



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

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Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272



**PRIEST IN CHARGE MONTH OF AUGUST REV FR TIM McGRATH  
PARISH OF ST MARY BRIDGEND  
EMERGENCIES TELEPHONE: 01656 652034**

***The Assumption of Our Lady, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021***

***'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour!'***

The Feast of the Assumption marks the special place that Mary, chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, has in the life of the Church. The Roman Catholic Church today celebrates that she was taken, body and soul, into heaven, when her life on earth was over.

In the **First Reading**, a woman, taken to be either Mary or the Early Church, safely delivers her son into the world. Although threatened by the dragon (representing the power of evil), the child – the Messiah who would rule all the nations – was taken directly to God. The woman herself escaped to a place of safety.

The **Psalm** was originally a wedding song for the king of Judah.

It also points us towards Jesus the king and to Mary, his mother, as queen.

She is also a subject of the king, and a daughter.

St Paul tells the Corinthians that through Jesus's death and resurrection, all followers of Christ can look forward to a risen life with Jesus, and to a new fullness of life with God.

**(Second Reading)**

The **Gospel** tells of Mary's visitation to her sister, Elizabeth. In Mary's hymn of praise, the *Magnificat*, we see her faith and complete trust in God.

This week, we may like to ask Mary to intercede for us as we pray for the grace of knowing God's will for us, and to follow her example in always saying an unconditional 'yes'. We also offer thanks for all the great things the Almighty has done for us.

**To attend Masses: please telephone the following Stewards:**

**MAESTEG PARISH:**

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

**FRIDAY: (20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> 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 - 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME**

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**(Psalter Week 4 Sunday Reading Cycle B)**



“If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him and we shall come to him”  
(John 14:23)

*(Restrictions apply)*

**VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021: ST. ROBERT'S**

**5pm: Mary Downey (Birthday KR)**

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

**HOLY MASS: Sunday: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S**

**9am: Bill Heath RIP (GBG) 11am: Theresa Griffiths RIP (EF)**

**5pm: Margaret Whitty RIP (TW)**

**RETIRING COLLECTION FOR RESTORATION FUND**

**Monday: 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 20**

**10am: David Lonergan RIP (M&F) *(Restrictions apply)***

**6 pm ROSARY at OUR LADY'S GROTTTO**

***We pray for the end to the Pandemic, for the NHS and frontline staff,  
the sick and housebound and their carers and our Parishioners.***



**Friday: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021: St Bernard Abbot and Doctor of the Church**

**5pm – 6pm EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR ADORATION**

**6pm HOLY MASS Intention: Lynn Daniel & Matthew Morgan RIP (LM)**

***(Restrictions apply: Book with Denis/Derek–01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2 pm)***



In Church, before the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, let us open our hearts, lay down our burdens and grief and pray for the healing of our world. Silent prayer and adoration before the mystery of Christ, present to us in the Blessed Sacrament, is where we receive the grace to grow in love of Christ and to experience His merciful love for each one of us.

**Why not take the opportunity to pray and reflect!**

**(Psalter Week 1 Sunday Reading Cycle B)**

**21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

*(Restrictions apply)*

**VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021: ST. ROBERT'S**

**5pm: Stocking Family (D&AD)**

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

**HOLY MASS: Sunday: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S**

**9am: Sheila Allan RIP (MD) 11am: Windsor, Nora & Teresa Morgan RIP (CT)**

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

**Monday: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 21**

**10am: Theresa Griffiths RIP (KF) *(Restrictions apply)***

**The Assumption of Mary into Heaven**



Mary's Assumption into heaven has been a common belief since ancient times and musicians, artists and poets have always celebrated the Assumption of our Lady through their work. This belief was declared a dogma ex Cathedra in 1950 by Pope Pius the XII. And so Catholics around the world celebrate The Assumption of our Lady into heaven every year on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The Assumption is a source of hope for all of us as we are all called to share in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mary has been prepared by God her entire life for this moment where she would be assumed body and soul into heaven. We are all called to share the same glory as Mary and Jesus by joining

God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in an eternal communion of love. And that we will finally meet our mother Mary, all the angels and saints and those we love after our death.

***Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Heaven, pray for us.***

**PARISH WEBSITE** includes a “NEWS” tab. Latest update “Feast of the Assumption” with the reflection by Amégée Olongo on a stained glass window designed by Evie Hone.  
<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sacred-space/the-feast-of-the-assumption-a-reflection/>

### **ETERNAL REST:**



*Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families at this sad and difficult time. Please pray for all our Parishioners who have recently died, may they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory; also keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. Let us pray for those who have anniversaries at this time.*



***PRAY FOR OUR SICK:*** “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: Derek Horton, Gerald Hughes, Maurice Kehoe, 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 to always & ever follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Vocations to the Priesthood; our Seminarians - Dale Cutlan and Gwyn Jones
- People who have died, are dying and those suffering from this devastating virus
- 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
- those who have no-one to pray for them
- our young people & students, Headteachers, Teachers, Staff & Governors of our Schools
- the souls of unborn Babies
- all expectant mothers. 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. *“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.”

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> August:** Gift Aid £307; Planned /Loose £243.50; Maintenance £82.60; Bricks £7;  
Standing Orders July £946.

## **FUNDRAISING NEWS:**

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

Kind appreciation and a big thank you to everyone who participated in any way to making our first ever summer raffle a success, from selling and purchasing tickets, to your very generous donations for raffle prizes, resulting in a proud sum raised for the church of £519.98.

**Our happy prize winners are as follows:-**

- 1 st Prize: £100 cash: Paul Woods, ticket 00751
- 2 nd Prize: Indulgent basket of cheese & wine: Niel Roche; ticket 00640
- 3 rd Prize: £25 voucher for Summer BBQ meat selection: Moya Lewis; ticket 00522
- 4 th Prize: Beach bag with all you need for a day at the seaside: Barbara Evans; ticket 00596
- 5 th Prize: Bottle of whiskey: Mall Roberts; ticket 00327
- 6 th Prize: Thorton's Chocolates & bottle of Bucks Fizz: Angela Brenan; ticket 00329
- 7 th Prize: Mandara Spa Gift Set: Jennifer Smith; ticket 00330

**300+ Club:** The August draw shall take place on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Future Events:** To be advised. Watch this space!

### **CAFOD MESSAGE: 10th Anniversary of the Syrian conflict – how your donations have helped the Syrian people**

Thanks to your donations, CAFOD has been helping people in Syria since the crisis began 10 years ago. Over 12 million people have left their homes, 5.6 million are refugees in neighbouring countries and within Syria, 13 million people need help. At the beginning, our focus was on delivering food and blankets through our local church partners. Then we started providing education, health and legal services, and helping people earn a living. Our latest projects are supporting children, lonely elderly people, helping women learn to read, and helping people restart their small businesses. We've always planned for the long term, standing alongside people who lost everything. None of this work would have been possible without your support of CAFOD.

*Thank you.*

### **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.**