



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

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Archdiocese of Cardiff - Registered Charity 1177272



**3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
(Psalter Week 3 Sunday Reading Cycle C)**

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 20th March 2022 <u>Retiring Collection</u> <u>Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal</u> <u>Cafod envelopes returned</u>	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)
Monday 21st March 2022 3 rd Week of Lent	Private Mass  6 PM Connie & Albert Williams RIP (P&C) Special Intention (C/F/F) ROSARY – IN CHURCH
Tuesday 22nd March 2022 3 rd Week of Lent	NO MASS We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death
Wednesday 23rd March 2022 3 rd Week of Lent	Aberkenfig 10 am  6pm-6.30pm Private Intention (BL) ROSARY - AT THE WAR MEMORIAL
Thursday 24th March 2022 3 rd Week of Lent	Maesteg 10 am Lynn Daniel & Matthew Morgan RIP (L&AM)
Friday 25th March 2022 Annunciation of the Lord 	Maesteg 10 am 11 am – 6 pm Dante Ascari RIP (AA) <i>We pray for the Clergy & Religious Orders</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration
FRIDAY 25th MARCH 2022 CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION and SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	 MAESTEG 11 am– 6 pm Fr. Edmund is available TODAY NO need to book an appointment. First come first served
Saturday 26th March 2022 3 rd Week of Lent Reminder clocks go forward tonight	Maesteg <i>Private Mass</i> <i>Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Edoardo.</i> <i>All Souls in Purgatory (AA)</i>
4th SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 27th March 2022 LAETARE SUNDAY “MOTHERS’ DAY” Retiring Collection Maesteg Restoration Fund	Aberkenfig 9 am Molly Stocking RIP (A&D) People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Maesteg 11 am Reader: Collette Matchett Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Michelle Bumford Canon William Isaac RIP 1st Anniversary (MB&f) Doris Millward & Brian Jarvis RIP (CW)

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for
the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (through CAFOD) today, the Restoration monthly collection will be taken next Sunday in Maesteg Parish.

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

COVID: Safety continues to be of vital importance.

Face coverings are no longer needed 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: Michael McGlade, Gerald Hughes, Max Buckley, Frances Kelly, 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.

REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD

Today's Gospel begins with the mention of Pilate mingling the blood of Galileans with the sacrifice (killing them at the temple). Jesus adds another such event: the tower of Siloam that fell and killed eighteen people. The usual interpretation is to see it as divine punishment. But Jesus draws attention to another aspect of it: as a warning to the living that they might repent (Lk 13:3,5). The figure of the fig tree is also found in other synoptic Gospels (Cf. Mk 11:12-14; Mt.21:18-19). There it is mentioned as a symbolic event but here in Luke it is given as a parable. In other gospels the tree is dried up, which means that sinners deserve to die. But in Luke, the gardener speaks of digging around, putting manure and expecting fruit. A chance is thus given and efforts are made, expecting repentance from the sinner. Luke does not think of immediate punishment for sinners, but expects them to repent and bear fruit. If no repentance happens, then punishment is sure.

As St. Paul affirms, "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." But to do its work grace must uncover sin so as to convert our hearts and bestow on us "righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Like a physician who probes the wound before treating it, God, by his Word and by his Spirit, casts a living light on sin: Conversion requires convincing of sin; it includes the interior judgment of conscience, and this, being a proof of the action of the Spirit of truth in man's inmost being, becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love: "Receive the Holy Spirit." Thus in this "convincing concerning sin" we discover a double gift: the gift of the truth of conscience and the gift of the certainty of redemption. The Spirit of truth is the Consoler. (CCC 1848)

In this Lenten Season, with the help of the Holy Spirit, let us acknowledge our sins, be sorry for them, confess them and receive God's mercy and salvation through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God love you all.

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.

Please pray for Mary Downey as she leaves to live in Nottingham near her family. She is one of our oldest parishioners and we wish her well.

MAESTEG PARISH

PARISH MEETING: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: 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 7TH April** 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. 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 13th March: Gift Aid 209.50; Planned Giving/Loose £95.00; Window £300; Bricks £8.92; Restoration 60.00, Retiring/maintenance £151.50.

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

Dearly Beloved Parishioners, Thank you for donations to date (£767.50) to support the restoration of the window and sanctuary. Your kindness and generous support will be very much appreciated.

God love you! Fr. Edmund.

GIFT AID/PLANNED GIVING CONTRIBUTIONS: Offertory contributions are a very important part of our parish income and very much appreciated.

At both Masses today and next Sunday 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 if you require any further information.

TOILET FACILITIES: Now open during all Church' services. There is no longer a need to collect the keys from the back of Church.



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. Prayer cards available at the rear of Church.