



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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer
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Archdiocese of Cardiff - Registered Charity 1177272



**4th SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY
(Psalter Week 4 Sunday Reading Cycle C)**

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) People of Ukraine Doris Millward & Brian Jarvis RIP (CW)
Monday 28th March 2022 4th Week of Lent	Private Mass  6 PM	The Rees Family (M) Special Intention (C/F/F) ROSARY – IN CHURCH
Tuesday 29th March 2022 4th Week of Lent	Maesteg 10 am	Derek & Denis Horton Birthday (AG&SJR) We pray for unborn Babies and for Sanctity of life from Conception to Death
Wednesday 30th March 2022 4th Week of Lent	Aberkenfig 10 am  6pm-6.30pm	Private Intention (BL) ROSARY - AT THE WAR MEMORIAL
Thursday 31st March 2022 4th Week of Lent	Maesteg 10 am	Maurice Kehoe RIP (KK) Ted Treleaven RIP (A&R)
Friday 1st April 2022 4th Week of Lent 	SCHOOL MASS 9am Maesteg 10.30 am 11 am – 6 pm	Arch Bishop McGrath School Margaret Wells RIP (TW) <i>We pray for the Clergy & Religious Orders</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration
FRIDAY 1st April 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 2nd April 2022 4th Week of Lent	Maesteg Private Mass	Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Edoardo. All Souls in Purgatory (AA)
5th SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 3rd April 2022 Retiring Collection Easter Flowers	Aberkenfig 9 am Maesteg 11 am Reader: Paul Donoghue Maesteg 5 pm Reader: Maria Browne	Jeffrey Hollyman RIP People of our Parishes, our sick and NHS/frontline workers Ken Jenkins, Ellen, Brian, Peter & Eddie RIP (MJ) Tom Bumford RIP (R&PB) Stephen Mark Walsh RIP (SW) People of Ukraine

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.

MOTHER'S DAY: As we celebrate Mother's Day we pray for all mothers in these most difficult times, we give thanks for the blessings of family life. We pray for mothers who are expecting; we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience.

COVID: Safety continues to be of vital importance.

We are awaiting an announcement on Monday 28th March from the Welsh Government to determine how we need to proceed with the further opening of our parishes.

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.

GOD'S WORD - REFLECTIONS

"The beginning of Today's Gospel gives the context of this parable as, "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to Jesus, and the Pharisees and the Scribes grumbled". The Pharisees and the Scribes do not appreciate Jesus' approach to the 'sinners', "receiving them and eating with them". According to this group 'sinners' deserve to be distanced and punished, but they themselves deserve better treatment because they are with the Father (GOD), obeying His commandments. Accepting their argument ("Son! You are always with me, all that is mine is yours"), Jesus pleads that they also accept a sinner as their 'brother'. Thus, conversion of the righteous is the second message of the parable. As the story ends, the sinner (younger son) is converted but the righteous elder brother stays out. Does he come in or not? Jesus does not give an answer but leaves it to us to complete, because we think we are righteous and it demands our conversion.

"The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the center of which is the merciful father: the fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father's house; the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune; his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and still worse, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate; his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father's generous welcome; the father's joy - all these are characteristic of the process of conversion. The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life - pure worthy, and joyful - of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the Church. Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of his Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way." (CCC 1439)

"THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU" - 6PM TO 7PM: There will be Deanery Confessions on Tuesday 29th March, 2022 at PORTHCAWL, Thursday 31st March, 2022 at BRIDGEND, Tuesday 5th April 2022 at LLANTWIT MAJOR and Thursday 7th April 2022 at MAESTEG.

Please make time to receive God's Love and Mercy in fulfilment of your Easter Duty.

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

We are excited to be launching Maesteg and Aberkenfig Mothers' Group! Join us this 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

Mission Together (Children helping children) are looking for volunteers to present assemblies to our primary schools to encourage our children through their faith to reach out to other children around the world with help and prayer. All materials for the presentation will be supplied and training and assistance is readily available. All applicants will of course have to be vetted.

If you are interested, please contact Keith Lewis on 01656 738159.

ABERKENFIG PARISH:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: FRIDAY 8TH APRIL, 10 AM

COLLECTIONS 6th/13th March: Gift Aid £174; Loose £12; Lenten Alms £58.

100 PLUS CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS now due; please consider joining, 8 more members needed to break even.

MAESTEG PARISH

PARISH GENERAL MEETINGS: There would be Parish General Meetings, open to all parishioners, to evaluate the past, to plan programmes of the months ahead and to look at the way forward for the future development and growth of the Parish. The meetings will be held in the Parish Function Room on **Thursday 7TH April** after morning Mass, 11 am **and at 7 pm** for those unable to attend the morning meeting. Please come with possible ideas for the good of the Parish.

FEAST OF ST PATRICK: thanks to everyone who donated raffle & quiz prizes. ***'A good time was had by all!!'***

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. Thanks to everyone who have donated Easter Eggs so far and the exciting, luxurious and oh soooo... tempting First Prize. Donations of Easter Eggs welcome. ***Draw on 12th April 2022.***

200+ Club 2022: ***Kind reminder;*** registration for renewal of membership for the 200+ Club Draw 2022, ***remains open up to the 31st March 2022,*** (please contact Angela Brennan 07572 274646; Michael Banks 07584177456; or Derek/Denis on 01656 731767, after 2 pm) after which time, those members' names who have not renewed membership shall be withdrawn from the register and monthly draw. 271 existing and new members have signed up for 2022, which is a terrific achievement given the extraordinary circumstances we have faced during the continued pandemic restrictions. Compliments and thanks to the co-ordinating team and to all members who have supported the reformed 200+ Club 2022. Applause all round. **Draw on Tuesday.**

MAESTEG COLLECTIONS 20th March: Gift Aid £245.50; Planned Giving/Loose £95.00; Restoration £15, Lenten Alms £103; Ukraine Appeal (CAFOD) £1078.00.

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

At both Masses today, 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.

THANK YOU for the Papal Blessings, Mass intentions, cards and good wishes on our 70th birthday. Derek and Dennis.



The Parishes' report, written by the team, has been submitted to the Archdiocese. It will be available from today at the back of Church and will be on the Website. Thank you again to all who contributed in any way.

Please continue to pray the prayer daily as the process continues. The Synodal Teams.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022 DEANERY OF BRIDGEND

Dates for confirmation 2022 have yet to be finalised but are likely to be one or more of the following dates – 24th/25th or 26th June. Please fill out the form below and return to the Church by Sunday 3rd April. Please continue to check the website and newsletter for updates. Many thanks.

APPLICATION FORM CONFIRMATION 2022 Please return the form by Sunday 3rd April 2022

If candidates wish to be confirmed they **MUST** be in year 8 or above and attend the two preparation days which are provided by the confirmation catechists. Prior to the preparation days there will be a registration meeting which candidates are asked to attend with a Parent/ Guardian. At this meeting, Baptismal Certificates are checked so please bring these with you if you were baptised outside the parish.

Preparation days for confirmation take place at St Mary's. **Candidates MUST attend BOTH preparation days if they wish to be confirmed.** Please contact the office if you have any questions.

<https://catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk/sacraments-and-formation/confirmation/>

ABERKENFIG PARISH

FRIDAY 8TH APRIL, 10 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

MAESTEG PARISH

FRIDAY 8th APRIL, 12 HOURS WITH THE LORD, 10 am to 10 pm

THE DAY WILL BEGIN WITH MASS AT 10 AM, FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR ADORATION UNTIL 10 PM.

In Church, before the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our hearts, lay down our burdens and grief and pray for the healing of our world. Silent prayer and adoration before the Mystery of Christ, present to us in the Blessed Sacrament, is where we receive the grace to grow in love of Christ and experience His merciful love for each one of us. ***Why not take this opportunity to pray and reflect!***

A list is available at the back of Church. Please enter your name alongside the time slot you are able to cover. If you are unable to commit to a specific time, please be free to call in at anytime that suits you.

Father Edmund will be available for Confession/Reconciliation and Spiritual Direction.

PLEASE CONTACT FATHER EDMUND TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT (07964 366710).

THE SACRED TRIDUUM



EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, MAESTEG 14TH April 2021: 7 pm Mass

Watching and Praying at the Altar of Repose until 10 pm



GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: MAESTEG 15th April 2021

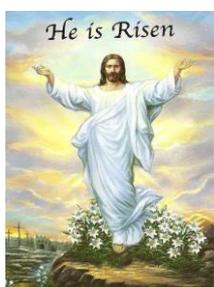
9.30 am Stations of the Cross

3 pm Passion of the Lord

Retiring Collection for Holy Places



EASTER VIGIL, MAESTEG: 16th April 2021, 7.30 pm



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: 17TH April 2021

ABERKENFIG 9 am Mass

MAESTEG 11 am Mass

No Evening Mass

Retiring Collection Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday Masses – Easter Offerings