



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer
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**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) 11th April 2021
MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the Grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love and Mercy of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say Rejoice!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ:

'That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete'". (CCC 425)

My dear People of God, our First Reading focuses on the communal life of the early church. They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and the life of fellowship; to the breaking of bread and to prayers. With one mind and heart the community of believers had everything in common and no one was in need. For us today, the additional obligation is to bear witness with our life to the resurrection, and to take up the challenge of sharing our Christian values such as love, justice and mutual respect with everyone in the world.

In our Second reading of today, St. John writes that, the children of God are those who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who came through Water and Blood; and therefore, keeps His commandments of Love. The begotten of God conquers the world, and Faith is the power with which we overcome the world as Children of God. May we be faithful to our Baptismal Faith.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Gospel Reading encourages us not to absent ourselves from the communal worship on Sundays (the first day of the week) for on this day we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. This day supersedes any other day in our liturgical celebrations. Jesus greeted his disciples with peace and breathed the empowering Holy Spirit on them for the forgiveness of sins on the resurrection Sunday. Thomas, who was absent from the community, when this happened on the first Sunday of the resurrection, did not believe.

Beloved, it is very important that we attend Mass every Sunday to proclaim our Faith in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. And in addition, proclaim our faith in the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting. For Christ's statement: "Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed," underscores the importance of Faith in the life of the Christian. Hence, in Faith and Fellowship we overcome the World of division and sin.

God Love you!

United in Prayer!

APPRECIATION FOR EASTER OFFERINGS: *I will like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your kind Easter offerings, wishes, cards and presents; and most especially for your prayers and participation in the Celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is my Hope and Prayer that we will continue to live in the Joy of Easter and grow in the oneness of purpose in mind and heart, as true witnesses of the Resurrection in our community, for the Glory of God, for our Good and the Good of His Holy Church. May God reward you abundantly for your kindness. Thank you very much. God love you!*

MASS INTENTIONS: *I will continue to celebrate 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

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them,
“Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” (John 9:22)

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

(Restrictions apply)

VIGIL MASS Saturday, 10th April 2021, 5pm: ST. ROBERT'S
Mary Ann Hale *RIP*

HOLY MASS Sunday 11th April 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Special Intention (Anthony (LR) 11am: Canon William Isaac *RIP* (M&M)

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

2pm: EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS 3pm: DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
(RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



Monday: 12th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

Private Mass: Elaine Kelly *RIP* (TW) Special Intention

Tuesday: 13th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Anne Calcutt *RIP* (D&DH) For the souls of Unborn Babies (AA)

Wednesday: 14th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

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

Thursday: 15th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

10 am (*Restrictions apply*): Elizabeth Dawkins *RIP* (CK)

1 pm Our Lady & St Patrick: Funeral Service: Elizabeth Mary Dawkins *RIP* (*Invitation only*)

Friday: 16th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

Private Mass: Cristina Bisagni *RIP* (F&VK)

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

Saturday: 17th April 2021: Weekday: 2nd Week of Eastertide

**Private Mass: Wear and Furlong families *RIP* (EF) Henry & Patrick McDonald *RIP* (CMcD)
Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)**

(Psalter Week 3; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE (*Restrictions apply*)

VIGIL MASS Saturday, 17th April 2021, 5pm: ST. ROBERT'S

Michael Brandt *RIP* (DC)

HOLY MASS Sunday, 18th April 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Special Intention (Kimberly Morris) (LR) 11am: Ray Dunphy *RIP* (V&FK)

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

RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY – “RESTORATION FUND”

SACRAMENTS: Let us pray for Evelyn Ann Combarra, who will be baptised on Saturday 17th April, 2021 at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, and for her Parents and God Parents who will be her first teachers of the Faith

ETERNAL REST: *Let us join the world in Praying for the Repose of the Soul of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. May he rest in perfect peace and rise with the Lord in Eternal Glory. Our Sincere Condolences to the Queen and the Royal Family.*

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 pressure is constantly on them
- 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
- “As we celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy, we remember the words of St Faustina: “that in difficult moments we might not despair... but with great confidence submit ourselves to God’s holy will, which is love and mercy itself”.

We pray these words especially too for all women considering abortion, that the love, hope and mercy of Christ would be with them in their difficulty, and that they would find care and support in their family and friends so that they can keep their unborn child.

We pray also for Baby CARTHER MORRIS and all babies born with complications for God’s Healing.

“Lord hear us Lord graciously hear us”

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. AMEN.

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.”

To attend Masses: please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH:

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.

GRATEFUL AND SINCERE THANKS:

- to our stewards/cleaners who are committed, give up their time and continue to prepare both Churches for Parishioners to attend public Masses during the lockdown period
- to all who contributed to the cleaning, decorating and preparing both Churches for the Glorious Celebrations of the Easter Liturgies **May God richly Bless you all.**

ABERKENFIG PARISH: March Income £804; Lenten Alms £55.

100CLUB – Thanks to those who have renewed membership. New members very welcome. Please contact Bill Ennis tel. 724855 if you have any queries.

MISSIO "MAESTEG PARISH RED BOX COLLECTIONS FOR 2020"

Sincere thanks during a difficult year as unable to visit to collect your donations through the "Red Boxes". Our Parish raised £909.50. Confirmation and thank you letter from Missio on the Notice Board; with information on various ways you can donate. Details soon on our Website. Thanks from Paula for your continued support.

"The God Who Speaks": A Year of the Word - Scripture Study

'Everyone should carry a small Bible or pocket edition of the Gospels and should find at least a few minutes every day to read the word of God.' (Pope Francis, 2014)

With the programme of events being disrupted due to Covid 19, our planned talks in the Archdiocese of Cardiff are set to resume online this month with **Fr. Tim McGrath giving a talk on "Encountering Jesus as the Messiah in Matthew's Gospel"** on Saturday, April 24th from 11am-12.30pm.

Visit the Cardiff Cathedral Website.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2021: The Cardiff Archdiocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage 2021 will take place on Saturday 15th May at 11am, during National Marriage week. The Mass is being hosted and celebrated by Fr Michael Doyle of [All Saints parish](#), and you can join the Mass livestream via the [All Saints YouTube channel](#)

If you (or your parents or grandparents or anyone else) celebrated or are celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2020-21 (Archdiocese of Cardiff) please email your full names and the anniversary you are marking so you can be listed in the Mass booklet.

This Mass is being co-ordinated by the [Archdiocesan Family Life Commission](#) All are welcome to join the Celebration on line and, during the Mass, all couples will be encouraged to make the Renewal of Commitment together at home.

The Commission would like to produce a reflective presentation for the Mass and so we would encourage you to send a wedding photo, ideally taken inside or outside the church in which you were married, that you are happy to be included in a promotional slideshow that will be shared during the Mass and also on Archdiocesan social media platforms (please include the name of your parish including area/town). [Please email all photos and anniversary details by Sunday 18th April 2021 for inclusion in the Mass booklet and/or presentation.](#)

CALLED TO SERVE: Priest's Training Fund Appeal 24th/25th April 2021

If the last year has taught us anything, it is how important parish priests are in providing spiritual and practical support during a crisis. They've made a commitment to us, to provide spiritual care and practical charity for those in need. They do so in parishes, in prisons, hospitals and schools, and in many other ways, preaching, teaching, and being there to offer support and guidance. Those who decide to train for the priesthood have also made a commitment to our faith. Without their sacrifice our community would be all the poorer as we have learnt throughout the pandemic. The calibre of those who have answered God's call to serve as priests gives us hope for the future. We must prepare these men as best we can for all the challenges that the world can throw at them. As a church we are committed to ensuring that they receive robust preparation under the guidance of expert mentors. The challenge of a lifelong commitment to serve God and God's people is daunting. But those who enter seminary know that they are supported by family and friends in their home diocese.

Your generosity and prayers make this possible. Thank you.

Please Support the
Priest Training Fund Appeal

Please use this form to add 25p to every £1 you give at no extra cost

If you are a UK tax payer, you can add 25p to every £1 that you donate to the Archdiocese of Cardiff with Gift Aid.

All you need to do is add your details and post this Gift Aid Declaration with your donation to the Priest Training Fund, Archbishop's House, 41/43 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9HD.

To save time you can also donate online at www.rcadc.org/donations

Registered Charity No. 117272

They have answered the call. How can we help?

I would like the Archdiocese of Cardiff to treat the following as a Gift Aid donation.
PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS

I would like the Archdiocese of Cardiff to treat the following as a Gift Aid donation: I am a UK taxpayer and I understand that I'll pay less Income tax and/or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Date: _____
Email (optional): _____

Please make cheques payable to the ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF.

We would like to contact you, if you are happy for us to do so, then please tick this box.

Our data is stored and processed in accordance with data protection legislation and we only share information with external organisations working on our behalf or when required by law (for example when making a Gift Aid claim).

This Year donations to the Priests Training Fund will be matched pound-for-pound by the Jesuit Seminary and Mission Fund.

If you would like to support the Priest Training Fund appeal you can request a gift aid envelope at your parish church. Alternatively, you can give online at www.rcadc.org/donations. *You can also cut out the Gift Aid declaration in this newsletter and return it with your donation to Archbishop's House, 41/43 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9HD.*