






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

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Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272



(Psalter Week 3 Sunday Reading Cycle C)

Advent is a season of HOPE, LOVE, JOY & PEACE – The Lord is Very Near.

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| <p align="center">3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY 12th December 2021</p> | <p align="center">Aberkenfig 9 am Maesteg 11 am Reader: Paul Donoghue Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne</p> | <p align="center">People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Peter Reynolds RIP (AR) Laurentu Jicmon RIP (MC) Patrick, Janet & Michael Butler RIP (MB) Philip White RIP (MB&f) Paul Coombes RIP (TB)</p> |
| <p align="center">Monday 13th December 2021 St Lucy</p> | <p align="center">Maesteg Private Mass  6 pm</p> | <p align="center">James & Peggy Ronan & Family RIP (TB) Special Intention (FFC) ROSARY – IN CHURCH</p> |
| <p align="center">Tuesday 14th December 2021 St John of the Cross Priest and Doctor of the Church</p> | <p align="center">Maesteg 10 am Maesteg 12.30pm Maesteg 6 pm</p> | <p align="center">Eddie, Ken, Ellen, Brian, Peter & Buckley Family RIP (M&f) Daniel & Kathleen <i>Donnolly</i> RIP (P&CD) <i>“We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death”</i> FUNERAL SERVICE DENNIS GWYN MORAN <i>“THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU”</i> Confessions with Priests of the Deanery</p> |
| <p align="center">Wednesday 15th December 3rd Week of Advent</p> | <p align="center">Aberkenfig 10 am</p> | <p align="center">Special Intention (Mary Dunphy 17th) Joan Thomas RIP (A&D)</p> |
| <p align="center">Thursday 16th December 2021 3rd Week of Advent</p> | <p align="center">Maesteg 10 am Coychurch Crem, 11.30am</p> | <p align="center">Funeral Mass Margaret Banks RIP</p> |
| <p align="center">Friday 17th December 2021 3rd Week of Advent </p> | <p align="center">Maesteg 10 am 11 am – 6 pm</p> | <p align="center">Lynn Reid, Gwen & Arthur Roy Richards RIP (CW) Daniel & Nell Pryce RIP (P&CD) <i>We pray for the Clergy & Religious Orders</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration</p> |
| <p align="center">FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER 2021 CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION and SPIRITUAL DIRECTION</p> | <p align="center"> MAESTEG 11 am– 6 pm</p> | <p align="center">Fr. Edmund available TODAY Please call the Mobile 07964366710 to book an appointment</p> |
| <p align="center">Saturday 18th December 2021 3rd Week of Advent</p> | <p align="center">Maesteg 10 am – 1 pm</p> | <p align="center">ADVENT RETREAT Father Richard Aziati <i>Followed by Bring & Share Lunch</i></p> |
| <p align="center">4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 19th December 2021 Maesteg: Retiring Collection Restoration</p> | <p align="center">Aberkenfig 9 am Maesteg 11 am Reader: Maria Cahalane Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Michelle Bumford</p> | <p align="center">People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Kerry (1st Anniv) RIP (BL) Martin & Catherine Burns RIP (MD) Ken, Ellen, Brian, Peter & Eddie RIP (MJ) Bob McGee RIP (A&JB) Tom & Elizabeth Bumford RIP (R&P)</p> |



“O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the Nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of your Heart.” (Is. 30:19, 30)



ETERNAL REST: In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the soul of

MARGARET BANKS who passed on 30th November 2021; her Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, 16th December at 10 am; Coychurch Crematorium 11.30 am. And **DENIS GWYN MORAN** who passed on the 17th November 2021. His funeral service will be on Tuesday 14th December at Our Lady & St. Patrick’s Church, Maesteg at 12.30pm; interment at Measteg Cemetery at 2pm

May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.

Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families and friends at this sad and difficult time. Please 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, Fr. Dennis Opoku, Marian Smith, Violet Ronan, Teresa Boast. Carmel Roach, Lewis Lee.

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.*

SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to **Gabriella Louise Fowler** who was baptised yesterday 11th December 2021 at Our Lady and St. Patrick’s Church, Maesteg. Let us continue to pray with her parents who will be the first teachers of the Faith to Gabriella Louise.

MAESTEG PARISH:

ROSARY: Rosary Service will now be held in the Church on Monday evenings at 6 pm. Anyone in the Maesteg area who requires transport to attend, please telephone Alina on 01656 737358.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU AT ADVENT

“When the Lord sets you free you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS A CHANCE FOR US TO CELEBRATE GOD’S INFINITE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS: We are all invited to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 6pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg. Priests from the Deanery will be available to listen to confessions and administer the Sacrament of God’s love, forgiveness and healing.

ADVENT RETREAT: On Saturday 18th December 2021 from 10am – 1pm, Fr. Richard Aziati, a Doctorate Student of Maryvale Institute and Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception, All Saints & St. John, is invited lead a retreat at Our Lady & St. Patrick Church, Maesteg, in preparation for the celebration of Christmas for all Parishioners and friends of Maesteg and Aberkenfig, and for Parents and Children for First Reconciliation. Please keep the day open for this moment of grace in the Church. There would be bring and share Lunch for all. Come and be Blessed.

Our Lady & St Patrick’s Christmas Prayer Tree: Dear parishioners, we welcome you to write your personal Christmas Prayer request on a card and to hang it on our Parish Christmas Prayer Tree, which was Blessed on Saturday, 4th December. The tree is situated in the car park. Advent brings us closer to Christ who is with us. We are reminded that no one is beyond the reach of God's love.

Grand Christmas Raffle - DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN IN THE FUN!!!! The draw takes place on Tuesday, the 14th December; your completed counterfoils must be in no later than morning Mass, Tuesday 14th December to be included in the draw. Prizes include:- 1st prize £100 cash; 2nd prize: Festive Food Hamper; 3rd prize; Celebration Wine Selection with Christmas crackers; plus many more. Ticket price £1.00.

300+ Club Draw takes place on Tuesday, 14th December.

PIETY SHOP: Christmas cards/items now available. Red grave candles available at both Churches. £3 each.

YEAR BOOKS: The Year Books are available at the back of the Church for £3.00 each. Please get a copy. Thanks

Collections 5th December: Gift Aid £301.00; Planned/Loose £177; Restoration £50; SVP £190; Flowers £183.50

ABERKENFIG PARISH Collections 28/11 & 5/12/21: Gift Aid £164; Loose £50.10; Donation £100.

Retiring Collection today and next Sunday for Christmas flowers.

PARISHES OF ST ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG & OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG

ADDENDUM TO NEWSLETTER 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT, 12TH DECEMBER 2021

COVID: The latest update from the Archdiocese is asking parishes to revisit their risk assessments; safety is of vital importance. Especially we are asked to remind our parishioners of the following:

- face coverings are mandatory
- hand sanitisers are available
- requirement to register on entering the Church
- to wrap up warmly as the Church needs to be well ventilated
- cleaning will remain a high priority

We are also being asked to avoid overcrowding and as the number of parishioners allowed into church remains restricted it will be necessary to book for Christmas Masses. If you have not booked a place and not received confirmation by e-mail or telephone, ***PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND.***

PLEASE, BE ADVISED TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF OUR DEDICATED STEWARDS WHEN WE ATTEND CHURCH.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



Friday 24th December: Christmas Vigil Masses

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 5 pm & 10 pm

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 7 pm

Saturday 25th December: Christmas Day Masses

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 9 am

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 11 am

Sunday 26th December: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

St Robert's Aberkenfig: 9am.

Our Lady & St Patrick's Maesteg: 11am. *Please note no evening Mass.*

Bookings for Christmas Masses can be made from Monday 6th December, and no later than Sunday 19th December, by contacting the following Stewards:

**ABERKENFIG PARISH: Christmas Eve December 24th Vigil Mass 7 pm & Christmas Day Mass 11 am
Bill Ennis 01656 724855 (after 6.30 pm)**

**MAESTEG PARISH: Christmas Eve December 24th Vigil Mass 5 pm
Collette: Telephone 07702023565 or e-mail collette@catholicmomsgroup.com**

**Christmas Eve December 24th Vigil Mass 10 pm
Alina: Telephone 01656 737358**

**MAESTEG PARISH: Christmas Day Mass December 25th 9 am
Michelle: Telephone: 07488322929**

***Important Message:* At the 9 am Christmas Day Mass there will be social distancing with 3 to a pew in order to accommodate those who may feel vulnerable.**

If leaving a message on answer phone or by e-mail please state name, number in party and contact telephone number. The Stewards will respond as soon as possible.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO DOES NOT ATTEND MASS REGULARLY BUT MAY WISH TO ATTEND; PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO THEM.

PLEASE ONLY ATTEND CHURCH IF YOU ARE SYMPTOM FREE

Thank you for your support and co-operation. I wish you all a fruitful and Spirit-filled Advent Season that leads to A Happy and Holy Christmas. GOD LOVE YOU.

MEDITATIONS

“St. Augustine says, that to prevent the sheep from seeking assistance by her cries, the wolf seizes her by the neck, and thus securely carries her away and devours her. The Devil acts in a similar manner with the sheep of Jesus Christ. After having induced them to yield to sin, he seizes them by the throat, that they may not confess their guilt; and thus, he securely brings them to Hell. For those who have sinned grievously, there is no means of salvation but the confession of their sins.”

Bless the LORD, O My Soul

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Psalm 103:1-4

PARISH PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal and Everlasting Father, creator and source of all goodness and love, look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this Season of Advent. We thank you for all the graces and favours you have bestowed upon us. We thank you for our faith and religious heritage; we thank you for your Word and Sacraments which nourishes, heals and strengthens us; we thank you for our Parish Family, our families, friends and neighbours; and for the renewal of our love for you and for one another.

Heavenly Father, in Your infinite generosity, we thank you most sincerely for the abundance of graces and blessings we have already enjoyed for the past year in spite of the many challenges we face each day. We praise and bless your Holy Name for all that you have prepared for us this Christmas and the Coming New Year. May your Holy and Glorious Name be blessed now and forever. We make this prayer in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son and Our Brother, who lives and reigns with You, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen