



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer  
Telephone: 01656 733282 Parish Mobile 07964 366710  
Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>  
Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272



(Psalter Week 4 Sunday Reading Cycle C)

**Advent is a season of HOPE, LOVE, JOY & PEACE – Come Let Us Adore the Lord**

<p align="center"><b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  19<sup>th</sup> December 2021  <i>Maesteg: Retiring Collection Restoration</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Aberkenfig 9 am</b>  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 Heatley (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv) <i>RIP</i> (BL)  Tom &amp; Elizabeth Bumford <i>RIP</i> (R&amp;P) Ken, Ellen, Brian, Peter &amp; Eddie <i>RIP</i> (MJ)  Bob McGee <i>RIP</i> (A&amp;JB) Martin &amp; Catherine Burns <i>RIP</i> (MD)</p>
<p align="center">Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent</p>	<p align="center"> <b>Maesteg Private Mass 6 pm</b></p>	<p align="center">Maurice Kehoe <i>RIP</i> (JG&amp;f) Special Intention (FFC) <b>ROSARY – IN CHURCH</b></p>
<p align="center">Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent</p>	<p align="center"><b>Maesteg 10 am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Kerry Heatley, Kath Thomas &amp; Ona Worrall <i>RIP</i> (MTB) John Kehoe <i>RIP</i> (KK)</b>  <i>“We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death”</i></p>
<p align="center">Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent</p>	<p align="center"><b>Aberkenfig 10 am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Erwin Cyba <i>RIP</i> (LM) Private Intention St Rita (MM)</b></p>
<p align="center">Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent</p>	<p align="center"><b>Maesteg 10 am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Matthew Morgan &amp; Lynn Daniel <i>RIP</i> Thanksgiving 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Brian &amp; Kathleen Hough &amp; Kathleen’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday</b></p>

**CHRISTMASTIDE**

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December: CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES**

**Our Lady & St Patrick’s Maesteg:**

5pm Mary & Ron, Irene & Aidan, *RIP* (MTB)

*Reader: Collette Matchatt*

10pm Margaret, Elizabeth & James Banks *RIP* (M&f)

Gwen, Doris & Nellie *RIP* (CW)

*Reader: Maria Cahalane*

**St Robert’s Aberkenfig:**

7pm Angelo Rossetti *RIP* (KR)



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December: CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

**Our Lady & St Patrick’s Maesteg:**

9am Vince & Louise, Lloyd & Theresa, Paola, Alex & Bethan

Dante Ascari *RIP* (AA)

*Reader: Michelle Bumford*

**St Robert’s Aberkenfig:**

11am Jules & Renea Lagaule *RIP* (MM)

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

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**St Robert’s Aberkenfig:**

9 am Father John Meredith *RIP* (BL)

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

**Our Lady & St Patrick’s Maesteg:**

11 am Ralph & Winnie Cornish *RIP* (MB&f)

Father Michael Ronan & Canon William Isaac *RIP* (M&f)

*Reader: Keith Lewis*

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL AND DAY MASSES:** *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. **PLEASE ONLY ATTEND CHURCH IF YOU ARE SYMPTOM FREE**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE CLERGY:** Envelopes are available for our Christmas offering to the Parish Clergy. There is no obligation attached to this, please give freely. Your offering will be very much appreciated. Collection will be taken at all Christmas Masses in both our Parishes. **Thank you.**

I sincerely thank parishioners who have continued to support our Parishes financially during these difficult months. May God abundantly bless you and multiply your generosity a hundredfold. **God Love you!**

**DEAR PARISHIONERS:** Please God, I will be going to Ghana from 27<sup>th</sup> December until January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In my absence Father Tim and the Priests in the Deanery are covering for Sunday Masses at St Robert's and Our Lady & St Patrick's and will provide pastoral care when needed during this time.

**IN AN EMERGENCY PLEASE TELEPHONE BRIDGEND PARISH ON 01656 652034**

**I will celebrate Mass intentions in Ghana, should you wish.**

**Please send in your intentions by Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you.**

**Let's keep all our Priests in our prayers. Thank you.**

***Below are the Sunday Mass intentions up to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – there will be no Newsletters available until the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022***

<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2022</p>	<p>Aberkenfig 9 am  Maesteg 11 am Reader: Collette Matchatt  Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Angela Brennan</p>	<p>People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Thanksgiving (BL) Maureen &amp; Jack Jenkins RIP (C&amp;TJ) Linda Evans RIP (TW)  Mal Hughes, Thomas &amp; Margaret Maloney RIP (PH) Rita Catt RIP (Wf)</p>
<p>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022</p>	<p>Aberkenfig 9 am  Maesteg 11 am Reader: Paul Donoghue  Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne</p>	<p>People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Winifred Cleary &amp; Tom McDonnell RIP (BL)  Matthew Morgan RIP (L&amp;AM) Lynn Reid RIP (J&amp;JS)  Sinnott &amp; Woodhatch families RIP (CW) Sheila Edwards RIP (Wf)</p>



"The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. He himself will be peace." (Micah 1-2,4)



**ETERNAL REST:**

**In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the souls of**

**ALAN HUGHES AND AMBROSE HORGAN** who passed away recently.

**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.**

## **MAESTEG PARISH:**

**Congratulations and every blessing** to Brian and Kathleen Hough on celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and to Kathleen for celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**SVP CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Sincere and grateful thanks for your kind donations of £1330 which was added to donations received throughout the year and enabled us to help 55 families this Christmas. God bless you all.

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

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**300+ Club Winners - December, 2021:** 1st Prize: £300 (196) The late Theresa Griffiths family; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: £150 (276) Paula & Alan Davies; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: £75 (255) Marsha Davies. Enrolment for 2022 re-launching as the 200+ Club shall take place very soon.

**Grand Christmas Raffle 2021:** The winners for the Grand Christmas Raffle are|:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: £100; Mr David Yorworth (02381)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Festive Food Hamper; Angela Brennan (02050)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Celebration Wine Selection & Christmas Crackers: Ben Buckley (01800)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: China Tea Mugs, tray, tea & biscuits; Sue Carnock
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Calum Men's Grooming Kit, James Williams

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all our 300+Club and Raffle prize winners 2021. We look forward to you joining us with your participation in these fun and exciting events in 2022. Financial results shall be advised shortly.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support to church fundraising during 2021, whether it was by selling or buying a ticket, attending an event, donating prizes and gifts, or simply adding your prayers and good wishes for the success of our programmes.

**FINANCE:** Sincere gratitude 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!

**COLLECTIONS 12<sup>TH</sup> December:** **MAESTEG:** Gift Aid £314.50; Planned Giving/Loose £106.50; Retiring £141.50; Bricks £8.60; Restoration £65. **ABERKENFIG:** Gift Aid £139; Loose £10; Flowers £28.50.

**COVID:** Safety continues to be of vital importance. A reminder of the following:

- **COVID:**
- 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 ventilatedeaning will remain a high priority

**SINCERE AND GRATEFUL THANKS:** Thanks to all our stewards and to those who have deep cleaned our churches weekly to keep them Covid safe; without them it would not have been possible to open for Mass these last few months. Thanks also to all those who have kept all the other tasks under control in order to keep our parishes functioning. I will celebrate Mass weekly for you all whilst I am in Ghana.

*Please everyone take care and be safe.*

*If you do have symptoms even though you may have booked to attend Mass, please stay at home!*

*Thank you for your support and co-operation. I wish you all "A Happy and Holy Christmas".*

**GOD LOVE YOU**

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

Let us with one heart and mind give thanks and praise to God for the fulfilment of His promises.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of goodwill; for unto us A Child is Born, A Son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

CHRISTMAS is a time when you and I choose to be “Born Again” and let God into our Souls; When we resist vigorous storms and difficulties in life with the Spirit of the infant Jesus; When our virtues are the fine clothes that adorn our lives; When we seek to unite and gather around the Eucharistic Table as One Body of Christ to participate in the Mysteries of Salvation.

CHRISTMAS is a time when we illuminate with our lives the path of others with the fruits of the Holy Spirit- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control - and in so doing lead someone to meet Christ Jesus, the King of kings, the Lord of lords and the Saviour of the world.

CHRISTMAS is a time, when we conquer the harmony within us in the Carols we sing; and when we offer our best selves as true brothers and sisters indiscriminately to all the people the Lord bring our way. It is a time when kindness is written in our hearts and in forgiveness reach out to greet each other with joy and re-establish peace and harmony in our community.

CHRISTMAS is a time when we share our meals with the hungry and open our homes to the poor and needy to give them shelter and bring them hope.

At this Christmas, let us in humility and trust make the conscious effort to receive Christ Jesus tenderly in our hearts as the Saviour of the World, that He may establish His Kingdom within us so that in Communion with Him we may Participate in His Divine life and fulfil His Mission in the world.

May our Celebration of CHRISTMAS be grace-filled and joyful for our good, the good of all our families and friends, and for the good of His Holy Church.

You are in my prayers in a very special way in this Christmas Season and Always.

I humbly ask for your prayers too.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A GLORIOUS NEW YEAR

GOD LOVE YOU ALL!

*Fr. Edmund*