

**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>

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 14<sup>TH</sup> March 2021**

**MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason. Even in human relations it is not contrary to our dignity to believe what other persons tell us about themselves and their intentions, or to trust their promises (for example, when a man and a woman marry) to share a communion of life with one another. If this is so, still less is it contrary to our dignity to "yield by faith the full submission of... intellect and will to God who reveals", and to share in an interior communion with him." (CCC 154)

Beloved, in our First reading, King Cyrus although a pagan, inspired by the Lord, not only allowed but encouraged the people of Israel to return to Judah and rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem. This generous overture Divinely inspired, demonstrates how the Lord [by His Grace] can work even through unbelievers in order to achieve His Holy Will.

My dear people of God, though dead in our transgressions, by grace we have been saved through faith. Grace is a gift of God which enables us to participate in the life of God. Sanctifying Grace unites us in Christ so that we can share in His wisdom and love. With the infusion of sanctifying grace come the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love, together with infused moral virtue. To become Holy, we must enjoy an abundance of Grace. Through the Liturgy and indwelling Spirit, we already share in the heavenly life, although in a limited and hidden way.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God so love the world that He gave His Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life. Sending His Only-Begotten Son to redeem us and give us eternal life is a supreme act of God's love for us. In fact, God the father gave us Christ in the incarnation precisely to reveal His tremendous Love. Those who refuse the gift of Christ's love and redemption deprive themselves of eternal life. Those who choose to walk in the light of Christ will gain happiness in this life and eternal life in the next.

Beloved, let us open ourselves up to the opportunity given to us in this season of grace, to participate in the Sacraments instituted by Christ, and the Liturgy of the Church, that we may benefit from the fullness of Grace by which we are brought to share in the Life of God, through the Paschal Festivities in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

God love you.

United in prayer.

**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.

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 through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Collect Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Psalter Week 4; Sunday Reading Cycle B)  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
(LAETARE SUNDAY)

Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (*Restrictions apply*)  
Ray Dunphy RIP (KR)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 14<sup>th</sup> 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)

Monday: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent

*Private Mass:* Thanksgiving 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Lynn Roche (Family)

Tuesday: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Henry McDonald RIP (FMcD&f) Special Intention

Wednesday: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021: St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (*Restrictions apply*)

9.00 am: MAESTEG: Denis, Brian, Terry and Eddie RIP (M & family)  
Peter & Catherine Codd RIP (C&TJ)

10.30 am: ABERKENFIG: Thanksgiving safe arrival of baby (Lewis family)

Thursday: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Special Intention (*Canon William Isaac*) (M&M)

*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*

Our Lady & St Patrick, Maesteg 1 pm: Funeral Service: Veronica Murtagh RIP (*Family only*)

Friday: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021: Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10 am: (*Restrictions apply*): Winnie & Ralph Cornish RIP (MB&f)

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

Saturday: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021: 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent

*Private Mass:* Special Intention of Ian Hutton Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory

(Psalter Week 1; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

FIFTH 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

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

9am: Priscilla Asamoah Neizer RIP (M&f) 11am: Annie Scourfield RIP (Family)

5pm: Lynn Daniel RIP (L&AM) Mal Hughes, Margaret & Thomas Maloney RIP (PH)

**ETERNAL REST:** Let us pray for the repose of the soul of PRISCILLA ASAMOAH NEIZER the niece of Fr. Edmund who passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. Her funeral will take place in Ghana on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021. May she rest in peace and rise in Eternal Glory Our sincere sympathies go to the bereaved family.

**ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER** (*Restrictions apply*)

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.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT:** (*Restrictions apply*) Friday evenings 6 pm

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

**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.*

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER SERVICES:** (*Restrictions apply*)

MAUNDY THURSDAY MAESTEG: 7 pm Mass. Altar of Repose - Watch until 9 pm.

Telephone Collette on 07702023565

GOOD FRIDAY MAESTEG: 10 am Stations of the Cross. 3 pm Passion of the Lord,

Telephone Michelle 07488322929

HOLY SATURDAY MAESTEG: 7 pm Easter Vigil.

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

EASTER SUNDAY MAESTEG 9 am Mass - Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

ABERKENFIG 11 am Mass - telephone Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

**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

**MOTHER'S DAY:** As we celebrate Mother's Day

- we pray for all mothers in these most difficult times, we give thanks for the blessings of family life and pray that we are able to meet with our loved ones soon
- We pray for mothers who are expecting; we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience

**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](https://godwhospeaks.uk/lent-at-home/personal-devotions)

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



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

Prayer to St. Joseph by Pope Francis in this special year of St. Joseph.: Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.

**A Prayer of Saint Patrick**

May the Strength of God pilot us.  
May the Power of God preserve us.  
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the Hand of God protect us.  
May the Way of God direct us.  
May the Shield of God defend us.  
May the Host of God guard us.  
Against the snares of the evil ones.  
Against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us!  
May Christ be before us!  
May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!  
May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours,  
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.

Item # 2007583  
Catholic Company

**One Year On: “Remembering Our Loved-Ones”**

On Monday, 23rd March, at 12.45 pm, Archbishop George 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 which will be live-streamed through the Cathedral website. The Book of Remembrance will be given place of honour at the Requiem Mass before the pascal candle. If you would like the name of your loved one who has died as a result of the pandemic included in the Book of Remembrance; please e-mail Fr. Daniel at [cathedral@rcadc.org](mailto:cathedral@rcadc.org).

**FINANCE: MAESTEG:** (Income 7<sup>th</sup> March): Gift Aid £345.50; Planned /Loose £81.00; Restoration/Maintenance £141.90; Standing Orders February £715.00.  
**ABERKENFIG:** (Income February): Gift Aid £518, Other £206.

**ST ROBERT’S 100 CLUB:** *February winners:* 1<sup>st</sup> £40 Mr T Burt (65), 2<sup>nd</sup> £10 Mrs D Day (69), 3<sup>rd</sup> £10 N Keane (95). Subscriptions being taken and new members welcome; cheques to be made payable to St. Robert’s Parish. Please contact Bill Ennis 01656 724855.

**Our Lady & St Patrick’s Easter Raffle, 2021:** Tickets available at Masses. 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. Draw Tuesday, 30th March.

**VACANCY FOR HEADTEACHER ST MARY & ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Information on our Website “NEWS TAB” or telephone the Clerk on [01656 815585](tel:01656815585) . Closing date 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**EASTER STORY FOR CHILDREN** available on our Website “EVENTS/RESOURCERS TAB”.

**AMENDMENT TO ABORTION LEAFLET:** Please note the daily schedule should read Monday to Sunday not Monday to Saturday.