



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

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**5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 7th 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: "The duty of offering God genuine worship concerns man both individually and socially. This is "the traditional Catholic teaching on the moral duty of individuals and societies toward the true religion and the one Church of Christ." By constantly evangelizing men, the Church works toward enabling them "to infuse the Christian spirit into the mentality and mores, laws and structures of the communities in which [they] live." The social duty of Christians is to respect and awaken in each man the love of the true and the good. It requires them to make known the worship of the one true religion which subsists in the Catholic and apostolic Church. Christians are called to be the light of the world. Thus, the Church shows forth the kingship of Christ over all creation and in particular over human societies." (CCC 2105)

Beloved, Jesus states categorically that His main purpose of coming to the World is to Preach the Good News of God's Love. He did this both in word and in action. The Gospels are not merely record of what Jesus said but also what He did, the actions that proclaimed who Jesus was and is, and what He was and is about. His preaching embraces all that he stood for.

In our first reading of today we find how Job is so despondent in the face of human suffering. Jesus however by His words and actions do offer a way through suffering. He healed Peter's mother -in-law, cured those suffering from sickness and disease, and even cast out demons. By physically reaching out to those who are suffering and rejected, Jesus preaches a powerful message of God's Love and care for those who are most in need of Mercy.

St. Paul, in our second reading, being so convinced of the truth of the message of Christ Jesus dedicated his whole life to preaching it without looking for a reward. It was enough for him to be able to meet people where they were and tell of the marvellous wonders of Christ Jesus.

My dear people of God, in the same way that we cannot separate Jesus' words and actions from His preaching, so should our faith not be separated from our deeds. Like St. Paul it is the responsibility for all Christians to make the Good news alive by word and deed to the people we meet in our daily lives. In whatever ways we can, no matter who we are with or where we are, let us be encouraged to bear witness with our lives to the faith we profess with our lips. In doing so we give testimony with our whole life to the fact that the Good News can be lived and shared with integrity.

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*

"I would like so much for all Christians to be able to comprehend 'the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ' through the diligent reading of the Word of God, for the sacred text is the nourishment of the soul and the pure and perennial source of the spiritual life of all of us." (Pope Francis)

(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (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

5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 7th February 2021

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

9am: Mary Candlish Wedding Anniversary RIP (I|TC)

11am: Maureen Montgomery RIP (SW))

5 pm: David Whelan RIP (KK)

Monday: 8th February 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 5

Private Mass: Private Intention (Ann K) Terry Maroney RIP

1 pm: Funeral Service Terry Maroney RIP (*Family & invitation only*)

Tuesday: 9th February 2021: 10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Maureen Jenkins RIP (PB)

Wednesday: 10th February 2021: St Scholastica, Virgin

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

10 am: F.R.E.(GR)

Thursday: 11th February 2021: Our Lady of Lourdes

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Maureen & Jack Jenkins RIP (C&TJ)

Friday: 12th February 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 5

Private Mass: Thomas Lucas & Lucas family RIP (ML) Private Intention

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

Saturday: 13th February 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Blessed Lady

Private Mass: Mary Candlish (10th Anniversary) RIP (TC) Joe Dwyer RIP (MD)

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

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

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

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

5th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 14th February 2021

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)

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls MAUREEN MARGARET JENKINS who passed on 9th January 2021; Funeral Service Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick; CHRISTINA JEAN PEARCE who passed on the 15th January 2021; funeral service on Friday 19th February at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick; and DAPHNE KATHLEEN ISAAC who passed on the 11th January; funeral Service on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 1pm at St. Robert's Church, Aberkenfig. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to the bereaved families.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION



Fr. Edmund will 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 (Need to book a time-details below)

The Church will be open between 1 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES:

MAESTEG 9.00 am: Contact Collette on 07702023565

ABERKENFIG 10.30 am: Contact Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

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.”

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 forty day 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.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES is known throughout the world to intercede for both spiritual and physical healing. During this last year, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes closed its doors for the first time in over a century. Despite its closed doors, the Sanctuary is still a privilege place in our hearts of prayer for and with the sick. It is still a place of intercession. The last year has taken its toll on many people in different ways, whether emotionally, spiritually, or physically.

Join Father Daniel Stanton, St David's Cathedral, in a **Three-Day Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes from Monday 8th February (7-8 pm) concluding with Holy Mass on Thursday, 11th (6 pm) the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes -www.cardiffcathedral.org.uk** During the Novena we will unite ourselves in prayer with all those who seek the healing intercession of Our Blessed Lady.

If unable to access internet let us pray to Our Lady of Lourdes during this time for our intentions:

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfort to the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the granting of my requests. Through gratitude for favours, I will endeavour to imitate your virtues that I may one day share your glory. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.)



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

FINANCE: MAESTEG: (Income received 31st January 2021): Gift Aid £264.00; Planned /Loose £105.00; Restoration £60; Retiring (Maintenance) £105.35; Standing Orders December £1009.

ABERKENFIG: December Income £932.

100 CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS are now being taken. Cheques to be made payable to St. Robert's Parish. Please contact Bill Ennis 01656 724855 to arrange collection or payment of prize money due. New members very welcome.

JANUARY WINNERS: 1st £40 Mr J Took (147), 2nd £10 K Rossetti (11), 3rd £10 S Keane (91)

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH 300+ Club, 2021

The January draw will take place this Tuesday, after Mass, following registration of membership payments. 230 members have already registered since the launch in mid January. This is a tremendous response, given the numerous constraints we have faced. Your support is greatly appreciated – **THANK YOU**. Recruitment for inclusion in the January draw will continue and accepted up to the time of Mass on Tuesday. That doesn't mean to say that you have 'missed the boat'; on the contrary, for the rest of the year, you can join at any time for each and every month going forward; however, should you join at a later date and wish to be included in the GRAND Christmas Prize Draw, a full year's membership fee of £12 must be paid by December 2021. For those of you who have still not had the opportunity to renew your membership and would like to do so, please contact Angela Brennan on 01656 732207 or 07572274646 to confirm. *It's time to get excited, the winner could be YOU!!!!*