



## **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>

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "From the day Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Master "began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things. . . and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Peter scorns this prediction, nor do the others understand it any better than he. In this context the mysterious episode of Jesus' Transfiguration takes place on a high mountain, before three witnesses chosen by himself: Peter, James and John. Jesus' face and clothes become dazzling with light, and Moses and Elijah appear, speaking "of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem". A cloud covers him and a voice from heaven says: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (CCC, 554)

In our first reading of today, Abraham put his complete trust, faith and obedience in God and, consequently, after many years, God blessed him with a son called Isaac. His faith and hope reflected a sure knowledge that God would fulfil all that he has said. Even when God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, he obeyed. This extreme test of faith and obedience would reveal heroic fidelity to God's will although he could not comprehend it. Abraham is a model for the virtue of obedience as well as hope and faith in God.

Abraham is a type of God the Father: He offered his only son in obedience to God, and God offered His Only-Begotten Son to redeem humanity. Isaac who obeyed his father and carried the wood of his own sacrifice, he is a type of Christ, the lamb of God, who carried the wood of the Cross in obedience to the Father's will to save us.

My dear People God, if God is on our side who can be against us. He gave us his only Son, who assumed our humanity, died for us, was raised from the dead, and now intercedes for us before the Father. He freely offers us all the grace we need for conversion and salvation. All we need to do is respond to His love by striving to live the Gospel message.

Just as Moses received the Law on Mt. Sinai, the transfiguration took place on a high mountain. The Transfiguration of Christ in light points to the glory of the resurrection. The transfiguration gave special focus to the glory and beauty of Christ's divinity and at the same time prepared the Apostles to accept the scandal of the Cross. In the Transfiguration, the Father confirmed that in His Son, Jesus Christ, we have the fullness of Revelation. Hence, we must listen to Him.

Beloved, in ancient times God spoke to man through the prophets and in varied ways, but now He speaks too us through Christ Jesus His Son. Christ Jesus is the final Word of God who's coming brings us New Life.

Christ Jesus, the Only-Begotten Son of God, is the Eternal Day, in Him there is no darkness, for in His Light we see light. In obedience to the Father, let us listen to Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word of God, for in Him and only in Him is our salvation. For, Salvation is knowing the one true God and Christ Jesus His Son, whom He has sent as the Saviour of the world. 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](mailto:maesteg@rcadc.org)*  
*'O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.'*  
*(Collect Second Sunday of Lent)*



(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)**

**Raymond Dunphy RIP (BL)**

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

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

**11am: Maureen Jenkins RIP (KK) Special Intention**

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

**RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY AT BOTH CHURCHES**

*OR donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent)*

**Monday: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021: ST DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES**

**TITULAR OF CARDIFF CATHEDRAL**

*(Our Nine Day Novena to St David concludes today)*

**10 am: MASS (Restrictions apply): Thanksgiving NHS STAFF (DH) Father Noel Colahan (CW)**

**Tuesday: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent**

**10 am: (Restrictions apply): Jackie Williams RIP (CT) Cristina Bisagni RIP (P&AD)**

**Wednesday: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG (Restrictions apply)**

**10 am: Ray Dunphy RIP (M & M Maesteg)**

**St Robert's Aberkenfig 12 noon: Funeral Service: RAYMOND DUNPHY RIP (Family & invitation only)**

**Thursday: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent**

**10 am: (Restrictions apply): For those embarking on the Genesis Mission Programme that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them as they are called to the New Evangelisation (CM)**

**Friday: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER|**

*Private Mass: Special Intention for Women throughout the World*

**PRAYER:** Lord God, we are gathered together today to give you praise and thanks for your loving kindness to us. Make us aware that it is not just what we do that is important but how we do it. Help us to be courageous, strong, caring, passionate and compassionate whatever our age, race or circumstances. Let us bear witness to your love for all people so that we may be peaceful and joyful women. Amen.

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

**Saturday: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent**

**Private Mass: Richard Colahan RIP (CW) Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)**

(Psalter Week 3; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)**

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

**Norah Crumbie RIP & Arthur Cleary RIP (MMcD)**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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

**9am: Holy Souls (MB)**

**11am: James & Winifred Connolly RIP (SG)**

**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).**

**To book telephone Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)**

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

**MAESTEG 9.00AM** Telephone Michelle on 07488322929

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

**MARCH 19TH ST JOSEPH HUSBAND OF MARY** *(Restrictions apply)*

**MAESTEG 10.00AM:** Telephone Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the repose of the souls of DANIEL JOHN CASEY who passed on the 7<sup>th</sup> February funeral Service on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 1 pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church Maesteg; VERONICA MURTAGH who passed on 11<sup>th</sup> February, funeral Service on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 1 pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church Maesteg; 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.*

### **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.
- 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, take care 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.”

**Pope Francis Proclaimed ‘Year of St. Joseph’ from 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and published an Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*”. To read the Apostolic Letter, click [here](#).**

The past twelve months have been an exceptionally difficult time for all of us. We can only hope that the current vaccine rollout will eventually provide some relief. May the Novena to St Joseph, in this Year dedicated to him by Pope Francis, be a source of comfort and support to all who have lost loved ones and whose lives have been adversely affected by this pandemic.

### **FEAST OF ST JOSEPH 19<sup>th</sup> March NOVENA DATES MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Novena Prayer to St Joseph: O good father Joseph! I beg you by all your sufferings, sorrows and joys, to obtain for me what I ask**

*(Here name your petition).*

**Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers, everything that is useful to them in the plan of God. Be near to me in my last moments, that I may eternally sing the praises of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)**



In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries (Missio/APF) are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God’s blessing on their Society’s missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work, which our Parish has done for many years. If you would like to join in from home, Masses from **St. Joseph’s Church** will be available to follow on **Zoom** and **YouTube** via the parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena), where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

### **One Year On: Remembering Our Loved-Ones – a message from Archbishop George:**

On 23rd March 2021 we will reach a significant milestone in the country’s fight against Coronavirus: for it was on this day that we entered the first of the lockdowns; our lives radically changed. Since then, we as a nation have lost over 121,000 lives, with the total here in Wales exceeding 5,000. These are no mere statistics: each number is a life, each life is a memory, each life is a family trying to grieve in such exceptional circumstances. On Monday, 23rd March, I will celebrate a Solemn Requiem Mass at St. David’s Cathedral for all the faithful departed who have died as a consequence of the pandemic. I have opened a Book of Remembrance at the Cathedral, and I invite you to send in the names of your loved-ones who have died over the last year as a result of the pandemic. The Book of Remembrance will be given place of honour at the Requiem Mass before the pascal candle at the Requiem Mass. If you would like the name of your loved one included in the Book of Remembrance, please e-mail Fr. Daniel at [cathedral@rcadc.org](mailto:cathedral@rcadc.org).

The Solemn Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral 12:45pm on Monday, 23rd March which will be live-streamed through the Cathedral website. **May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.** *With every blessing, Archbishop George Stack*

**300+ Club February 2021;** draw taken after Mass on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Winners are 1<sup>st</sup> £50 Paul Woods (109); 2<sup>nd</sup> £30 Stephanie Davies (268), 3<sup>rd</sup> £20 Leah Jones (185). Cheque payments on their way to winners.

March draw will take place after Mass, Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>.

288 members, old and new, have registered in full for 2021. Grateful appreciation is extended to all members and to the team for achieving this remarkable result.

**Our Lady & St Patrick’s Easter Raffle, 2021:** Tickets will be available at Masses from this weekend|:

1<sup>st</sup> prize ‘Chocolate hamper of Easter eggs and treats’; 2nd to 5th prizes Easter Eggs galore. Tickets are priced at 50p each. If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to participate in the fun of our exciting Easter raffle, please contact any of the Church stewards, or Michael Banks (07584177456), Maria Kelly-Harris (07964 965152), Maria Davies (07779532212), Linda Morgan (07966699750), who will arrange to co-ordinate tickets for you. 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. Draw will take place after Mass, on Tuesday, 30th March. Raffle prize donations are welcome.

**VACANCY FOR HEADTEACHER ARCHBISHOP McGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:** Information on our Website “NEWS TAB” or follow this link <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/headteacher-bridgend-1405528>