



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer
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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**

21st Sunday 22nd August 2021

'You have the message of eternal life, and we believe!'

This Sunday, the readings invite us to consider honestly the depth of our love for the Lord. The same challenging questions once put to the Israelites by Joshua, and later to the disciples by Jesus, are being asked of us today.

The tribes of Israel are gathered at Shechem. They answer Joshua's challenge by declaring why they intend to serve the Lord. (**First Reading**)

The **Second Reading** is full of social codes and expectations that would have been well understood by those to whom they were addressed. In essence, these words are a discourse on the deep love that Christ has for the Church, a love so strong that it is compared to an intimate, loving relationship between husband and wife.

The full mystery of this love has been revealed over the last few Sundays, and again today, in the conclusion to Jesus's teaching on the Living Bread of Life (**Gospel**). For many of Jesus's followers, this proves too challenging. Turning to the Twelve, Jesus asks if they want to leave too. But Peter speaks for them all, and perhaps for the whole Christian community, in saying: *'Lord who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.'*

Once again we hear the invitation in the **Psalm** to *'Taste and see that the Lord is good'*.

This week, we pray especially that our spiritual life may nourish us and all those around us, and that we may embody a loving commitment to follow the Lord at all times.

**PARISHES OF OUR LADY & ST PATRICK and ST ROBERT
COMMUNAL WORSHIP - COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS**

As a result of recent changes made by the Welsh Government and advice from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, certain restrictions made may be removed or changed. A risk assessment has to be submitted to the Archdiocese, which cannot be completed until certain decisions have been made by Fr. Edmund; therefore, present restrictions will apply for the next few weeks.

To attend Masses: please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH:

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

FRIDAY: (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 MASS SATURDAY, 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.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME

21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

(Psalter Week 1 Sunday Reading Cycle B)



“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)



(Restrictions apply)

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 21st 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: 22nd 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: 23rd August 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 21

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

6pm: 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: 27th August 2021: St Monica

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

6pm HOLY MASS Intention: Terry Furlong RIP (EF) *(Restrictions apply)*



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 2 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

(Restrictions apply)

VIGIL MASS: Saturday: 28th 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: 29th August 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Mary & John Nicholson; Jack McGrath; Vera & Bill Donoghue RIP (M&PD)

11am: Erwin Cyba RIP (LM) 5pm: Kevin Lowe RIP (CW)

Monday: 30th August 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 22

10am: Amelia Hughes (Birthday) (KR) *(Restrictions apply)*

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

Let us pray for the sick of our Parishes remembering in a very special way:

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”*

AFGHANISTAN: The Chair of the Bishops’ Conference Department of International Affairs has urged Catholics to pray for the people of Afghanistan, while pointing to the work of humanitarian organisations, and efforts to welcome refugees, as signs of hope.

Bishop Declan Lang said:

“As Christians, we are called to be people of hope, even when a situation may appear hopeless.

Today our hope can be placed in those who are working tirelessly for dialogue, justice, and peace in their country.

Our hope can be placed in the humanitarian organisations that are continuing to offer their assistance, and the efforts to welcome and protect refugees fleeing their homes.

Above all we place our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom we pray in the knowledge that he will never abandon the people of Afghanistan.”

Pope Francis has called for dialogue in the country:

“I ask all of you to pray with me to the God of peace so that the clamour of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue. Only thus can the battered population of that country – men, women, elderly and children – return to their own homes, and live in peace and security, in total mutual respect.”

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.”

ARCHBISHOP McGRATH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Congratulations to all our pupils, staff, governors and the Head of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School on this year's 'GCSE' and 'A Level' results during what has been an extremely challenging year. *Our prayers and thanks to all. God bless.*

ABERKENFIG PARISH: 100 CLUB WINNERS:

May: 1st £40 Mr. D. Riley (123), 2nd £10 Ms. K. Richards (117), 3rd £10 Mr. A. Davey (3)

June: 1st £40 Mr. S. Keane (91), 2nd £10 Mrs. L. Townsend (44), 3rd £10 Mrs. G. Riley (79)

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 15th August: Gift Aid £285.50; Planned /Loose £189; Restoration £304.50; Bricks £13.50; Standing Orders July £946.

300+ Club: The August draw shall take place on Tuesday, 31st 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.