






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



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer
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Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>
Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT BIBLE SUNDAY (Psalter Week 2 Sunday Reading Cycle C)

Advent is a season of HOPE, LOVE, JOY & PEACE – Christ is the Joy we wait with expectancy

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT BIBLE SUNDAY 5th December 2021 <i>Maesteg: Retiring Collection Christmas Flower Appeal</i>	Aberkenfig 9 am Maesteg 11 am Reader Collette Matchett Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Angela Brennan	People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Mollie, Liam, Billie & Marcia Stocking <i>RIP (A&D)</i> Edward Scourfield <i>RIP (Sf)</i> John Kehoe <i>RIP (KK)</i> Kathryn Richards <i>RIP (GBG)</i> Neil Stanton <i>RIP (MB&f)</i>
Monday 6TH December 2021 2nd Week of Advent	Maesteg <i>Private Mass</i>  6 PM	Philip Colston <i>RIP (SM/SP Governors/Stsff)</i> Special Intention (<i>FFC</i>) ROSARY – NOW HELD IN CHURCH
Tuesday 7th December 2021 St Ambrose Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Private Mass	<i>“We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death”</i>
Wednesday 8th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Aberkenfig 10 am Maesteg 11 am St David’s Cathedral 6pm	Tom & Nell Caulfield <i>RIP</i> His Holiness Pope Francis’ Intentions (SVP) Stephen J Murphy <i>RIP (MBanks)</i> Consecration of the Altar (details on Cathedral Website)
Thursday 9th December 2021 2nd Week of Advent	Maesteg 10 am	Anne, Jim, Elizabeth & Keane Family <i>RIP (CK)</i> Vince Kelly <i>RIP (P&JW)</i>
Friday 10th December 2021 2nd Week of Advent 	Maesteg 10 am 11 am – 6 pm	Frank Davies <i>RIP (CT)</i> Colin Furlong <i>RIP (EF)</i> <i>We pray for the Clergy & Religious Orders</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration
FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER 2021 CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION <i>and SPIRITUAL DIRECTION</i>	 MAESTEG 11 am– 6 pm	Fr. Edmund available TODAY Please call the Mobile 07964366710 to book an appointment
Saturday 11th December 2021 2nd Week of Advent	Maesteg <i>Private Mass</i>	Maurice Kehoe <i>RIP (PB)</i> Lynn Reid <i>RIP (EF)</i> Conversion of Federica & Edoardo All Souls in Purgatory (AA)
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY 12 th December 2021	Aberkenfig 9 am Maesteg 11 am Reader: Paul Donoghue Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne	People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Peter Reynolds <i>RIP (AR)</i> Laurentu Jicmon <i>RIP (MC)</i> Patrick, Janet & Michael Butler <i>RIP (MB)</i> Philip White <i>RIP (MB&f)</i> Paul Coombes <i>RIP (TB)</i>

**“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 has recently passed; her Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, 16th December; details to be confirmed.

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

Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to her bereaved family 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:

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.**

Congratulations and every blessing to Maureen Bevan who celebrated her special birthday recently.

300+ Club: Winners: 1st prize, £50, Alan Reid (59); 2nd prize, £30, Patrick Pitman (39); 3rd prize, £20, Bartholomew Grielly (297). Congratulations to all our winners. **December draw Tuesday, 14th December.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE: 300+ Club Changes 2022: Over the last two years we have shared the loss of so many of our dear, loyal and generous parishioners. In 2021 we acknowledged, and reluctantly accepted, that membership for the 300+ Club has seen a decline to below 280 members. It is further acknowledged that in 2022 we are likely to see a continued decline in membership; in recognition of this, from January 2022

The 300+ Club will be renamed and run as **'The 200+ Club'**. The contribution of £1 per month and the prize winnings will remain the same. The team shall begin to distribute membership cards for 2022 from the middle of December, with a drive to new members. Fr Edmund and the Club Team wish to extend their grateful appreciation to each and every one of you for your continued support to this invaluable scheme and source of fundraising for Our Lady & St Patrick's Church.

Advent/Christmas Prayer Tree Blessing - thanks to everyone who attended the Mass, followed by the Blessing of The Advent/Christmas Prayer Tree and the very enjoyable social get together afterwards. Proceeds from the event advised shortly.

Annual Grand Christmas Raffle: The Grand Christmas Raffle progresses through Advent, with the draw taking place on the 14th December. **Great Prizes.** Ticket price £1.00. Please take the opportunity to participate, selling tickets to family and friends, spreading the fun and excitement as we lead up to Christmas.

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

MESSAGE FROM VOLUNTEERS OF THE FOOD BANKS (MAESTEG/CAERAU): "Grateful thanks for your extremely generous donations over the year. Your kindness enabled us to feed so many needy people. We assure you that they will have food to eat over the festive period. Please continue to pray for them. Sincere thanks and we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas."

Collections Sunday 28th November: Gift Aid £205.50; Planned/Loose £128.50; Restoration £80; SVP £698.30.

WELCOME BACK. WELCOME HOME: The First Sunday of Advent marked the official re-opening of our churches for full public worship. Whilst many parishioners have been anxious to return to Mass on a regular basis, others are equally anxious about the continuing pandemic and are staying cautious. From the information received from the Bishops' Conference, you will know that they have not brought the Obligation back; however, His Grace Archbishop George is encouraging us to come to Mass, to come to Church, to re-discover that relationship with the Lord and His Church. We still have a duty to be careful with others and ourselves so please do not come to Mass if you are showing any Covid symptoms or feel unwell.

Please refer to the addendum to the Newsletter for the latest update from the Archdiocese on managing COVID over the festive season and for information relating to booking for Christmas Masses.

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

ADDENDUM TO NEWSLETTER 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, 5TH 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**.

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 Advent Season that leads to A Happy and Holy Christmas.

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.*

REJOICE, PRAY ALWAYS AND REMAIN IN GOD’S LOVE AND CARE:

Arm your Soul with Prayer, for no one is too Good or too Bad to be saved. Salvation is opened to all who seek a deeper relationship with God through prayer.

“A soul arms itself by prayer for all kinds of combat. In whatever state the soul may be, it ought to pray. A soul which is pure and beautiful must pray, or else it will lose its beauty; a soul which is striving after purity must pray, or else it will never attain it; a soul which is newly converted must pray, or else it will fall again; a sinful soul, plunged in sins, must pray so that it might rise again.” (Diary of St. Faustina)

Rejoice Always; Pray without ceasing and Give thanks in all circumstance, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Amen.

**I WISH YOU ALL A FRUITFUL AND SPIRIT-FILLED ADVENT SEASON LEADING TO
A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS.
GOD LOVE YOU!**