



**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>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</p> <p align="center">SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2022</p>	<p align="center">Aberkenfig 9 am</p> <p align="center">Maesteg 11 am Reader: Paul Donoghue</p> <p align="center">Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne</p>	<p align="center">People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Winifred Cleary & Tom McDonnell <i>RIP (BL)</i></p> <p align="center">Matthew Morgan <i>RIP (L&AM)</i> Lynn Reid <i>RIP (J&JS)</i></p> <p align="center">Sinnott & Woodhatch families <i>RIP (CW)</i> Sheila Edwards <i>RIP (Wf)</i></p>
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<p align="center">2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR C Peace Sunday</p> <p align="center">SUNDAY 16TH JANUARY 2022</p> <p align="center">Psalter Week 2 Reading Cycle</p> <p align="center">MAESTEG RETIRING COLLECTION RESTORATION FUND</p>	<p align="center">Aberkenfig 9 am</p> <p align="center">Maesteg 11 am Reader: Maria Cahalane</p> <p align="center">Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Michelle Bumford</p>	<p align="center">People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers John Lowe <i>RIP (KL)</i></p> <p align="center">Maureen, Ken, Lucas & Thomas families <i>RIP (L family)</i></p> <p align="center">Bill Heath <i>RIP (GBG)</i> Margaret, Edwin, Keane & Jenkins families <i>RIP (MB)</i></p>
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Please note that given the latest guidelines there is a need to reintroduce social distancing restrictions. Places at Mass must now be booked beforehand.

To attend Sunday Masses January 2022 please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH: 11am: Derek & Denis - 01656 731767 (after 2.30pm)

5pm: Michelle Bumford - 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH: 9 am: Bill Ennis on 01656 724855, after 6.30 pm

Please do not attend if not booked as we do not want to turn people away at the door

By registering to attend Mass the restrictions/rules below still apply.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME

Please everyone take care and be safe . If you have symptoms even though you may have booked to attend Mass, please stay at home!

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience or distress these revised regulations may cause. They are a requirement to enable public worship to take place and most importantly for your safety and wellbeing.

Take care. Stay safe. God Bless.

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

- Social Distancing reintroduced
- face coverings are mandatory
- hand sanitisers are available – please use on the way in and out of the church
- 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

Baptism of the Lord, 9th January 2022

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms'

Today marks the end of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It heralds the beginning of Jesus's public mission: the work of teaching, preaching and healing. God's great love and mercy offer salvation to all through Jesus, by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the **Gospel**, God proclaims Jesus as his beloved Son at his baptism in the Jordan. St Luke draws our attention to the descent of the Holy Spirit while Jesus is at prayer.

The **First Reading** offers hope and joy. God has seen his people repent and will bring them home across the desert. He is both their defender and their shepherd, who gathers, guides and nourishes.

The image of God gathering and nourishing is echoed in the **Psalm**.

The Lord renews with his Spirit all who look to him.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) tells us it is entirely due to God's mercy, love and compassion that we are offered salvation; not for anything we have achieved. God's loving kindness is revealed through 'the cleansing water of rebirth' and renewal with the Holy Spirit in Christ.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the gift of baptism. We remind ourselves that the words spoken at Jesus's baptism also apply to us. We, too, are beloved daughters and sons of God, called to make known the love of God to all we meet.

Let's pray this week, and in the weeks ahead, for whatever grace God feels we need to help us.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS :Archbishop George Stack will be allocating the proceeds in two different ways this year; in the first instance for families in the Diocese suffering from food poverty and secondly for Afghani child refugees.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Grateful thanks for your Christmas Offerings which form part of the yearly income for your Parish Priest and Priests of the Deanery. Sincere thanks for your Christmas messages and gifts. I sincerely thank parishioners from both our Parishes for continued support financially during these difficult months. May God abundantly bless you and multiply your generosity a hundredfold. ***God Love you! Fr Edmund.***

MAESTEG COLLECTIONS 19TH/26TH December/2nd January:

Gift Aid £456; Planned Giving/Loose £383; Retiring Maintenance £150.02; Restoration £351.50; Crib £59.50; Bricks £52.02; Christmas Tree Blessing Event £125.74; Christmas Raffle £736.66.

YEAR BOOKS: There are still some Year Books available at the rear of the church. Lots of useful information. Please take one and place a donation in the Candle Box. Many thanks.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSPAPER: "The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months."

MAESTEG FUNDRAISING GROUP – ATTACHED INFORMATION ON THE LAUNCH OF THE 200 + CLUB.

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH MAESTEG **200+ Club Draw – Launch 2022**

Happy New Year to all our parishioners and friends of the parish.

Our Lady & St Patrick's 200+ Club 2022 launches this weekend. The preparation for the Membership cards is work in progress, becoming available from this weekend, for collection at the back of church at all Masses, or if you are unable to attend Mass and would like your Membership card delivered, 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
- The Horton Boys - 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.

Membership payments: 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 to 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.

Good luck everyone; thank you for your continued support and help with co-ordinating this important activity during difficult times.

Christmas Tree Blessing Event & Grand Christmas Raffle

On behalf of Fr Edmund we are delighted to announce the monies raised by the following fundraising events:

- **Christmas Tree Blessing Event: £125.74.** Although not designed as a 'fundraising event', with kind donations and peoples generosity this very welcome sum has been made possible.
- **Grand Christmas Raffle: £736.66.** Once again, a terrific achievement made possible by parishioners generosity and that of our friends and families.

Congratulations and Bravo, with applause all round to everyone who participated in any way to make not just these events a success, but every event and fundraising programme staged in 2021.

