





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

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**2nd SUNDAY OF LENT
(Psalter Week 2 Sunday Reading Cycle C)**

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 13th March 2022 LENTENALMS BOX PLACED AT REAR OF BOTH CHURCHES DURING LENT	Aberkenfig 9 am	Father Sean Seddon RIP (L&PG) People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers
	Maesteg 11 am Reader : Maria Cahalane Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne	Thanksgiving 70th birthday Derek & Denis Horton (M&M) Trefor Jones RIP (RB)
Monday 14th March 2022 2 nd Week of Lent	Maesteg <i>Private Mass</i>  6 PM	People of Ukraine & those who have died RIP Special Intention (C/F/F) ROSARY – IN CHURCH
Tuesday 15th March 2022 2 nd Week of Lent	Maesteg 10 am Mass	Maurice Kehoe RIP (Alina) <i>We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death</i>
Wednesday 16th March 2022 2 nd Week of Lent	Aberkenfig 10 am  6pm-6.30pm	Souls in Purgatory (L&PG) ROSARY - AT THE WAR MEMORIAL
Thursday 17th March 2022 St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	Maesteg 10 am	Denis, Eddie, Terence & Brian RIP (M&f) Margaret Banks RIP (TW)
Friday 18th March 2022 2 nd Week of Lent	Maesteg 10 am NO MASS	There would be HOLY ROSARY & STATIONS OF THE CROSS. All are invited.
Saturday 19th March 2022 St Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Maesteg <i>Private Mass</i>	<i>Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Edoardo.</i> All Souls in Purgatory (AA)
3rd SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 20th March 2022	Aberkenfig 9 am	Thanksgiving (MMc Birthday) People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers
	Maesteg 11 am Reader: Keith Lewis Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Angela Brennan	Winnie & Ralph Cornish RIP (M&R) Lynn Reid (Birthday) RIP (AR)

Lenten Alms: The Lenten Alms collected throughout the Archdiocese of Cardiff will this year be allocated to the Ukraine Relief Fund.

DIACONATE ORDINATION: Fr. Edmund would be away in Turin, Italy, next weekend 18th -21st March 2022, for the Diaconate Ordination of Lawrence Kofi Amoah, a Josephite, on the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Tim and the Priests in the Deanery will cover the Masses on Sunday 20th March, 2022. Let us pray for Lawrence and continue to pray for more vocations in the Church.

COVID: Safety continues to be of vital importance.

Face coverings are no longer mandatory to be worn in Church but those who wish to wear them may continue to do so; please be respectful and understanding to those who wish to continue wearing masks. Please use hand sanitisers; wear warm clothing as the church must be fully ventilated, cleaning will remain a high priority. **Social Distancing** – restrictions have now been relaxed, however, please be respectful of other parishioners who may wish to maintain a social distance.

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. *SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED.*

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.

GOD'S WORD: "THE GOD ON THE MOUNTAIN IS STILL THE GOD OF THE VALLEY"

Beloved: "For a moment Jesus discloses his divine glory, confirming Peter's confession. He also reveals that he will have to go by the way of the cross at Jerusalem in order to "enter into his glory". Moses and Elijah had seen God's glory on the Mountain; the Law and the Prophets had announced the Messiah's sufferings. Christ's Passion is the will of the Father: the Son acts as God's servant; the cloud indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit. "The whole Trinity appeared: the Father in the voice; the Son in the man; the Spirit in the shining cloud." (CCC 555)

In the Gospel of today, Peter wants to hold on to the divine experience of the Transfiguration of Jesus and to extend it further. He also equates Jesus to the other two (Moses and Elijah) who appeared there. But the voice from the cloud corrects him, saying that He is the Son, the Chosen One, and that they are to listen to Jesus' opinion. In comparison with other synoptic narratives, Luke adds his nuances to this narration, namely: i). The Divine-human encounter takes place in the ambience of prayer. ii) Luke is particular about mentioning the content of the conversation among the three. They were talking about "His departure which He is about to accomplish in Jerusalem" (v. 31).

Luke beautifully blends the theme of suffering between events of 'glory' mentioned twice in vv. 31-32. So the divine experience is not devoid of the suffering and struggles of life. Although Jesus is The Son, The Chosen One, He too will have to embrace suffering. Jesus becomes the Messiah through suffering. Struggle and suffering are a process to attain glory and to enjoy a spark of the divine.

"You were transfigured on the mountain, and your disciples, as much as they were capable of it, beheld your glory, O Christ our God, so that when they should see you crucified they would understand that your Passion was voluntary, and proclaim to the world that you truly are the splendor of the Father." (CCC 555)

In our Own Struggles and Challenges in life let us be mindful that the God of the mountain is still the God of the valley. God love you

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK AND ST ROBERT PARISHES:

Shrove Tuesday & The Feast of St David - Thanks to everyone who attended our celebration social event following Mass on the 1st March. Further thanks to everyone who donated raffle, quiz prizes and financial donations to support the success of the morning, Proceeds £162.

The Feast of St Patrick; this Thursday, 17th March, 2022

To celebrate The Feast of St Patrick's, our Church and Parish patron saint, we shall be offering a social hour following Mass on Thursday, served in the Parish Function Room, Maesteg, Tea, coffee and other delicacies shall be provided for your delectation, together with a raffle. To facilitate catering purposes, please register your name on the registration form at the back of church.

Catholic Moms Group in the Parish -Are you struggling through Lent?

We are excited to be launching Maesteg and Aberkenfig Mothers' Group! Join us Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7pm, Maesteg Parish Function Room, for a kick-off event to celebrate this vibrant ministry focused on supporting mothers in their vocation of family life. Whether you are newly returning to the faith or are a cradle Catholic looking for fellowship, there is a place here for you. See you there!

For more information please email: collette@catholicmomsgroup.com

ABERKENFIG PARISH

Dates for your Diary: STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT
Friday 25th March, 10 am; Friday 8th April, 10 am.

100 Club Subscriptions for 2022/23 total 52 so far. We need 70 subscriptions to break even.

Please contact Bill Ennis 01656 724855 if you wish to renew your membership or join – subscription £12.

MAESTEG PARISH

PARISH MEETING: Father Edmund will be holding a Parish Meeting, open to all parishioners, to plan the way forward for the next few months. The meetings will be held in the Parish Function room on Thursday 31st March after morning Mass and at 6.30 pm for those unable to attend the morning meeting.

Easter Egg Raffle 2022: Tickets now available, priced at 50p each. The 'first prize' A *Chocolate Hamper of Easter Eggs and Treats* is on display to support the launch and to tempt you to buy and sell tickets during these austere days of Lent. Donations of Easter Eggs welcome.

200+ Club 2022:

Kind reminder: Registration for renewal of membership for the 200+ Club Draw 2022, remains open up to the 31st March 2022. 260 existing and new members have signed up for 2022 to date, which falls short by 29 members compared to 2021. To renew your membership or join please contact Angela Brennan 07572 274646; Michael Banks 07584177456; or make your membership payments, cash or cheques, made payable to 'The 300+ Club', in a sealed envelope, together with your name, address and membership number if known; please hand the sealed envelope to a steward or put into the box designated for the purpose, situated at the back of Church. **The March draw** shall take place on **Tuesday, 27th March.**

MAESTEG COLLECTIONS 6th March: Gift Aid 430.50; Planned Giving/Loose £189.30; Window £352.50; Bricks £9.14; Cafod 5.00, Retiring/maintenance £131.25; Standing Orders February £891.00.

DAMAGES CAUSED BY STORM EUNICE AT OUR LADY & ST. PATRICK CHURCH:

Dearly Beloved Parishioners, the estimated cost for the repairs of the windows is between £3,852.00 & £4,100.00. Thank you for donations to date (£467.50) to support the restoration of the sanctuary windows. Your kindness and generous support are very much appreciated. God love you!

GIFT AID/PLANNED GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS: **Offertory contributions are a very important part of our parish income and very much appreciated.** Today, there will be a short talk on the importance of gift aiding your contributions, if you are a tax payer. and by giving by standing order Derek and Denis Horton will be available at both Masses if you need further information and the relevant forms will be available.

At both Masses next Sunday and 27th March, Derek and Denis will be available to distribute your 2022/2023 giving boxes, register new members or help to those requiring standing order or gift aid forms, or needs any further information.

WELSH NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 25th - 30th JULY 2022

Come & Join Us! A full religious programme, all transport, travel and full board 4* accommodation are included in the pilgrimage package. Detailed information will be shared & booking forms available from next week. Subscribe to our new website, to receive our pilgrimage newsletter for further updates: www.welshnationalpilgrimage.com



Team members of our Parishes:

**Paul Donoghue, Collette Matchett, Maria Browne and Keith Lewis,
Martin Braithwaite, Sarah Lewis, John Morgan, Ruth Howells.**

Thank you for your participation and support in the synodal process; reports being prepared which will be sent to the Archdiocese. A summary will be available shortly on the views received.

Please pray daily the Synod Prayer.

Synod Prayer

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.*

Cardiff Archdiocese Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation Network

VIGIL FOR THE EARTH - WILL YOU JOIN US?

To sit in silent vigil. To witness to the suffering of the earth, our common home. To witness to suffering of its people. Its wild life and ecosystems. This is a peaceful and reflective activity. The vigil will take place on the following Saturdays in lent. March 5th, 12th, 26th, April 2nd & 9th. In Charles Street, Cardiff 11am – 12 noon.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal: We have all been deeply disturbed and upset by the conflict in Ukraine. Sadly, hundreds of people have been killed and families are being forced to flee their homes. Refugees urgently need food, water and shelter. CAFOD is working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland and others, who are already there delivering practical help to those most in need. CAFOD is a member of the DEC, which has launched a national appeal, and you can be part of the Church's response by giving to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at cafod.org.uk/Ukraine or by giving to the retiring collection next Sunday; the fast day envelopes are available today, for return next Sunday, which will be used for the Ukraine Appeal.

Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine.