

Understanding the long-term impact of Covid and its aftermath on the Church will take many years. Here at St Margarets an initial assessment shows that the former congregation has shrunk by about 33%, though some parishioners are still rightly shielding. Despite this fall in numbers, many new parishioners have recently moved into the neighbourhood and have made themselves known to the Parish welcome team over recent months. The face of the Parish is evolving slowly.

The numbers returning and the arrival of new parishioners are grounds for hope. My aim is to sustain this collective hope for the future life of the Parish. Our last fundraising campaign, excluding seeking funds for the refurbishment of the Hall and its facilities, took place nearly five years ago. Emerging out of lockdown and the long aftermath of Covid restrictions is the opportunity, may I suggest, to renew our engagement with the parish and review our regular giving. This follows naturally from our Reboot weekend in mid-October.

This parish sustains a regular liturgical, spiritual, catechetical, pastoral outreach and community life which all require effective administration and well-maintained physical spaces for these activities to take place in safety and comfort. All the funds raised here at St Margarets are used to advance the mission of the Church and to nurture this community of faith. As a visible society the Church, as existing in its living parishes, needs your support to operate and offer the saving message of Jesus Christ to the community, and beyond into the wider world.

Thank you for reflecting on your commitment to the mission of this Parish.

May I wish you and your families every blessing.

Fr Peter

Next Week

We will be informed of how our parish runs & what is needed to keep our beautiful church serving this community. Please reflect on how you feel called to contribute and thank you for all you currently do – remember the Bible promises we will be blessed hundredfold in return! God is never outdone in generosity.

If you have any questions, please ask a volunteer after Mass or contact:

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*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21*

WEEK 1

ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH ST MARGARETS-ON-THAMES



OUR CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

“...serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” - 1 Peter 4:10

WRCDT - Charity Number 233699



“...all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

-I Chronicles 29: 14

Stewardship is an important teaching from Christ. In the Gospels, the good steward is rewarded for being generous with others and prudent with the talents he is entrusted with, returning these to his master with interest.

All we have comes from God so we are His Stewards.

We are called to receive God’s gifts gratefully, look after them responsibly, share them in love for others, and return a portion to the Lord.

Periodically reflecting on our blessings and renewing our commitment to our Catholic Faith through our giving is therefore an important part of spiritual growth and Christian discipleship.

When we give with a grateful, generous heart we...

- ✓ Grow closer to God.
- ✓ Remember all we have comes from God.
- ✓ Declare our trust & commitment to Him.
- ✓ Show our freedom in relation to money.
- ✓ Share in the joy of giving.

“...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

- Luke 6:38



Time, Treasure, Talents – Our Blessings from God

Each one of us is blessed with a unique portion of Time, Treasure & Talents to share with others and invest in our communities. As good stewards, we are called to regularly reflect on how our offerings reflect our circumstances.

Is my offering planned, prayerful & proportionate?

The Bible tells us to return a tithe to God, traditionally defined as 10% of our income – otherwise known as ‘proportionate giving’. **The contemporary definition for a tithe is to give “5 & 5”:**

- **5% of your income to charity (including your parish!).**
- **5 hours a month of your time volunteering**

Figures below based on 35/hour week working, standard PAYE allowances and NI deductions. Individual circumstances may alter

HOUSEHOLD INCOME (APPROX)			WEEKLY GIVING GUIDE		
Hourly Wage	Annual (Gross) Salary	Net Salary	2%	3%	5%
£10	£18,000	£15,900	£6	£9	£15
£15	£27,000	£22,022	£8	£13	£21
£20	£36,000	£28,142	£11	£16	£27
£25	£45,000	£34,262	£13	£20	£33
£30	£54,000	£40,009	£15	£23	£38
£60	£108,000	£69,729	£27	£40	£67

The late Cardinal Basil Hume suggested we offer to God our first hour’s pay each week.

“...to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

- Luke 12:48