



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

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**11th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – 13TH JUNE 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: “God is the sovereign master of His plan. But to carry it out he also makes use of his creatures' co-operation. This use is not a sign of weakness, but rather a token of Almighty God's greatness and goodness. For God grants his creatures not only their existence, but also the dignity of acting on their own, of being causes and principles for each other, and thus of co-operating in the accomplishment of his plan.” (CCC 306)

My dear people of God: Today's Readings encourage us to have Hope in the Lord's plan for our lives and patiently wait for it to unfold. The Prophet Ezekiel, in the first reading, carries a message of hope to all God's people. As a point of reference, he describes how God will take a seemingly weak part of a tree, and transform it into a magnificent tree.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul expressed his message of hope in the confidence that faith in Christ positions us for faithful service that pleases the Lord. And that the reward for our faith, which is eternal life with Christ Jesus, is worth the waiting.

In the Gospel Christ Jesus, in His parables, likens the Kingdom of God to the process of sowing a seed and watching it grow to full maturity. This process, like following in the footsteps of Christ, requires patience and a living hope.

The first parable shows how the invisible action of the Holy Spirit causes growth of the Kingdom of God. Over a period of time, the extension of the Kingdom becomes quite noticeable. The second parable, however, expresses how the Kingdom of God, like the mustard seed, starts off very small but grows to mighty proportions, having an effect on the entire world.

Beloved in Christ, everything big has a small beginning. It is no different with the kingdom of God. The seed of Christian faith was sowed like the mustard seed in the heart of twelve Apostles. This mustard seed-like faith was nurtured by unalloyed determination and courage, obedience to the promptings of the Spirit, love, prayer, and community life.

Let us reflect on some of the lessons we can learn from this parable. The parable of the growing seed is an invitation to be hopeful in the Lord at all times. We should have no reason to become discouraged in life because of “our smallness”. Even though we might occasionally feel insignificant, unnoticed, unappreciated, we should never forget that the once smallest seed became the biggest shrub. What once needed protection and tender care became a source of protection and care. When we are uncertain about our future and are unable to see much of our hidden potentials, we have no reason to give up. It is God who gives the little mustard seed the capacity to grow into the biggest tree in whose shade the birds of the sky can nest and find shelter. In life, hope is the only thing that can help us get through the darkest of times. It is the ability to anticipate light despite all of the darkness that surrounds us. The parable of the mustard seed must help us renew our hopes and aspirations. There will always be occasions and moments that seek to frustrate our inner motivations and desires, but in all these we are to let our hopes, not our hurts, shape our lives and our future. It will be a mistake to ever look for hope outside of yourself; genuine hope comes from within, and hope is the last thing ever lost.

The parable of the growing seed is also a call to be patient with the Lord and the laws of life. With the Lord, nothing can be forced, only expected. This requires a great deal of patience and perseverance. Jesus invites us to wait on God who creates and sustains life in all dignity. God Love You!

United in prayer

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION: Congratulations to Fr Pat O’Gorman (St Helen’s Barry) as he celebrates his golden jubilee on 20th June 2021. There is a book at St Helen’s for memories and well wishes to Fr Pat that will be presented to him, if you would like to add any message to the book please send them to Kirsty Vater (Parish Administrator): kirstyvater1987@outlook.com.



'The Bible is not just a beautiful book to keep on a shelf. It is the Word of life be sown, gift that the Risen Jesus asks us to accept in order to have life in His name.' (Pope Francis July 1, 2019)



(Psalter Week 3 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

(Restrictions apply)

11th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 12th June 2021: ST. ROBERT'S

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

HOLY MASS: Sunday: 13th June 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Jeff Wyatt *RIP* (R&BJ)

11am: Mary & Ron Browne/Irene & Aidan Doyle *RIP* (MTB)

5pm: Kitty McGee *RIP* (A&JB)

Monday: 14th June 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 11

Private Mass: Maria & John Kehoe *RIP* (KK)

6 pm ROSARY at OUR LADY'S GROTTTO *(on Monday evenings from today)*

Tuesday: 15th June 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 11

10 am MAESTEG *(Restrictions apply):*

Father Gabriele Marie Pelletier *Birthday* (AA) We pray for the souls of unborn Babies

Wednesday: 16th June 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 11

10 am ABERKENFIG *(Restrictions apply):* Special Intention (F&F)

Thursday, 17th June 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 11

Private Mass: Catherine & Peter Codd *RIP* (C&TJ)

Friday: 18th June 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 11

10 am MAESTEG *(Restrictions apply):* Vince Kelly *RIP* (M&F) Ken Jenkins *RIP* (V&FK)

We pray for All the Clergy & Religious Orders, to always & ever follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit

10.30am – 6pm EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR ADORATION

(Restrictions apply: Please book a time slot with Collette on 07702023565)

CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION and SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

Fr. Edmund will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) and Spiritual Direction on Friday from 11am – 6pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg.

You may please call the Mobile 07964366710 to book an appointment.

Saturday: 19th June 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Lady

Private Mass: Conversion of Mair, Rhiannan & Shatag (MM)

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

(Psalter Week 4 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

(Restrictions apply)

12th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

DAY FOR LIFE "FATHERS' DAY"

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 19th June 2021: ST. ROBERT'S

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

HOLY MASS: Sunday: 20th June 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Anniversaries Mavis & Jack Harris (M&TC)

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

5pm: Kathryn Richards & Arthur Williams *RIP* (GB&G)

ETERNAL REST: In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the souls of VINCENT KELLY who passed away on Wednesday, 2ND June 2021, His Funeral will be on Monday 28th June 2021 at 10am at Our Lady & St. Patrick's Church, Maesteg; and MAUREEN LUCAS who passed away on Friday, 11th June, 2021

May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families at this sad and difficult time.



Month of June

We continue to pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; especially for all Priests for their care, love and support; especially those of our Archdiocese and Deanery. *Amen.*

SICK OF OUR PARISHES: “Is any among you sick? Let him call on the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed any sin, he will be forgiven”

(James 5: 14-16). Let us pray for the sick of our Parishes remembering in a very special way: David Lonergan, Gerald Hughes, Maurice Kehoe, Anthony Roche, Linda Pryce, Theresa Griffiths, Fr. Dennis Opoku, Marion Smith, Violet Ronan. Please do not hesitate to inform Fr. Edmund to add your love ones who are sick to the prayer list and to visit them where possible to administer the sacrament of the sick for their healing and strengthening. God love them.,

WE PRAY FOR:

- His holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop George, all clergy & men/women of Religious Orders, our sick and retired clergy; several who remain active in our parishes
- Vocations to the Priesthood; our Seminarians - Elliot Hanson, Dale Cutlan, and Gwyn Jones
- People of India who have died and suffering from the devastating second wave of the Coronavirus
- 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/residential homes 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

“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:

TUESDAY: 10am: Derek or Denis - 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

FRIDAY: 10am: Collette - 07702023565

SUNDAY: 9 am: Derek or Denis - 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

11am: Collette - 07702023565 5pm: Derek or Denis – 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2 pm)

EXPOSITION & ADORATION: FRIDAY: 10.30am -6.00pm: Collette on 07702023565

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.

MAESTEG: Income 6th June: Gift Aid £247.50; Planned /Loose £100.90; Levy £145.10; Bricks £52.90. Standing Orders May 2021 £926.00.

FOODBANK - MAESTEG AND CAERAU: Letter of thanks received from the Local Food Bank thanking you so much for your generous donations of foods and finance which has enabled them to meet some of the very great needs of families and people in our locality. Letter on notice board and Website for your information.

THANKSGIVING: Sue Walsh will like the thank all for our prayers and kind messages during her time in hospital and recovery. Her foremost thanks go to God for hearing our prayers and granting her healing.

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S GARDEN PARTY: PLACES NOW AVAILABLE FOR PARISHIONERS UNDER "70":

Thanks to everyone who has already registered for this year's garden party 'Fundraiser' in the Church grounds following social distancing COVID regulations:

Date: This Saturday, 19th June, **Time:** 2.00pm; **Ticket fee** £7.50 per head; (includes welcome drink, afternoon tea picnic box, served with tea and coffee); **Events:** Bingo and Raffle.

Places still available - now open to the wider parish

IMPORTANT: Attendance is strictly by advanced registration only, numbers are restricted; to confirm your reservations please contact the following:

Michael Banks: 07584177456; Denis & Derek Horton, any day after 2pm: 01656 731767;

Maria Davies: 07779532212; Collette: 07702023565.

TO SECURE YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE PAY FOR YOUR TICKET NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, 15TH JUNE (not refundable). Please put your money or cheques, made payable to The Flower Group, into a sealed envelope and give to the Stewards for banking.

Donations: To keep costs down to a minimum we welcome donations of bottles of Buck's Fizz, Bingo and Raffle prizes. **All proceeds shall go towards the ongoing costs of the church structural restoration currently underway.**

Our Lady & St Patrick's 'Sizzling Summer Raffle'

Our first ever parish 'Summer Raffle' shall be launched on Sunday, 20th June when tickets shall be available for collection at church, or they can be dropped off to you at home by request. Tickets are priced at £1 each; prizes include: 1st Prize: £100 cash; 2nd Prize: Indulgent basket of cheese & wine; 3rd Prize: £25 voucher for Summer BBQ meat selection; plus more exciting prizes.

What impact has the pandemic had on you and your family? Is this impact temporary? Or are the effects of it likely to last for months/years to come? How has your family life changed? Are there any areas of your life that you need advice about? Do you miss having people to share your experiences with? Would talking with others in similar situations help? The Family Life Team for the Archdiocese would like to invite **YOU** to a 'Drop in Zoom' if you would like a bit of advice, support or information **or just chat with likeminded parents/grandparents** about the joys and challenges they face within their families and maybe discover how the Church can support the families of our community, directly or through signposting to appropriate organisations. **Zoom Drop In Sessions will be held by Zoom on Tuesdays as follows:**

June 15th at 8pm, June 22nd at 8pm, June 29th at 11am, July 6th at 11am. Parents and grandparents can 'drop in' to the sessions as suits your availability and as one off or several as you wish... but you will need to get a joining invitation, so, please email flc@rcadc.org and a joining invitation will be sent by reply.

If you do find things getting too much, remember to talk to family and friends and share your feelings; if this isn't possible or appropriate remember there are organisations that can offer support or just a listening ear: Family lives - offer information and support on many aspects of family life and parenting. **They offer an online chat and have a helpline 0808 800 2222 Samaritans – call them anytime 116 123. If you have domestic abuse concerns, Refuge have a 24 hour helpline 0808 2000 247**

URGENT MESSAGE FROM RIGHT TO LIFE UK:

ASK YOUR MP TO SIGN A PARLIAMEMNTARY MOTION TO STOP 'DIY' ABORTION

Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. If 'DIY' home abortions become permanent, this will be a very big change to abortion provision that will likely lead to the loss of many more lives - and it is likely that this will have a strong negative impact on the physical and emotional health of women. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible sign Carla Lockhart's motion to send a clear message to the Government that they must end dangerous 'DIY' home abortion services as soon as possible. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to sign the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion Or write to Chris Elmore MP, 44A Pen Y Bont Road Pencoed Bridgend CF35 5RA.

SCRIPTURE AND WELLBEING : For the month of June, the focus of the God Who Speaks Team is on Scripture and Wellbeing. Their new six-part Scripture and Art series – Soul to Soul invites you to walk with them, alongside some biblical characters. They explore the link between faith and meaning, suffering and the 'dark night of the soul', and what salvation might mean in the here and now. Using the rhythm of the day, this resource offers hope and wisdom in tough times today - <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/scripture-and-wellbeing/>

Check our Website for further notifications from the Archdiocese.