



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

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Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272



**26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – HARVEST SUNDAY
MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND**

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the peace and Joy of Christ Jesus be with you.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: “Scandal can be provoked by laws or institutions, by fashion or opinion. Therefore, they are guilty of scandal who establish laws or social structures leading to the decline of morals and the corruption of religious practice, or to “social conditions that, intentionally or not, make Christian conduct and obedience to the Commandments difficult and practically impossible.” This is also true of business leaders who make rules encouraging fraud, teachers who provoke their children to anger, or manipulators of public opinion who turn it away from moral values.” (CCC 2286)

My dear people of God, our need for affirmation and security can make us try to control situations which we don’t understand well. “Anyone who is not against us is for us” has been sadly misused by both political and religious leaders down the centuries to justify excluding those they don’t like. Unfortunately, most of these political and religious leaders are proud to call themselves Christians. But Jesus, in today’s gospel, is calling all of us to be open to those who seem to be different from us. He sees everyone different as – unique, special, worthy of inclusion. We need to be grateful that the Lord has made us part of His body. As far as our Lord is concerned, the reign of God is advanced wherever good is done, where truth is spoken, and when love reigns. We should, therefore eschew narrow mindedness and give thanks to God for all that is good.

Beloved in Christ, the disciples in today’s gospel are thinking of distinction and differences; Jesus does not tolerate their narrow vision but wants them to recognise good in a generous and appreciative way because Jesus sees all who act in his name as having much in common. A major theme throughout the Gospels is how God works so often through outcasts. God’s power is not limited to the ‘church’ or an institution. He does not call just believers but he wants all to come to him! The Eucharist brings all of us in touch with each other as children of God, a sort of mystical communion with all God’s children. Different people follow Christ and relate to God in different ways. Jesus looks at what a person is committed to, and sees discipleship in many ways.

As followers of Jesus, the Church calls us to support, encourage and pray for all who are committed to goodness, faith and justice in the world.

Following the examples of Moses in our 1st Reading and our Lord Jesus Christ, may we not stop anyone from good works, but hope and pray that all peoples may be blessed with the love of the word of God and reflect the Spirit of Christ Jesus in their lives. God love you all!

FR. EDMUND’S SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION – APPRECIATION

To the Glory of God, I am very grateful for His Merciful Love which has led me this far in His service as an Ordained Priest of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I will like to express my sincere Appreciation to you all for the Papal Blessing, Prayers, Congratulatory Messages and Prayerful Best Wishes. Moreover, I say a very BIG THANK YOU for your generous contribution of £895.00 which has been Donated to the Parish Fund towards the Maintenance and Restoration of Our Lady and St. Patrick’s Church, Maesteg. May God Love and Bless you with Heavenly Favours, and prosper all your ways for your continuous support in His service, and the kindness shown me on the Silver Jubilee of my Priestly Ordination. It is very much APPRECIATED. God Love you all! *Fr. Edmund*

SACRAMENTS: Please pray for baby GRAYSON MICHAEL JOHN PULLEN who would be Baptised on Saturday, 2nd October 2021 at Our Lady & St. Patrick’s Church, and his parents Gemma & Steven, who would be the first teachers of the faith to Grayson. God love them all.

(Psalter Week 2 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

26th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B – HARVEST SUNDAY

VIGIL MASS: SATURDAY: 25th September 2021: ST. ROBERT'S

5pm: Catherine Tipping *RIP* (KL)

People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers

HOLY MASS: SUNDAY: 26th September 2021: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S

9am: Ellen Hughes, Ken Jenkins, Brian, Peter & Eddie *RIP* (MJ)

11am: Adrian Scourfield *RIP* (Sf) 5pm: Henry Patrick McDonald *RIP* (CM&D) Special Intention (FFM)

MONDAY: 27th September 2021: St Vincent de Paul



Private Mass: Active and Auxiliary Members of the SVP (SVP)

6 pm ROSARY at OUR LADY'S GROTTTO

TUESDAY, 28th September 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time, Year 1, Week 26

10 am MAESTEG: Dan Davies *RIP* (KF) Vince Kelly *RIP* (PB&T)

We pray for the souls of unborn Babies

WEDNESDAY: 29th September 2021: Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Archangels

10 am ABERKENFIG: Alan Murphy *RIP* (MD) William Tipping *RIP* (KL)

THURSDAY, 30th September 2021: St Jerome Priest & Doctor of the Church

10 am MAESTEG: Winifred Connolly & Deceased Connolly & McDonald families *RIP* (SG)

FRIDAY: 1st October 2021: St Therese of the Child Jesus CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

10 am MAESTEG: Thanksgiving for our Virtuous Friendship A.A. (CM)

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

In Church, before the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, 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 experience His merciful love for each one of us.

Why not take the opportunity to pray and reflect!



CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION and SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

11am – 6 pm Fr. Edmund will be available TODAY at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg.

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

SATURDAY: 2nd October 2021: The Holy Guardian Angels

Private Mass: Mrs Terry Maddock *RIP* (A&R)

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

Baptism of Baby Grayson Michael John Pullen

27th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B – SUNDAY 3rd October 2021:

(Psalter Week 3 Sunday Reading Cycle B)

ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG

9am: People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers

Angelo Rossetti & Maria Whitty *RIP* (KR)

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG

11am: Pat Brennan & Canon John Rohan *RIP* (VB) 5pm: Philip Colston *RIP* (R&GB)

RETIRING COLLECTION - CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

SUNDAY MASS: As from Sunday October 3rd, please note the changes:

ABERKENFIG: 9am (No Vigil Mass) MAESTEG: 11am and 5pm

Please only attend Church if you are symptom free

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME

MAESTEG PARISH:

ANY QUERIES REGARDING MASSES from 27th September to 17th October PLEASE CONTACT:

FOR: Tuesdays 10am, Maria Kelly Harris 07964965152

Sundays 11am, Thursdays 10am, Fridays 10am - Collette 07702023565 Sundays 5pm-Michelle 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH:

Sunday Mass 9am, Wednesday Mass 10am - Bill Ennis on 01656 724855, after 6.30 pm

ST ROBERT'S PARISH - PROPOSED CHANGES TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RE COVID-19

As a result of recent changes made by the Welsh Government and advice from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, a risk assessment will be completed and submitted to the Archdiocese.

From A FUTURE DATE, HOPEFULLY IN OCTOBER, we propose the following guidelines will apply:

The first 7 pews on the left-hand side of the Church and the Chapel will be available for those wishing to maintain a social distance.

Please note that distancing in these pews will be reduced to one metre between bubble groups (i.e., singles, couples and larger bubbles wishing to maintain a social distance).

As there will be a limited number of these places at Masses it will be essential to telephone the stewards should you wish to take advantage of these seats.

For those who choose not to use socially-distanced seating, they will no longer need to book places in advance as they do now. They will however be required to register name and contact telephone number on entering the church to attend services.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

Holy Communion will be distributed as part of the Communion Rite and not at the end of Mass.

Stewards will guide members of the congregation to receive Communion, one pew at a time, thus avoiding queues and unnecessary close contact.

NO CHANGES PROPOSED to the following:

Wearing of face masks.

The requirement for hand sanitising as you enter and leave the church.

Track and trace registration.

One-way system – will remain for entering and leaving the Church.

Sign of Peace – contact remains suspended.

Collections – offertory collection as you enter the Church and retiring collection as you leave.

Holy Water Stoups will remain empty.

Cleaning remains a vital role in keeping surfaces COVID – free.

Congregational singing, Altar servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers.

A further risk assessment will need to be completed probably in mid November to assess the safety or otherwise of re-introducing some of the practices as yet unchanged.

MINISTRY OF READERS

MAESTEG: If you are willing and able to continue to read or would like to join this Ministry, please advise Collette; who will require your telephone number and availability. During October rotas will be produced and will be updated on a regular basis. Please consider joining this very important Ministry.

ABERKENFIG: If you would like to be included on the Sunday rota for readers, please contact Bernadette Lewis on, 01656 725911.

The larger the number of volunteers, the more flexibility there will be in the rotas. Thank you.

OCTOBER THE MONTH OF PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions, and includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). In this month, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary which will help us draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation. - The Joyful Mysteries are taken mostly from Saint Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus' childhood - The Luminous Mysteries

bring a deeper understanding to the public life of Jesus. They fill in the blanks between the childhood of Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross. - The Sorrowful Mysteries remind us of how much Jesus loves us. They recall how He suffered and died just for us. -The Glorious Mysteries tell us what happened after Jesus died - His Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the love Jesus had for His Mother.

ETERNAL REST:

In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the soul of Philip Colston who passed away recently. May he rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory. Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to his bereaved family at this difficult time.

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"

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 Deacon Elliot Hanson
- An end to the Pandemic and for our parishioners and all who work in the hospitals/care homes and our frontline workers/volunteers
- the faithful departed parishioners, family, friends and those who have died from the Pandemic and from the Afghanistan crisis and disasters in the world; 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 the 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
- We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in this circumstance, and recognise the many blessings that motherhood brings.

"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."

CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY, Friday 1ST October: This year CAFOD are focusing on the climate crisis. The impact of this crisis has been particularly evident in recent months with the terrible heatwaves, fires, and floods across the northern hemisphere. **Envelopes will be given out at Mass today and the collection will be taken next Sunday, October 3rd or give online through the CAFOD website (cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis)**

FINANCE: 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 PARISH: Income 19th September: Gift Aid £170.70; Planned /Loose £150.00; Bricks £42.45; Restoration £325.80; Standing Orders August £1006; Gift Aid Tax refund £6721.23. Silver Jubilee £895.00

ABERKENFIG PARISH: July Income - £975, Expenditure £651.
August Income - £420; Expenditure £250; Gift Aid tax refund £2055.