



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 21st 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 evangelists indicate the salvific meaning of this mysterious event: Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given in to temptation. Jesus fulfils Israel's vocation perfectly: in contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert, Christ reveals himself as God's Servant, totally obedient to the divine will. In this, Jesus is the devil's conqueror: he "binds the strong man" to take back his plunder. Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father.” (CCC 539)

Beloved in Christ, our first reading presents us with a “new creation” when God blessed Noah and his family and established a covenant with them, promising never to destroy the earth again by flood. This covenant with Noah extends to all creatures of the earth till the end of time. This covenant also marks the beginning of God’s efforts to reconcile all humanity to Himself, beginning with Noah and his family.

My dear People of God, while the waters of the flood cleansed the earth of wickedness and sin, Noah, in faithful obedience to God’s will, was saved along with his family, by means of the ark and entered into a covenant with God. In a similar manner Christ Jesus, the righteous one, in obedience to the Father’s will, suffered and died for the unrighteous on the wood of the cross, and was raised to life in the Spirit, that we may have life in him through the waters of Baptism. The Waters of Baptism, therefore, cleanse us from sin and give us the gift of sanctifying grace by which we obtain New Life in Christ Jesus.

Furthermore, through Christ Jesus, the Baptised, being incorporated into the “Body of Christ”, the Church, and the family of God, enters into a New Covenant of grace and charity. Thus, Noah’s Ark is a type or figure of the Church of Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters, the temptation of Christ reminds us of the temptations of Adam and Eve among the wild beast in the garden of Eden and of the people of Israel, who wandered in the desert for forty years. Christ Jesus, however as the New Adam and the founder of the New People of Israel, that is, the Church, was perfectly faithful and obedient to the will of the Father and overcame the temptation of Satan.

Beloved, the time has now come for us; in this season of Lent to enter into the deserts of our lives, and with the help the Holy Spirit, turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, that in following the example of Our Lord Christ Jesus, in total obedience to the will of the Father we may overcome the temptation of Satan and enter into the joy of the Kingdom of God with all the Angels and Saints.

In this Lenten Season, I commend you all to the intercession of the Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary, Our Mother, and all the Angels and Saints, that we may have a fruitful period of preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. 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

And so, this is the gift and duty for each one of us during the season of Lent: to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives, seeking to decipher in them the message of Providence. Finally, to listen to him in our brothers and sisters, especially in the lowly and the poor, for whom Jesus himself demands our concrete love.

(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 21st February 2021

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

Raymond Dunphy RIP

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: Margaret Roche (Ireland) *RIP (LR&f)*

11am: Margaret, Thomas & Mary McDonald *RIP(SG)*

5pm: Arthur Roy Richards/Brian Jarvis *RIP(CW)*

Monday: 22nd February 2021: The Chair of St Peter the Apostle

Private Mass: David Treharne *RIP (CT)* Erwin Cyba *RIP (LM)*

Tuesday: 23rd February 2021: 1st Week of Lent

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Ann & James Keane *RIP (C&E)* Phyllis Ronan *RIP (MD)*

Veronica Lee *RIP*

2.15 pm: Funeral Service: VERONICA LEE *RIP (Family & invitation only)*

Wednesday: 24th February 2021: 1st Week of Lent

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

10 am: Kathy Tipping *RIP (KL)*

Thursday: 25th February 2021: 1st Week of Lent

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Dante Ascari *RIP (AA)* Daphne Kathleen Isaac *RIP*

St Robert's Aberkenfig 1pm: Funeral Service: DAPHNE KATHLEEN ISAAC *RIP(Family & invitation only)*

Friday: 26th February 2021: 1st Week of Lent CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

Private Mass: Jean Pearce *RIP (KR&f)* *Private Intention.*

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

Saturday: 27th February 2021: 1st Week of Lent

Private Mass: Jackie Williams *RIP (MB)*

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

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

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

Ray Dunphy *RIP (BL)*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 28th February 2021

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

9am: Patrick, Janet & Michael Butler *RIP (MB&f)*

11am: Maureen Jenkins *RIP (KK)*

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT:

Friday evenings commencing at 6 pm. (*Restrictions apply*)

Telephone Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)



ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls of DAPHNE KATHLEEN ISAAC who passed on the 11th January, funeral Service on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 1pm at St. Robert's Church, Aberkenfig; 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; DANIEL JOHN CASEY who passed on the 7th February funeral Service on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 1 pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church Maesteg; VERONICA MURTAGH who passed on 11th February, funeral Service on Thursday, 18th March at 1 pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church Maesteg; RAY DUNPHY who passed on 15th February 2021, his funeral Service will be on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 12noon at St. Robert Church, Aberkenfig; and JOHN PEARCE who passed away recently. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families.*

MASSES:

MARCH 1ST ST.DAVIDS DAY MAESTEG 10.00 AM: (*Restrictions apply*)

Telephone Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

MARCH 17TH ST.PATRICKS DAY: (*Restrictions apply*)

MAESTEG 9.00AM Telephone Collette on 07702023565

ABERKENFIG 10.30AM Telephone Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Fr. Edmund will be available this Thursday from 6pm-7pm and 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 (book a time-details below)

The Church will be open between 1 pm and 6pm on 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.”

Novena to St. David of Wales (Bishop, Patron Saint of Wales)



*NOVENA PRAYER (to be said for 9 days from
21st February to 1st March)*

Blessed David, you are an apostle and patron for the people of Wales. Grant, I implore, that through your prayers, your people will be enlightened by the truth which you taught, and they will obtain everlasting life. Heavenly Father, you know all things, and nothing is hidden from you; in your kindness come to my aid in my present distress, and grant this my humble petition:

(Mention your need here...)

In Jesus’s name, I beg your help but may God’s will be done. Amen.

“Say 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary 1 Glory Be”

St David of Wales pray for us.

CHRISTINA BISAGNI RIP: The family of Cristina Bisagni wish to thank our caring parish community for their many prayers, cards, & expressions of sympathy which have been of great comfort to the family at this time.

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 21st February): Gift Aid £221.00; Planned /Loose £78.90; Donation £40; Retiring (Maintenance) £105.50; 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. Retiring Collection today “Restoration”. Thank you.

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

ST ROBERT’S 100 CLUB subscriptions 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.

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. CAFOD works not only to alleviate poverty around the world but to combat injustice and climate change which impact the most vulnerable. Thank you for your generosity and compassion for the most devastated communities in our world.

Easter Raffle, 2021: Launch date and details to follow soon.

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.