



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

Parish Website <https://maestegcatholicchurch.org.uk>  
Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 1177272



PRIEST IN CHARGE DURING MONTH OF JANUARY 2022

REV FR TIM McGRATH

PARISH OF ST MARY BRIDGEND

TELEPHONE: 01656 652034 (*in an emergency*)

*SUNDAY MASSES ONLY IN OUR PARISHES UNTIL FATHER EDMUND RETURNS*

<p><b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>YEAR C</b> <b>Sunday of the Word of God</b></p> <p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Aberkenfig 9 am</b></p> <p><b>Maesteg 11 am</b> Reader: Keith Lewis</p> <p><b>Maesteg 5 pm</b> Reader: Mike Lawler</p>	<p><b>People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers</b> <b>Bernard Tipping RIP (KL)</b></p> <p><b>Edward &amp; Adrian Scourfield RIP (Sf)</b> <b>Allan Hughes RIP (J&amp;PO'B)</b></p> <p><b>Cristina Bisagni RIP (CW)</b> <b>Maurice Kehoe RIP (MB&amp;f)</b></p>
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<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>YEAR C</b></p> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Aberkenfig 9 am</b></p> <p><b>Maesteg 11 am</b> Reader: Collette Matchell</p> <p><b>Maesteg 5 pm</b> Reader: Angela Brennan</p>	<p><b>People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers</b> <b>The Rees Family (MDunphy)</b></p> <p><b>Private Intention (EF)</b> <b>Raynor Lewis RIP (CM&amp;f)</b></p> <p><b>Mr &amp; Mrs McBride RIP (Wf)</b> <b>Sean Edwards RIP Wf)</b></p>
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**IMPORTANT:**

**NOT NECESSARY TO BOOK FOR SUNDAY MASSES NEXT WEEK**

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME**

**Attending Mass the restrictions/rules below still apply.**

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

face coverings are mandatory; hand sanitisers available – please use on the way in and out of the church; requirement to register on entering the Church; wrap up warmly as the Churches need to be well ventilated; cleaning will remain a high priority. 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.

To accommodate those who may feel vulnerable there will be benches set aside for social distancing of 3 to a pew; important you advise the Stewards if you require this seating.



Synod  
2021  
2023

**Towards a Synodal! A listening Church! Please join the conversation!**

What is the Church doing well? What is the Church doing less well? What can the Church better do to help it fulfil its mission?

**Representatives of our Parishes – Martin Braithwaite, Collette Matchett, Maria Browne and Keith Lewis.**

Next week further information about the Synod. A series of parish meetings and opportunities to listen and to share with each other will be arranged. Our thoughts and ideas will help inform the conversation of the Church as it prepares for the next Synod of Bishops meeting in 2023.

**Synod Prayer of Invocation to the Holy Spirit:** We stand before You, Holy Spirit, As we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, Make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go And how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; Do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to the eternal life and not stray away from the truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

*Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life'*

On this 'Sunday of the Word of God', we are invited to deepen our relationship with the Lord through our devotion and dedication to reading and praying with scripture. In each reading, we hear how the Spirit of the Lord revives, liberates, sustains, unites and gives life.

The law of the Lord is read out by Ezra (**First Reading**), and the people are taught to celebrate it. The joy of the Lord is their stronghold.

The **Psalm** celebrates God's law of love: each line is a litany of the comfort, joy and strength that can be drawn from the Word of God.

Paul teaches that although the Christian community is very diverse, with different strengths and perspectives, we are all united in the Spirit of the Lord through our baptism (**Second Reading**).

Jesus, filled with the spirit of the Lord, reads from the word of God and proclaims that Isaiah's prophecy is embodied and fulfilled in him (**Gospel**).

Jesus liberates, heals, transforms and brings good news.

As followers of Jesus who are united by the living Spirit of God, this is our calling too. With our lives centred on Scripture, the living word of God, we are not alone as we pray. We belong to a living, transforming community of believers united by our baptism. We share the same joy expressed by the Psalmist, and are guided by the word of God that the prophets proclaimed. Let us pray that our lives will be a testament to the liberating, healing teachings that Jesus embodied.

#### ETERNAL REST:

Please pray for all our Parishioners who have recently died and those who have anniversaries at this time.  
*May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.*



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, relatives and friends, remembering in a very special way: Gerald Hughes, Max Buckley, Fr. Dennis Opoku, Marian Smith, Violet Ronan, Teresa Boast, Carmel Roach, Lewis Lee, for those suffering from COVID within our Communities.

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 COLLECTIONS 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Gift Aid £216.50; Planned Giving/Loose £95.37; Restoration £184.00; Bricks £9.60; Standing Orders December £901.00.

#### ABERKENFIG PARISH:

**Collections 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> December:** Gift Aid £543; Loose £36; Flowers £58.50; Donations £70.

**Christmas 100CLUB Winners :** 1<sup>st</sup> £85 Jess Stevens (155 ), 2<sup>nd</sup> £35 Mrs. P. Pritchard (32)  
3<sup>rd</sup> £20 Mr. D. Riley ( 67), 4<sup>th</sup> £10 Mrs. L. Townsend (44), 5<sup>th</sup> £10 Mrs. M. Downey (112)

The launch of ***Our Lady & St Patrick's 200+ Club, 2022***, is now well under way. 127 new and existing parishioners and friends of the parish have already registered. Membership cards are in the process of distribution from the back of church at Masses, or in many instances delivered directly to your homes. If you are unable to attend Mass and would like your Membership card delivered to you, where we can pick up your £12 subscription at the same time, please contact any of the following who shall coordinate collection: Angela Brennan 07572 274646; Michael Banks 07584 177456; Derek/Denis 01656 731767 (after lunch). Where at all possible, please could you make your membership payment for the full year £12, if this is not manageable for you, we shall be very happy to collect your subscription monthly or quarterly. The subscription payment period for 2022 remains open up to the end of March 2022, after which time, subscription to the club shall close. To participate in and be included in the **BIG** Christmas draw, the full annual subscription of £12 must be paid. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we are not permitted to congregate at the back of church to receive monies or to mark off membership cards, consequently, you are kindly requested to make your membership payments, cash or **cheques, made payable to 'The 300+ Club'**, in a sealed envelope, together with the members names, addresses and membership numbers if known; the sealed envelope should be addressed to **'THE 200+ CLUB'**, handed to a steward or put into the box designated for the purpose, situated at the back of church. The January draw, shall take place in early February, date to be confirmed. If you have not been able to make your subscription by then, please don't worry, your names as paid up members from 2021, shall remain in the draw up to the close of March, giving you ample time to make your subscriptions. Good luck everyone; thank you for your continued support and help with coordinating this important fundraising activity during difficult times.