (PS&L)                      *Private Intention*

**Tuesday: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Weekday of Christmas Time**

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Michael & Peter Harpur *RIP* (M&F)

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

**6 pm VIGIL MASS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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

**Wednesday: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

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

9am: Cristina Bisagni *RIP* (F, V & Kelly family)                      Michael Davies *RIP*

1pm: Funeral Service of Michael Davies *RIP*

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

10.30 am: Jules & Renea Lagaule *RIP* (MM)

**Thursday: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Weekday of Christmas Time**

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Kerry Heatley *RIP* (MTB)

**Friday: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Weekday of Christmas Time**

*Private Mass:* Linda Evans *RIP* (TW)

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

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

**Saturday: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Weekday of Christmas Time**

*Private Mass:* Sheila Edwards *RIP* (PS&L)                      Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(*Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B*)

**VIGIL MASS THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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)

**MASS TIMES FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG**

**IT IS VITAL YOU BOOK A PLACE IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND**

**VIGIL MASS TUESDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 6 pm                      WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January, 9 am**

**Please contact Denis or Derek on 01656 731767 (after 2 pm) should you wish to attend**

For all other 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 6<sup>th</sup> January 10.30 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

**ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER** will resume on Fridays, from 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The Church will be open between 1.00 pm and 6.00pm.

Those wishing to attend should contact Collette on 07702023565 to arrange a time slot.

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the repose of the souls of MICHAEL DAVIES whose Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick, and KERRY HEATLEY whose Funeral Service will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium and DAVID WHELAN, 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.

**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.”

**FOCUS ON MARY:** The Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission has sent good wishes to us all for 2021. With last Friday being the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, they have forwarded us an item “Focus on Mary”. You can find this on our Website “News Tab”. It is too long to include in the Newsletter but excellent reading.

The Newborn 1648, Georges de La Tour (1593 – 1652), Oil on canvas. 29.9 x 35.8 inch.  
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, France. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

The Light has come: Christmas and Epiphany through Art.



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

It is fitting to remember that the story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God’s wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to His Son so that all humanity would know God’s salvation. Mary, already full of God’s grace, was able to co-operate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine.

This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation.

In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognise God’s saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

**FINANCE: MAESTEG:** (Income received 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December) Gift Aid £420.50; Planned Giving/Loose £395.50; Crib donations £61; Funeral Donation £100; Retiring (Maintenance/Restoration) £314.50; Flowers £30; Standing Orders November £899.

**ABERKENFIG 100 PLUS CLUB WINNERS:**

July: 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mr. M. Brett (2), 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mr. D. Riley (173) 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mrs. A. Merchant (105)  
August : 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mrs. B. C. Stone (138) 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mr. W. Ennis (174) 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mrs. D. Davey (25)  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mr. D. Riley (99), 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mrs. C. Took (48) 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mr. M. Braithwaite (181)  
Oct 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mrs. B. Lewis (179), 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mrs. M. D. Morgan (85) 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mr. D. Riley (99)  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mrs. M. Downey (112), 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 S. Keane (91) 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 Mrs. J.A. Davies (53)  
Christmas Draw 1<sup>st</sup> £85 Mrs. J. Davies (74), 2<sup>nd</sup> £35 Mrs. C. Took (48), 3<sup>rd</sup> £20 Mrs. M. Boreham (46),  
4<sup>th</sup> £10 Mr. P.Collins (14), 5<sup>th</sup> £10 Mr. D. Riley (123).