

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 2 APRIL 2023- Year A

In Peter writes: This Sunday the Church enters her most solemn period when she celebrates the Liturgies of Holy Week. This year's account of the Passion, read on Palm Sunday, is taken from St Matthew's Gospel, and every year some particular incident or phrase stands out despite having heard all four Gospel accounts numerous times before. St Matthew records that an unknown soldier cries out after the flagellation and the crowning of thorns that, 'His blood be upon us and our descendants', demonstrating, unknowingly that it is only because of Jesus' death on the Cross and the spilling of His precious blood that humanity may be saved.

An astute reader of the Old Testament who heard these words of the soldier, might remember Jesus' own words about the death of the prophets up to Zechariah, and before them, in mythical time, of the murder of Abel by Cain. Jesus' mission takes place under the threat of violence and His earthly life concludes in an act of violence, His death on the Cross.

The depth of violence associated with the Passion is misunderstood by the apostles who, other than Judas, reaffirm their commitment when Jesus tells them that 'they will all lose faith in me this night'. Peter will betray Him and the others scatter. Their ability to follow in their own strength is just not possible. Despite this Jesus will go before them, intimating that His death is not the end, his violent death is not the last word, but the necessary event prior to His new life, the Resurrection.

Violence and evil do not have a divine root, but to explain them requires something more than just weighing up actions and intentions. Evil sits, as the account in the book of Genesis explains, between creation and human choice. Everyone from Adam and Eve, is mired in evil and its consequences and only the supernatural intervention of Jesus' death as the Son of God can break the stranglehold.

Despite the plot to kill Him, and the isolation caused by the disappearance of His disciples, Jesus will stand alone, the still centre in a raging storm. This quality of stillness has been austere captured in Passolini's film, 'the Gospel of Matthew'. He captured through his photography and soundtrack this still centre to Jesus' public conduct. Everyone around Him is forced to make a choice that range from the call for blood, abandonment, curiosity and troubled dreams, Pilate's wife explaining the bad dreams she had about the impending events. Pilate's wife troubled conscience compared to Pilate's

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Weekday Mass	Monday	10.00 am
Details of Holy Week & Easter Mass times are on Page 2		
Eucharistic Service	Tue (4 th April)	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

disinterest in the question of truth. Only the women remain faithful watching from a distance.

Jesus' passion becomes, therefore, the loadstone, around which everyone reacts, and the different responses match those of today: hostility, indifference, curiosity, scant interest, and quite following. Maybe it was always this way in the Church's history and those who speak of the 'Age of Faith' being a halcyon era when belief was widespread might be failing to grasp the evangelistic effort required to create a culture of faith. This explanation seems nearer the truth. Constantine's conversion to Christianity in AD 312 ended the persecution of the Church within the Roman Empire but does not explain the Church's incredible expansion. Pagan temples were not forcibly closed till the end of the 4th century and the organisation of Roman society around the great families still remained, many who retained their pagan religious traditions whilst others became Christian. Their family house became the sites for the basilicas of Rome.

Christian faith is always a response to Jesus Christ who brings to completion a narrative of Redemption visible in His public life which is informed by the Old Testament, and which in turn illuminates the Old Testament as well. Small scale personal healings undertaken during His public life, the election of the chosen people described in the Old Testament, point forward to the restoration of life in its entirety and to be offered to all humanity.

God's gift of Redemption, of life released from the weight of wrong-doing will be made possible through His death and Resurrection. His subsequent gift of the Holy Spirit makes this spiritual release the new living reality for the believer. This Holy Week we might reflect on what our response will be around Jesus as He submits to His trial in front of the Pharisees and Pontius Pilate. Perhaps we take up the quite contemplation of the women who stood by the Cross and noted the location of the tomb and who discovered it to be empty, allowing spiritual space for the Good News to be preached, that 'He is risen'.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsnthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk • Phone - 020 8892 3902

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday (9.30 am - 12.30 pm) Emails are not checked out of office hours.

Mass Intentions Sat 1 Apr – Sun 9 April

01/04	Sat	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
02/04 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD				
02/04	Sun	8.30 am	David Elliott recently deceased	Su Slattery
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Work of missionaries throughout the world	
03/04	Mon	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
04/04	Tue	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
05/04	Wed	10.00 am	Joy Pereira RIP	Hazel Cardoza
06/04	Thu	8.00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
07/04	Fri	3.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY The Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord	
08/04	Sat	8.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL	
09/04	Sun	8.30 am	EASTER SUNDAY	
		10.30 am	For you the people	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cathy McKendry, Rose Blackman, Rachel Rose, Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Regan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Peter Coughlan, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Master-son, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew, Jim Polland & Theresa Bulpitt.

Anniversaries - Dorothy Kinstley, Margaret Sidey, Margaret O'Shea, Joe Romer, Louis Desombre, Len Haughty, Peggy Chambers, Agnes Good

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Entrance Antiphon:

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying:
Hosanna in the highest.

Response to the Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

MASS ARRANGEMENTS 2023

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY

Maundy Thursday 6th April

Mass at 8.00 pm

Watching at the altar of repose until 10.00 pm

Night Prayer – 9.45 pm

Good Friday, 7th April

Ecumenical Walk of Witness 9.00 am (details on page 3)

Stations of the Cross – 10.30 am

Children's Stations of the Cross – 12.00 pm

The Liturgy of the Passion of our Lord – 3.00 pm

Easter Vigil 8th April

Mass at 8.00 pm

Confessions from 10.00 to 11.00 am

Easter Sunday 9th April

Mass at 8.30 am & 10.30 am

There will be no evening Mass

Easter Monday 10th April

Mass at 12.00 noon

Children's Stations of The Cross

All children are invited to join Fr Peter for a reflection on the Stations of the Cross

12 noon on Good Friday, 7th April.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 2 APR 2023	Matthew 26:14 – 27:66	Psalm 23	Isaiah 50:4-7	Philippians 2:6-11
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - 9 APR 2023	Acts 10:34, 37-43	Psalm 117	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	John 20:1-9

LENT AT ST MARGARETS

• Lenten Faith Formation

- Lenten Companions course, Monday's commencing 27th Feb at 7:30 pm

• Lenten Devotions

- ⇒ Stations of The Cross - Fridays 7:30 pm
- ⇒ Holy Hour - Fridays 8:00 pm
- ⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 29th March at 7.00 pm
- ⇒ Live Way of The Cross (A live enactment of the final hours of Jesus' journey until his crucifixion - Saturday April 1st 6:00 pm)

• Almsgiving

- ⇒ SPEAR (Local charity, helping the homeless)
- ⇒ School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus, Madagascar (International charity, funds to provide lunch to the very poor children at school)



A group of our wonderful volunteers helping to make crosses out of Palms last week for delivering them to our housebound parishioners.



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS - 7TH APRIL 2023

You are warmly invited to join with all the local churches and Christian denominations in this walk led by Father Alex of All Saints.



We shall leave at 9.00 am from outside Arthur's café on Twickenham Green with a blessing from Father Ulick of St James' and walk along Heath Road and down Wharf Lane to the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, where a short service will be held. This will include prayers by Pastor Alan of the Baptist' Church, a bible reading by Anna McPherson of Holy Trinity and the hymns "There is a green hill far away" and "when I survey the wondrous cross", accompanied on the euphonium by Peter Legge. Those wishing to join at the Jubilee Gardens should arrive by 9.20 am.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophy Fisher on 020 8941 1772 or sophiajfisher@aol.com

New Offertory Envelopes

If you currently use numbered envelopes for your weekly offertory donations and wish to continue donating in this way, please pick up a new box of envelopes this Sunday from the back of the church. If you have also signed up for Gift Aid, you will be asked to confirm that you are still a tax payer, you are willing for Gift Aid to apply on your donations, and that your contact details have not changed.



We need helpers to clean the Church

Could you help?

Thursday 6th April

9.30 am—11.30 am



Could you spare one hour or so to help spruce up the Church. Lots of small jobs need undertaking. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning. Refreshments provided. Please sign up at the back of the Church or drop a note to the parish office, or even just turn up on the day.

More information—Chat to Patrick Collins or Jimmy Green via email stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk

Or reach the parish office: 020 8892 3902

St Margaret's Soup Lunch



The next soup lunch scheduled for Friday, 14th April has been cancelled as it is during the Easter holiday when a number of volunteers are unavailable, and parishioners may well have their own commitments.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next one on Friday, 12th May.

David Rose, charity no. 1167092

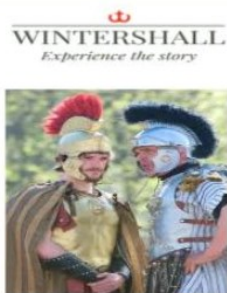
The Passion - Trafalgar Square 7th April 2023 Winter- shall performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm

[https://www.wintershall.org.uk/
passion-jesus-london](https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london)

YouTube: [https://youtu.be/
m6rv7de6T4c](https://youtu.be/m6rv7de6T4c)

For those who are unable to get
to Trafalgar Square the perfor-
mances will be livestreamed on
our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>



Love the Stranger

'Love the Stranger' presents a Catholic response to refugees and migrants. It is a 2023 document of the Department for International Affairs.

English and Welsh Bishops' statement on the issue of migrants to this country entitled 'Love the Stranger – A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees'.

The document is founded on basic Catholic principles of the dignity of the person and that everyone has a story to give.

This country should welcome migrants for what they may offer this country and at the same time help sustain development in their originating countries so that the desperate need to migrate under difficult conditions is not the only answer to family life.

Board of Directors/ Trustees Vacancy

The Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT), which incorporates six Diocese schools in our area, including St Richard Reynolds, needs an architect, surveyor or civil engineer to join its board of directors/trustees. If you would be able to help in that respect, ACAT, and its mission to enhance Catholic education, would benefit greatly from your insights and experience. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mike Metcalf, the Chair of the Board of ACAT, at m.metcalf@ascensioncat.org.



EcoChurch – Helping St Margarets reflect on her ecological impact.

This is an initiative suggested by Colin Messenger (of Mens Breakfast and Repair Café fame) that might be taken up by St Margarets Parish. The organisers, an ecumenical partnership, provide a checklist of 100 questions about the worship, life and building fabric of the Parish, and the organisers give a bronze, silver and gold awards depending.

A brief look at the questions show that the parish already fulfils or partially implements many of the recommendations. Something similar is being planned for the Churches of this Diocese and this exercise and reflection will help St Margarets Parish when the Diocesan authorities come to call. By taking this initiative it will be possible to give the Catholic Church's perspective on the ecological movement, that humanity is not the problem in itself since creation possesses a human stamp, but through conscious participation the solution. This participation though, in the light of vastly increasing living standards here in the Western World, requires conscious appropriation not wishful thinking alone.

If you would like to be involved in helping to answer the questionnaire, think on what might be modified and move the initiative forward please speak to Colin or myself.

On Wednesday 17th May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The regular evening Mass will be at 6.00pm, followed by a gathering downstairs in the Social Centre for a short presentation and informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street. Thank you for all that you do to encourage vocations. The Vocations team

This is the last chance to join Westminster Youth Ministry for two weeks in Porto, Fatima and Lisbon from 25 July to 9 August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with Pope Francis and 2 million other young people. Thanks to the support of the Cardinal's Appeal, the reduced cost for the pilgrimage is £1,500 inclusive of transport, accommodation, WYD Pass, insurance and some meals. There are last few places remaining at this price and applications will close on 14 April 2023. For more information and booking forms email Phoebe Prendergast at phoebeprendergast@rcdow.org.uk or Holly Cook at hollycook@rcdow.org.uk or call us on 020 3757 2516