

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Bishops of Wales

Saturday 7th August will complete the move to alert level 0 by Welsh Government of the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus> :

- remove legal restrictions on the number of people who can meet indoors, including in private homes, public places or at events
- face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises. This will be kept under review.

Nevertheless, there continues to be the encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the UK Prime Minister said recently "The pandemic is not over." Even with this minimal legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship. We must remain mindful that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass.

The Catholic Bishops of England, acknowledge that it is still not possible at present time for all the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday, thus fulfilling their duty to God. Please be patient whilst we come to terms with the latest change to the restrictions. There is still much confusion as to what these changes mean for places of worship and clarity is still being sought. There are also risk assessments to be studied and completed.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

**Until there is clarity on how the new level affects places of worship,
please continue to book for Masses.**

To attend Masses: please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH:

MONDAY: (16th, 23rd, 30th August, 10am) Derek/Denis - 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2 pm)

FRIDAY: (20th, 27th August: 5-6 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6 pm Mass)
Collette – 07702023565

SUNDAY: 9 am: Derek or Denis - 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)
11am: Collette - 07702023565 5pm: Michelle Bumford - 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH:

THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

VIGIL MASSES SATURDAYS - 21st, 28th August at 5 pm

Please ring 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 restrictions/rules below still apply.

PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK MAESTEG AND ST. ROBERTS ABERKENFIG

ATTENDING MASS:

Please remember that while Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in England, this has not yet happened in Wales. So please stick closely to the Covid-secure restrictions outlined below:

- You will only attend Mass if you are able to confirm that you currently show no symptoms of Covid-19.
- You will wear a face-covering/mask in Church at all times, except to receive Holy Communion.
- You should arrive between 20 and 5 minutes before the start time of Mass.
- You will use hand-sanitiser as you enter and exit the Church.
- Please allow a Steward to show you to your seat.
- Please do not leave your seat to go and talk to other parishioners who are not part of your household/bubble.
- Please wait to be invited up to Holy Communion
- No congregational singing is allowed at Mass and any responses should be made in a low tone, as singing
and loud voices have been shown to spread the virus further
- Once Mass has ended, please leave the Church promptly and disperse.

**The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has confirmed that
the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.**

**Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience or distress these regulations may Cause
They are still a requirement to enable public worship to take place**