



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

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**14th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
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 infinitely good and all his works are good. Yet no one can escape the experience of suffering or the evils in nature which seem to be linked to the limitations proper to creatures: and above all to the question of moral evil. Where does evil come from? “I sought whence evil comes and there was no solution”, said St. Augustine, and his own painful quest would only be resolved by his conversion to the living God. For “the mystery of lawlessness” is clarified only in the light of the “mystery of our religion”. The revelation of divine love in Christ manifested at the same time the extent of evil and the superabundance of grace. We must therefore approach the question of the origin of evil by fixing the eyes of our faith on him who alone is its conqueror.” (CCC 385)

Beloved, in our 1st Reading of today: God sent the Prophet Ezekiel to preach to the rebellious Israel. He encourages the prophet, and all priests, for that matter, that in spite of the people’s stubbornness, the word of God will make an impact on them. So, we should not give up the proclamation of the Word of God and provision of opportunity for the reception of the Sacraments in Faith for our salvation.

St. Paul, in our second reading, does not think highly of himself; instead, he is content to portray himself as a weak vessel that God is using for his purpose. God’s Power is made perfect in human weakness! In his weakness St. Paul experiences the perfection of the power of God; and therefore, invites us to see in him the Christ whom he preaches.

In the Gospel, Jesus’ own people failed to appreciate his ministry, and so did not benefit from his miracles. He “could not do any mighty work there and he marvelled because of their unbelief”. We also stand the chance of missing out on divine insights if we do not acknowledge and have faith in those whom the Lord has anointed to be our shepherds to nourish us with His Word and Sacraments.

My Dear People of God, Faith in a relationship with the Lord, like every human relationship, is associated sometimes with disappointments, uncertainties, and intolerance. The prophet Ezekiel was sent by God to the people of Israel to remind them of the covenant relationship with God, unfortunately, the people ignored the word of the prophet; yet the prophet was not allowed to back out but must persevere.

The life of St. Paul was not different from the life of Ezekiel in terms of challenges. He pleaded three times with the Lord for the difficulties he was facing, but the Lord said, “My grace is sufficient for you: my power is at its best in weakness”. The faith of these people sustained them in their mission.

Our faith grows when we believe and surrender to the Grace of God through the power in His Word. The Blessed Ever Virgin Mary is the supreme model of our faith, for she believed and surrendered to the Word of God spoken by the Angel; “Behold, I am the handmade of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word”.

Similarly, when we believe Jesus speaking to us in the Scriptures, we too will know the power in His Word and He will work in our challenging lives for our good. Faith calls for obedience to God. As we obey God out of love, God can work miracles in our lives. “If you love me, you will obey my commandments”, says the Lord, and “I will come to you and make my home in you”.

To live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the Word of God and the Sacraments; we must beg the Lord to increase our Faith. Constant faith in God through prayer and pondering on the Word of God is the basis for a fruitful and happy life.

May the mystery of faith proclaim in every Eucharistic Celebration come alive in our hearts and grow in our relationship with God and one another.

God Love you!

United in prayer

(Psalter Week 2 Sunday Reading Cycle B)
14th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

(Restrictions apply)

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 3rd July 2021: ST. ROBERT'S

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

HOLY MASS: Sunday: 4th July 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

**9am: Tom Bumford *RIP* (R&PB) 11am: Maurice & Glenys Fitzgibbon *RIP* (LR)
5pm: Gwen & Arthur Roy Richards *RIP* (CW)**

Monday: 5th July 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 14

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK MAESTEG *(Invitation only)*

**10.30 am REQUIEM MASS THERESA GRIFFITHS *RIP*
12pm Maesteg Cemetery**



6 pm ROSARY at OUR LADY'S GROTTTO

Tuesday, 6th July 2021 Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 14

10 am MAESTEG *(Restrictions apply):*

Ken Jenkins *RIP* (GW) Vince Kelly *RIP* (MJ&f) we pray for the souls of unborn Babies

Wednesday: 7th July 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 14

10 am ABERKENFIG *(Restrictions apply):* Angelo Rossessti *RIP* (KR)

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK MAESTEG *(Invitation only)*

12.30 am REQUIEM MASS MAUREEN LUCAS *RIP* 2pm Maesteg Cemetery

Thursday, 8th July 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 14

Private Mass: Maureen Lucas *RIP* (D&EH New Zealand) Special Intention

Friday: 9th July 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 14

10 am MAESTEG *(Restrictions apply):*

Connie & Albert Williams *RIP* (P&C) Mrs Emily McNanmara (1st Anniv) *RIP* (TW)

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: 10th July 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Blessed Lady

Private Mass: Eirlys Furlong (Thanksgiving Birthday) (MB&f)

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

(Psalter Week 3 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

15th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

SEA SUNDAY *(retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea)*

(Restrictions apply)

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 10th July 2021: ST. ROBERT'S

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

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

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

11am: Vince Kelly *RIP* (KK) 5pm: All Seafarers

ETERNAL REST: In your mercy, please pray for those who have recently died (Vince Kelly, Maureen Lucas, Theresa Griffiths) and those who have anniversaries at this time. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.*

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, 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
- the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would surround them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond

“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 01656 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.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME

URGENT MESSAGE: On Monday, 4th July, the abortion lobby are going to attempt to introduce ABORTION UP TO BIRTH in England and Wales, via amendment to the Police, Crime, etc. Bill. PLEASE TAKE 30 SECONDS TODAY TO E-MAIL YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ASKING THEM TO OPPOSE THIS EXTREME CHANGE. Chris.Elmore.mp@parliament.uk

MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP GEORGE STACK: I have been informed by the Apostolic Nuncio that the Holy Father has accepted my resignation from the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Cardiff having reached the canonical age for retirement. Pope Francis has added the formula “Nunc pro Tunc” in his decision. The simple translation of these words is “now for then”. In other words, a decision has been made which will be implemented sometime in the future. In practice, this means I shall continue my service as bishop of the diocese until the Holy Father appoints a successor. There is no fixed term or date for this canonical arrangement. I am sure you will join with me in prayer to the Holy Spirit as Pope Francis makes provision for the diocese in naming the 8th Archbishop of Cardiff.

RECLAIMING OUR COMMON HOME: MESSAGE FROM CAFOD:

Our campaign is a response to Pope Francis’s call for a new way of thinking about the world, and to take an active part in renewing our troubled societies by embracing the universal values of solidarity and fraternity. He tells us this moment of extraordinary turmoil is the time “to rethink the future of our common home and our common project” and, in doing so, address the causes of poverty, inequality and the climate emergency. To begin the journey of reclaiming our common home this year, we invite you and your parish to work towards achieving three major goals. Pope Francis tell us “the world is itself crying out in rebellion”. What are we going to do about it? As Catholics, we are called not to stay silent and not to be passive. This is why Reclaim Our Common Home is a call to action! It’s a call to participate both individually and collectively in rebuilding a more dignified and sustainable world after the pandemic. For further details refer to “News Tab” on our Website - <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk> Also cafod.org.uk/action-news

FINANCE: Our sincere gratitude goes to everyone for your contributions and support to both Parishes. Your support financially and in kind to the Parishes in these uncertain times is very much appreciated. Please continue to keep it up. God love you!

MAESTEG: Income 20th June: Gift Aid £205.00; Planned /Loose £233.50; Maintenance £126.20; Standing Orders May 2021 £926.00.

300 PLUS CLUB - JUNE DRAW: 1st (£150) Maria Mitchell 294; 2nd (£75) Mary Dwyer 140; 3rd (£50) Mary Jenkins 64. *Thanks for your continued support; vital income for our Parish.*

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

Our first ever parish ‘**Summer Raffle**’ has got off to a good start, tickets are available at all Masses throughout the week from stewards. Alternatively, please contact Michael Banks on 07584177456, or any of the stewards, telephone numbers above, who shall be pleased to provide you with tickets. For those of you who want to participate in our exciting raffle, but is unable to attend Mass, we shall be happy to facilitate a ‘**Click & Collect**’ system, that is to say, we can drop off to your home the amount of raffle tickets you wish to purchase, and extra tickets for family members and friends. We can collect your money at the same time. *Thank you.*

Tickets 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, many more exciting prizes which we are beginning to receive as donations. *Draw shall take place on the 2nd Tuesday in August.*

Fr Edmund's Silver Jubilee Anniversary to the Priesthood:

Fr Edmund shall celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood, at Our Lady and St Patrick’s Church, on Tuesday, 20th July, with a Mass of Thanksgiving, at 11.00am, followed by a reception on the church lawn, weather prevailing. Numbers are restricted in line with Government COVID-19 regulations, with seating allocated to both St Robert’s, Aberkenfig, and Our Lady & St Patrick’s Maesteg. Please make your reservations through Denis and Derek Horton - 01656731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm). Should anyone wish to offer a gift to Fr Edmund in recognition of this milestone anniversary, Fr Edmund requests that the gift be made as ‘a donation to the church’, to help support the ongoing building maintenance. Please make your donations, cash or cheques, made payable to ‘**The Flower Group**’, placed within a sealed envelope addressed as ‘**Silver Jubilee Donation**’.

MONTH OF AUGUST: Pleased God, FR. Edmund will be going to Ghana at the end of July for Funeral. He will stay on and God willing return on the 31st of August. In his absence the Priests in the Deanery would cover Masses for the first Sunday in August, then Fr. Gareth Leyshon, will come every Friday-Monday to cover Masses, for the rest of the period. He will be happy to attend to emergencies when called. Let’s keep all our Priests in our prayers. Thank you.