

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT - 3 March 2024 - Year B



## *In Peter writes:*

Visiting Rome with a pilgrim group, this time with students from St Mary's University makes me realise that one of the key issues that besets the Church, that the distinction between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith is not tenable. Tacitly accepting this distinction, is to also make a distinction between the Church adopting the culture of the moment or of creating her own culture. Paradoxically fixating on the Jesus of history without accepting the consequences of Jesus being the Christ, can only lead to accommodation with contemporary culture as the historical details of the life of Jesus lack divine coordinates, the forgiveness of sins, the conquest over death. Jesus, in His humanity speaks of these issues but if He were not the Son of God, could offer no more than a wonderful example of a human life but not the means to affect their conquest.

Both Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul are buried in this city, and Enlightenment anti-religious speculation that their bodies were not buried in those locations (the crypts of the current basilicas of St Peter and St Paul) can now be shown to be very unlikely owing to the existence of pilgrim graffiti dating from the first century. Sadly, one church which the group wished to visit, San Paolo alla Regola (St Paul according to the rule of the Gospel) was closed for restoration. Here, near to the former Jewish ghetto, lived St Paul before his arrest. Though the house is not mentioned, the Acts of the Apostles concludes with St Paul living in Rome for two years (Acts 28:20). None of these archaeological sites will convince the sceptical but do point to the continuity between the Jesus of history, the call of St Peter, the conversion and life of St Paul, and the beginning of a biblical but coherent set of beliefs concerning Jesus, the faith of the Church.

These coherent set of beliefs about Jesus, His constitution as Christ will create the foundation stones for a solid Christian culture and missionary structure of the Church. Fast forward 48 hours and our group were attending the weekly Papal audience in the Paul VI Hall next to St Peter's Basilica. St Marys University received a mention amongst the English-speaking pilgrims which was very gratifying even if we still going through a second security check for unknown reasons.

Pope Francis is the fifth Pope that I have seen in public, the

first being Paul Vith many years ago whilst working in Rome before starting University in 1977. Then he was installing the then Archbishop Joseph Ratzinger as a Cardinal. All these Popes were and are different, in personality, in temperament, in their specific concerns for the Church. Most of the crowds attending were neither interested in this history nor participated in the prayers, but to them Pope Francis was a beacon of hope amidst the travails of their lives. Yet to groups in the front section, it was the moment of their lives, football teams of teenagers; two superannuated choirs of old men, groups of African sisters, the Italian air force, a municipal police department. After the Pope's words on the deadly sins, the audience became more of a carnival than solemn assembly. Though being guided round in a wheelchair, Pope Francis had a smile on his face as he spoke to the various groups, accepted gifts, and blessed babies. Babies were being passed back and forth between human chains of previously unknown strangers so that they may be blessed and kissed by the Pope.

Every Pope in recent years, makes the Church a beacon of hope in complementary ways; Pope Paul VI as the humanistic Christian society; Pope John Paul II as the bulwark against the dictatorship of communism and implicit violence of materialism; Pope Benedict XVI as the place of beauty and civilisation against the dictatorship of relativism; Pope Francis makes the Church the place of hope against ecological destruction and alienation of modern society.

Coming to Rome once again with a group of students, and opening their eyes, minds and hearts to the city helps me focus on the continuity between my faith, its divine source in Jesus Christ and its historical and visible form as the Catholic Church. One could keep one's faith private, a personal concern alone, but that would be to miss out its institutional and cultural history, or one could become a cultural catholic, admiring the achievements of the Church but dispensing with the need for faith filled conscience. These two alternatives can never grasp the fullness of the call to become fully Catholic, nor would there be any inspiration to invite others to encounter Christ, nor to share and participate in the beauty of Christian civilisation. Rome has many lessons to offer, the key to me is that the commonly secular assumption that there is an unbridgeable split between the 'loving' Jesus of history is the 'formalistic' Christ of faith is untenable and plainly untrue. Therefore, the full participation in our faith possesses a visible face and long-lasting meaning. Our lives in faith have a place and a meaning.

**St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church**

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk](http://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: 02/3 - 10/3

02/03	Sat	10.00am	Intentions of James Smith	Mary Gallagher
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
03/03	Sun	8.30am	Dan Heffernan RIP & Josephine Heffernan RIP	Su Slatery
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For you the people	
04/03	Mon	10.00am	Keiran Behan recently deceased	Gogarty
05/03	Tue	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
06/03	Wed	10.00am	Teresa Sowry RIP	Melanie
07/03	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
08/03	Fri	10.00am	Families of St Margarets Parish	
09/03	Sat	10.00am	Intentions of Teresa Gallagher	Mary Gallagher
		6.00 pm	The souls in purgatory	Adrian
10/03	Sun	8.30am	Joyce O'Connor RIP	Winter
		10.30am	Alf Florio RIP	Mary Ibbett
		6.30 pm	For you the people	

**Entrance Antiphon** - My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Response to the Psalm** - You Lord, have the message of eternal life.

### Mass Times & Liturgical Services (2/3 - 10/3)

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 10.00 am	
<b>Eucharistic Service</b>	Thu	10.00 am
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00-10.20am

**Saturday 6.00 pm Mass** - 6 pm Mass will take place when the First Holy Communion children meet. The dates are **Feb** - 3, 24, **March** - 2, 9, 16, **April** - 13, 20, 27, May 4.



**CATHOLICISM** - If you are a non-Catholic and attend Mass with your Catholic spouse and would like to learn more about what Catholics believe we have a course for you.

After Easter we will be running a short course especially designed for non-Catholics to explain the beliefs of Catholics and (perhaps) dispel some of the myths about Catholics. The course will be on Tuesday evenings from 8:00-9:00 pm and run for 5 weeks.

Please contact Cynthia in the office to register your interest.



### Day of Prayer for the Holy Land - Friday March 8th

Cardinal Vincent has asked the Diocese to hold a Day of Prayer for the Holy Land on Friday March 8th. This would coincide with the Lenten Alms project being supported by the this Parish, of raising money for the Latin Patriarchate to assist in Gaza and the West Bank.

The 10.00am Mass will be offered for peace in the Holy Land, and the Holy Hour in the evening will be focused on the call for conversion and progress towards a lasting peace.

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Natalie Shaw and Larry Fogg, Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, Cathy McKendry, Rachel Rose, Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Regan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter

**Anniversaries** - Winnie Craig, Eileen Ethridge, Nora Denny, Charles Byrne, Grace Yeboah, Antoinette Lunn, Cyril Bowers, Hans Michels, Kathie Harrington, Rose Wood-Collins, Christopher Bermingham, Eric Bonnici

#### **Kindly keep the recently deceased in your prayers -**

Joyce O'Connor RIP (Mo Walker's mother), who has died at the age of 101 years and Albarosa Maccione RIP

*Rest in peace. ~Amen~*

**March Prayer Intentions** - **For new Martyrs** - Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

**RCIA** - We welcome Tammy Fuit, who was received into the Church a couple of weeks ago. We wish her many blessings on her journey of faith.



*The FULHAM BIG BAND is coming to play*

**WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH at 7:30 pm**

*Tickets £10 pp—Last chance to buy your tickets today after Mass !!!*



***It's a night Not to be missed.***

All the money raised will go to helping refugees of the Israel/Gaza conflict.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - 3 MAR 2024

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 18

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-15

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - 10 MAR 2024

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm 136

Ephesians 2:4-10

John 3:14-21

## LENT AT ST MARGARETS

### • Lenten Faith Formation -

We Dare To Say, will take place on Monday's commencing March 4th, followed by 11th, 18th & 25th from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm. (details on page 4)

### • Lenten Devotions

⇒ Stations of Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour - On Fridays during Lent held at 7:30 pm followed by Holy Hour.



⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 13th March at 7.30 pm



⇒ Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10.30 am

### • Lenten Alms Project- Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

The Cardinal, Archbishop Vincent Nichols has written with the following message:

'I have heard directly from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims.

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc. to many in the West Bank.

Our Finance Office is ready to facilitate the speedy transfer to the Patriarchate of any such donations.'

Our Lenten Alms project this year will be a response to the Cardinal's plea to help those innocent civilians caught up in the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. Thank you

# LENT

Pray + Fast + Give



## The Synodal Process – Towards October 2024

May I explain a little further about Cardinal Vincent's request to all parishes to assist him in making a collective response to the first offering from the meeting of Bishops and lay-people that took place last October in Rome. What was it all about? The meeting began with listening with an open heart to what is happening now in the Church throughout the world, both good and bad. The delegates proposed a vista for the future direction of the Church, not in changing the teaching but updating the tone to suit contemporary conditions. Maintaining strongly held beliefs that cannot be communicated will not advance the Church's mission.



The Synod offered ways of communicating the same truths that recognised the fragmentary nature of most people's experience. This is definitely a challenge! This remains a challenge to me because I have always accepted the intellectual coherence of faith, the active relationship between faith and reason, and the richness of catholic culture. Pope Francis is asking us not to be nostalgic for the past, and by implication thinking that Christianity has run its course, but this crisis is the beginning of a new era.

In the spirit of the second rather than the first sentiment, and wishing to assist Cardinal Vincent and our parish, I am suggesting two encounters to discuss the four questions sent to each parish to discuss.

Question 1: How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to: those who have not heard of Christ; those who have ceased walking with Christ; those with whom we worship Christ (those who go to Church)?

Question 2: How do we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

Question 3: What concrete opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

Question 4: What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

For those who wish to be involved and offer any contribution, I will be hosting two meetings (both covering the same material), one on **Friday 23rd February at 6:00pm, and another on Sunday 3rd March at 11.30am.**





**Friday 15th March**  
**Adoration followed by**  
**Reconciliation - 6:30—**

**Pizza & Prayer**  
 Come along to an evening for youth  
 (12+) at St Margaret's Church on  
**FRIDAY 15th MARCH**

7:30 pm—Stay before Jesus for a few minutes, or a little longer.

Opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr Gregory

**Pizza**—from 7:30 pm onwards

Join your friends for pizza in the hall.

**Let us know you are coming—Scan the code**



**LENT**  
 Pray + Fast + Give

**WE DARE TO SAY**

*Our prayers together help us to become the dwelling places of the Holy Spirit that we are called to be ([Sacrosanctum Concilium](#), 2).*

At every moment of every day, somewhere in the world, Christians are praying the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. When said in liturgy or in devotional prayer, together or privately, the Lord's Prayer is a like a gentle, multilingual hum of heartfelt praise and petition.



St Thomas Aquinas once wrote that 'The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them.'

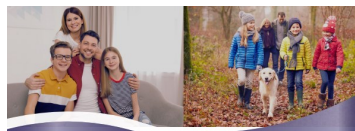
Pope Francis has asked us, as part of our preparation for the Holy Year in 2025, to make this year into a time for refreshing our prayer, and especially our appreciation and use of the Our Father. I am pleased, then, to commend to you *We Dare To Say*, a five-week faith sharing resource on the familiar and powerful words of the Our Father taking place at St Margarets on **Monday's commencing March 4th, followed by 11th, 18th & 25th from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm.**

May you come to a deeper appreciation of what the Lord Jesus himself has given us in response to the disciples' request 'Lord, teach us to pray'.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster,**

**ProParent** - Join us for a series of talks on Leadership in the Family—  
**Saturday 16th March 2 pm - 4.30 pm** at St Margarets Church, 130, St Margarets Road, Twickenham TW1 1RL

**ProParent**



ProParent was founded by former headmaster **Ciro Candia**. He has given presentations to thousands of parents across the UK and Ireland. He and his wife, **Caroline**, have seven children.



2 - 3pm (for Primary and Pre-School parents) **Creating a Strong Family Culture**

Ciro explores parenting styles and the best ways to foster a strong family culture. He addresses topics like discipline to help parents in shaping their children's character.

3 - 3.30pm - **Afternoon Tea**

3.30 - 4.30pm (for Secondary School parents) **Understanding the Challenges of the Teenage Years**

Ciro offers strategies to navigate the challenges of the teenage years and insights on how parents can build strong, loving relationships with their children.

There is a limited amount of childcare available from 2-4.30pm, but this needs to be booked

SCAN QR CODE FOR BOOKING AND FURTHER INFORMATION

07831 871923 (Melanie)  
 07473977733 (Josemaria)

Suggested donation: £5 per family



**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal**

**CAFOD**  
 Just one world

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. You can still give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) or scan the code.

