



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>

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 7TH March 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: "Jesus went up to the Temple as the privileged place of encounter with God. For him, the Temple was the dwelling of his Father, a house of prayer, and he was angered that its outer court had become a place of commerce. He drove merchants out of it because of jealous love for his Father: "You shall not make my Father's house a house of trade. His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." After his Resurrection his apostles retained their reverence for the Temple." (CCC 584)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in today's Gospel, St. John makes it clear that what Christ said about the rebuilding of the temple was in reference to His own Body rather than the physical structure in Jerusalem. Christ Himself is the new and eternal Temple of God, and we are His Body. The disciples, however, came to the realization of this truth only after the resurrection, and they believed the Scriptures and the word which Jesus has spoken to them.

Beloved, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the dwelling place of God. May our hearts be purified by the Word of God, that by our life we may offer true worship to the Heavenly Father. 'For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life.' Through the proclamation of the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Power of God and the Wisdom of God, sin and death has been conquered and in faith we are graced with eternal life.

To those without faith, the crucifixion of Christ signals a dismal failure and the foolishness of the disciples. For some of the Jews, it is a sign of a curse from God. But to everyone who have faith, however, the Cross is a sign of victory over sin and death, and total defeat of Satan, since through the Cross Christ Jesus redeemed us and opened the gates of Heaven for us. The resurrection of Christ Jesus is a resounding proof of Christ's Victory over sin and death and grants us hope for our own resurrection, provided we are faithful to our Christian calling and persevere till the end.

My dear People of God, the Ten Commandments provide the fundamental moral principles that correspond to the requirements of the dignity of the members of the Body of Christ. Christ Summarizes all the Commandments and the entire moral Law with the Great Commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbour as yourself". Let us examine our conscience and where we fall short ask the Lord through His Word and Sacrament to cleans us and make our hearts a worthy dwelling place for the worship of God in Spirit and in Truth. 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



‘I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die.’ Jn 11:25,26

(Psalter Week 3; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

Vigil Mass Saturday, 6th March 2021 5pm, ST. ROBERT’S (Restrictions apply)

Norah Crumbie RIP & Arthur Cleary RIP (MM&D) F.R.E. (GR)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 7th March 2021

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

9am: Holy Souls (MB) The Souls of Unborn Babies (AA)

11am: James & Winifred Connolly RIP (SG)

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

Monday: 8th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent

Private Mass: Jacqueline Williams RIP (PW)

Special Intention

Tuesday: 9th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent

10 am: (Restrictions apply): Pat Brennan & Canon John Rohan RIP (VB)

Catherine & Peter Codd RIP (C&TJ)

Wednesday: 10th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent ST. ROBERT’S ABERKENFIG (Restrictions apply)

10 am: St. Rita Private Intention (MM) Daniel John Casey RIP

Our Lady & St Patrick, Maesteg 1 pm: Funeral Service: Daniel John Casey RIP (Family only)

Thursday: 11th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent

10 am: (Restrictions apply): Louise Ann Patricia RIP (K family)

**We pray for those embarking on the Genesis Mission Programme that the
Holy Spirit may enlighten them as they are called to the New Evangelisation**

Friday: 12th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent

Private Mass: Carmel Azzopardi RIP (EN)

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

Saturday: 13th March 2021: 3rd Week of Lent

Private Mass: Lyn Bumford RIP (PB)

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

(Psalter Week 4; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

(LAETARE SUNDAY)

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

Ray Dunphy RIP (KR)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 14th March 2021

(LAETARE SUNDAY)

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

**9am: People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS/Care Home’ Staff/frontline workers/volunteers**

11am: Patrick, Janet and Michael Butler RIP (MB&family)

5pm: Connie & Albert Williams RIP (CW)

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 soul of VERONICA MURTAGH who passed on 11th February, funeral Service on Thursday, 18th March at 1 pm at Our Lady & St Patrick Church Maesteg. *May she rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to her bereaved family.*

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.”

LENT: The God Who Speaks Team has sent this link to our Parishes - [Stations of the Cross and prayer resources](https://godwhospeaks.uk/lent-at-home/personal-devotions) to aid personal devotions. godwhospeaks.uk/lent-at-home/personal-devotions

Our Lady & St. Illtyds Llantwit Major live stream Stations of the Cross/ meditations on Wednesday & Friday at 3pm

Pope Francis Proclaimed 'Year of St. Joseph' from 8th 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 19th March
NOVENA DATES MARCH 10th - 18th**

**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 and the Mill Hill website: 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. 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*

MISSIO (APF RED) BOXES: Paula has left emptied boxes on the table in the Church porch for you to collect.

FOOD BANK MAESTEG: Available at the back of the Church for your kind donations. *Thank you.*
PLEASE COULD YOU DONATE YOUR SPARE CARRIER BAGS.

FINANCE MAESTEG:

MAESTEG: (Income 21st/28thFebruary): Gift Aid £429.50; Planned /Loose £340; Donation £1050; Restoration £616.00; Funeral Donation £100; Lenten Alms £63; CAFOD £353.

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.

Our Lady & St Patrick's Easter Raffle, 2021: Tickets are available at Masses:

1st 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>