



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 14th February 2021

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 men are called to the same end: God himself. There is a certain resemblance between the unity of the divine persons and the fraternity that men are to establish among themselves in truth and love. Love of neighbour is inseparable from love for God.” (CCC 1878)

As a People of God, we belong to each other. Much as the graces and blessings of God for each one of us inspires and contributes to building a family or community of Love, so also the sins of any one of us affects and to a very large extent destroys the family of God.

We can liken Sin to leprosy as presented in our first reading. Leprosy which is an infectious disease, that when left untreated, disfigures, maims, and ultimately kills the host. As there was no cure at the time, the priest was instructed to examine the person infected by leprosy and if found wanting, the person is made to distance himself and be labelled “Unclean” and set apart from their families and community as long as the leprosy remains in order not to infect the whole community.

Beloved, St. Paul admonishes us in our second reading, never to do anything to offend anyone. Whatever we do must be done to the Glory of God. To do so, we must try never to seek our own benefit, but that of the many [Community] that all may be saved. We must seek to be imitators of Christ Jesus.

In the Gospel of today, our compassionate Christ, stretched out His hands and touched the leper and made him clean. To be like Christ Jesus, we must seek to bring forgiveness to the contrite of heart and not label and set them apart.

Thanks be to God, through the death and resurrection of Christ, sin and death has been conquered, and therefore through the Sacraments instituted by Christ in His Church, the Priest by the power of the Holy Spirit, absolves and heals the contrite of heart and reinstates the penitent into the Body the Christ and the family of God. The Church as a Body of Christ, through the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops and Priests, has been given the authority to forgive the sins of the People of God and to heal the penitent through the Sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession] and the Anointing of the Sick, and to nourish the People of God with the Holy Eucharist, the Bread of life that they may live eternally for the Glory of God.

My dear People of God, beginning on Ash Wednesday, as we enter the season of Lent, like the leper, with humble and contrite hearts, let us approach Christ Jesus, who alone can heal us of all our troubles and weakness. He reaches out and touches us with His Word and Sacraments, and reinstate us in the company of all the angels and saints, that we may live for the glory of God, for our good and the good of all His Holy Church. Rejoicing that He has redeem us from the bondage of Sin and death and brought us to Eternal Life.

God Love you.

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



'At many moments in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the final days, he has spoken to us in the person of his Son, whom he appointed heir to all things and through whom he made the ages'. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 14th February 2021
Day of Prayer for the Unemployed
VIGIL MASS SATURDAY 5PM ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)
Keith Carey RIP(CT)

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

HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)
9am: Cristina Bisagni *RIP (GW)*
11am: Terry Maroney *RIP (F&VK)*
5 pm: Elizabeth Bumford *RIP (R&PB)*

Monday: 15th February 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 6
Private Mass: Thanksgiving: Father Edmund, all Stewards and cleaners who enable us to attend Mass. (Grateful Parishioner)

Tuesday: 16th February 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 6
10 am: *(Restrictions apply):* Maureen Jenkins *RIP (RB)* Private Intention (F&F)
1 pm: **Funeral Service: Maureen Margaret Jenkins *RIP (Family & invitation only)***

WEDNESDAY: 17th February 2021: ASH WEDNESDAY
OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S, MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)
9 am: Jacqueline Williams *RIP (GBG)* 6 pm: Erwin Cyba *RIP (LM)*

ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG (Restrictions apply)
10.30 am: Kerry Heatley *RIP (P&AD)*

Thursday: 18th February 2021: Thursday after Ash Wednesday
10 am: *(Restrictions apply):* Michael Davies *RIP (S&MK)*

Friday: 19th February 2021: Friday after Ash Wednesday
*Private Mass: Cristina Bisagni *RIP (S&RS)* Christina Jean Pearce *RIP**
We pray for Archbishop George and all Clergy & Religious Men and Women
1 pm: **Funeral Service Christine Jean Pearce *RIP (Family & invitation only)***

Saturday: 20th February 2021: Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Private Mass: Thanksgiving 70th birthday (Peter Bumford)
Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)
Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)
People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS/Care Home' Staff/frontline workers/volunteers
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 21st February 2021
HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)
9am: Margaret Roche (Ireland) *RIP (LR&F)*
11am: Margaret, Thomas & Mary McDonald *RIP (SG)*
5pm: Arthur Roy Richards/Brian Jarvis *RIP (CW)*

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the DAPHNE KATHLEEN ISAAC who passed on the 11th January; funeral Service on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 1pm at St. Robert's Church, Aberkenfig; Also Margaret Roche, Wexford, (sister-in-law to Lynn); and VERONICA LEE who passed on 26th January 2021, her funeral Service is on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 2.15pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families.*

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES:

For those who cannot attend in the morning, Father Edmund will celebrate an additional Mass at 6 pm, as long as there are enough people requiring this. **PLEASE BOOK WITH COLLETTE BY MONDAY**, so that she can confirm with Father Edmund that Mass is required.

MAESTEG 9.00 am and 6 pm (additional Mass if required): Contact Collette on 07702023565
ABERKENFIG 10.30 am: Contact Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION (CHANGE OF TIME)

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.

ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER (CHANGE OF TIME) (book a time-details below)

The Church will be open between 3 pm and 6pm 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 10.30 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 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.”

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day on which Catholics traditionally observe fasting and abstinence. This means resisting eating between meals (fasting) and avoiding eating meat (abstaining). Many Catholics also attend Mass or have special prayer liturgies when they receive ashes on their foreheads. This year you may be celebrating a liturgy with your family at home. Lent is a fortyday preparation for Easter. It reminds us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he took up his ministry. During that time he fasted and prayed. Lent is a time of self-denial and prayer for us as well. During this period we are called on to focus on becoming closer to Jesus by praying a little more, doing good deeds for others, going without something we like and giving generously to others in need. Ash Wednesday is a good time for us to think about what we can do to grow closer to Jesus over the next weeks.

FOOD BANK MAESTEG: Available at the back of the Church for your kind donations. *Thank you.*

FINANCE MAESTEG AND ABERKENFIG:

Your continued contributions are a very important part of our Parishes’ income and are very much appreciated. It is understandable that in these difficult and uncertain times you may not be possible to give. Whatever your circumstances thank you for your continued prayers and support.

MAESTEG: (Income 7th February): Gift Aid £305.50; Planned /Loose £177.80;

Restoration £45; Retiring (Maintenance) £109.40; Standing Orders January £989.

Envelopes for Restoration/Maintenance collections are now available for Parishioners who gift aid; rather than put loose in retiring collection, please use envelopes which will mean for every £1 you give an extra 25p will be donated to our Parish. Restoration Collection third Sunday of each month. Thank you.

ABERKENFIG: January Income: Gift Aid £296; Loose £66, Building Fund £20, Standing Orders £190.

MAESTEG/ABERKENFIG PARISHES: During Lent – the Lenten Arms Box will be placed at the back of Church for your Voluntary donations.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL: Family Fast Day Friday, 26th February. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope; collection taken up Sunday, 28th February. You can also give via text; if you’d like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH 300+ Club, 2021 - UPDATE

We are off to a great start!! 274 parishioners and friends have registered for membership. This is a truly incredible response, achieved in a relatively short time; that, combined with the level of constraints we have faced in respect to co-ordinating all the elements associated with the Club, we all deserve a round of applause. **WELL DONE EVERYONE – THANK YOU.**

JANUARY RESULTS taken by Father Edmund after Mass last Tuesday: First prize: £50.00, Mr Fitzpatrick, number 5; Second prize: £30, Jacqui & Paul Lucas, number 265; Third prize: £20, Maria Mitchell, number 294.

The winners’ cheque payments are in the process of distribution. The February draw will be after Mass, on Tuesday, 23rd February.

Important: For those of you who have not yet managed to make your membership contributions, and were members in 2020, your names have been carried over into 2021 and were included in the January draw; similarly, you shall be included in the February draw. If by mid March, you have not confirmed your membership with payment, it shall be assumed you no longer wish to continue in the 300+ Club draw. To take the opportunity to renew your membership, please contact Angela Brennan on 01656 732207 or 07572274646 New members welcomed; contact Angela.

Easter Raffle, 2021 Launch date and details to follow next week.

Please note; for those of you who kindly purchased raffle tickets for the 2020 Easter Raffle, cancelled on account of the COVID-19 Lockdown, your raffle ticket stubs have been retained and shall be included in the 2021 draw. Raffle prize donations are welcome.