

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 3rd September 2023 - Year A

In Peter writes:

Everyone can imagine and most will have experienced at some point the inconvenience of having their flight delayed or worse still their flight cancelled. Judging by the media and internet platforms, it seems as something much worse has happened, families unable to see their pets for a week and worse still. Airlines are sending out extra planes to rescue the stranded as if the Canary Islands and Majorca were the new Saigon or Kabul, about to fall to enemy forces.

It is obviously very difficult to maintain perspective in such situations, accustomed as we are to the instant service of the consumer society, and not something by which I would want to be inconvenienced. Predicating family activity on instant service is always a high-octane enterprise replete with potential failure. What secular life cannot give is strength, hope is in short supply because everything should be working now, and it is plainly not.

How different the pagan and Christian worlds. When Aeneas sails from burning Troy to establish a new city, he must suffer from the war between the pagan gods, and from the fierce and unforgetting anger of the goddess Juno. Thrown by pagan deities to the shores of Libya, and here begins 'The Aeneid', the Latin poem by Virgil about the journey of Aeneas and the Trojans to Italy and ultimately the founding of Rome. Aeneas is given a foretaste of what is to be, the founding of Rome and all its glories. It gives him strength.

The same quality, in different circumstances is asked of us as followers of Jesus Christ, to be patient and become resilient in the face of the reality of the world. Should this situation occurred in the time of the Old Testament, it would have been a straight-forward matter to suggest that those suffering this plight of travel delay brought it upon themselves as sinners. Two thousand years of Christianity has nuanced the answer to suffering, as being beyond personal wrongdoing and related to something deeper within the created order. However, the post-Christian world has lost the OT view and all the nuances of the New Testament and the Church's teaching. It has also lost the explanatory power of the classical pagan world that human life is conducted under the watchful gaze of the warring gods and goddesses of Greece and Rome.

Disconnecting the answer to suffering from faith has led to the need to either ignore the reality, trivialise the suffering,

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (4/09 - 10/09)		
Weekend Mass	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Mass	Mon, Tue, Wed	10.00 am
Funeral Mass	Kathleen Balmer RIP 8 th September	10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Thursday	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00-10.20am

find someone to blame and failing that to rage impotently against the computer processes and corporate drones on which the modern world has come to rely.

This Sunday's Gospel demonstrates how Jesus asks for patience. His disciples do not understand why He has to suffer and through His death rise to new life. Christian faith therefore becomes the invitation to turn round the question of suffering, by recognising that the end, resurrected life, will illuminate all that goes before, not later but now too. Meaning cannot be discerned within suffering itself but only in relation to what is good, God and His creation, and the end to which all human life is called, the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, suffering remains mysterious, even though it accompanies everyone on their earthly journey, because it cannot be answered from within itself. Experience shows that trying to answer the question of suffering on human terms requires finding the perpetrator or alternatively thinking that it is deserved for some reason, neither of which are the appropriate response in so many situations.

Jesus does not answer the question directly. Instead, He answers with Himself through His death on the Cross through which He achieves His resurrection. Through faith all Christians share in His Resurrection in anticipation. Everyday life contains a similar dynamic and requires a similar response. This is at the level way below the real suffering of serious illness, bereavement and other traumas. We all put up with the stresses of life and work on behalf of the greater good of others, our family, our workplace, our organisation. This is not keeping silent about wrong-doing, the default position of so many organisations that should have known better, but of making a considered judgement about the vicissitudes of daily life. This Sunday's Gospel is about the destiny to which Jesus is heading. It can be applied to issues of daily resilience that should mark the life of the follower of Jesus.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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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 2 Sep - 10 Sep

02/09	Sat	10.00 am	For you the people	
03/09	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	Eleanor Drew RIP	Patrick Collins
		6.30 pm	Andrea Dona Dalle Rose RIP	
04/09	Mon	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
05/09	Tue	10.00 am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
6/09	Wed	10.00 am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
07/09	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
08/09	Fri	10.00 am	Funeral Mass Kathleen Balmer RIP	
09/09	Sat	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
10/09	Sun	8.30 am	Albert Dolan RIP	Rita Johnston
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Eleanor Drew RIP	Ann Edes

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, 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 Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

Anniversaries - Bill Pugh, Diana Donovan, Jaga Arulsamy, Anna Straub, George Benwell, Aletta Flynn, John Kevin Sutcliffe, Domenica Leandre, Joe Ashton, Martin Leahy, Norman Lee

Recently deceased - Eleanor Katharine Drew RIP (daughter of Allison & Geoffrey Drew). Frank O'Hara RIP

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

September Prayer Intentions - For people living on the margins - We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Entrance Antiphon:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long,
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
Full of mercy to all who call to you.

Response to the Psalm:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

Sacramental Programmes



Sacramental preparations are open for parishioners and those who attend Mass regularly at St Margaret's.

Baptism

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at our Pre Baptism course is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office. Our September course dates - 13 & 20th.

First Holy Communion 2024

If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, please speak to Fr Peter after any Mass that you attend. Enrol on the course during the first half term, from September 1st to October 22nd. Collect attendance card. Applications will close on that date. Attendance on to the Children's Liturgy at Sunday 10.30 am Mass is required.

Confirmation 2024

The 2024 Confirmation Course will begin in January 2024 and will continue till after Easter, date yet to be established. Kindly speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Joseph after any weekend Mass that you attend. Enrol on the course during the first half-term from September 1st to October 22nd.

Marriage Preparation

St Margarets alternates with The Brompton Oratory for the courses. We will hold a course on Saturday, 13th April 2024. Please contact the parish office to register your interest. The Brompton Oratory will hold a course on Saturday, 7th October 2023. For information on courses at The Brompton Oratory, kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk) for further details.

Adult preparation for the sacraments

This autumn, beginning on September, Deacon Joseph will be leading a ten session enquiry course for those interested in becoming Catholics, or for those adults who already Christian would like to be received into the Church, or who wish to be confirmed as adults. The next course begins on Monday 18th September.

FRANK O'HARA RIP

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Frank O'Hara. He was a parishioner at St Margaret's from 1975 and unfortunately, passed away on 20th August 2023. He was an active member of the parish for many years regularly attending Sunday mass. He will be greatly missed. His funeral mass is to be held at St Margaret's on Monday 18th September at 2pm followed by the committal at Mortlake crematorium at 3.20 pm.



St Margaret's was pleased to welcome back Fr Paul Bigirwa for a short time over the Summer while Fr Peter was away. This was his first visit since 2014. Thank you to all who were able to catch up in your own way, and to those who were able to attend the very special Afternoon Tea event on 16th August in the hall. Fr Paul was able to update us on the progress of St Theresa's School and also to share with us his next project, which is the development of a Football Academy open to all 11+ students in schools near to St Theresa's. Our parish raised an incredible total of £1,505 to help him get this project started.



You can donate to support Fr Paul's work in several ways:
 * logon on to our website - www.geta.org.uk - and click the donate button
 * cash / cheque in an envelope marked "Fr Paul" to the parish office
 * direct to our account either by direct transfer (FPI) or by Standing Order. Contact david.rose@geta.org.uk for further details

Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are an eligible taxpayer. God Bless you all for your generosity and continuing support.

David Rose
 Chairman, GETA
 Charity no 1167092



Twickenham Christian Men's Breakfast Wellbeing Workshops Run by Carl Morris

IT IS STARTING NEXT WEEK Saturday 9th September
 Followed by the 2nd and 3rd sessions on 7th October & 11th November
 The goals are: to improve your health, improve your knowledge, make little changes which could have a big impact on your life.

So help yourselves, and us, and buy tickets.
 Any questions or to reserve those special tickets: info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org

Sea Sunday

The total amount collected was £644.78 Thank you to all who contributed generously.



The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat 2023

at St John Fisher Rc Church, 80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW on 9th Sept 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm led by the Marian Fathers.

The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call millie on 07957594646 for more information

Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

Winners for the month of August 2023

1st Prize No. 18 Michael Goldsmith £100/-

2nd Prize No. 7 Peter Coghlan £50/-

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)

Come and join us for our much loved "Tea & Chat"
 Wednesday from 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm



6th September 2023

*All are welcome.
 Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.*

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

1 September 2023

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life?

We must do this by resolving to transform **our hearts**, **our lifestyles**, and **the public policies** ruling our societies.

First, let us join the mighty river by **transforming our hearts**. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that **“ecological conversion”** which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that ***an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves....***

....Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by **transforming our lifestyles**. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our “ecological sins”, as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so that all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well. Let us cooperate in God’s ongoing creation through positive choices: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste, and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, ***we must transform the public policies*** that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 51)....

....Another parallel perspective has to do with the Catholic Church’s commitment to **synodality**. **This year**, the closing of the Season of Creation on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, **will coincide with the opening of the Synod on Synodality.....** So too, like a river basin with its many tiny and larger tributaries, the Church is a communion of countless local Churches, religious communities and associations that draw from the same shared waters. Each source adds its unique and irreplaceable contribution, until all flow together into the vast ocean of God’s loving mercy. **In the same way that a river is a source of life for its surroundings, our synodal Church must be a source of life for our common home and all its inhabitants. In the same way that a river gives life to all kinds of animal and plant life, a synodal Church must give life by sowing justice and peace in every place it reaches....**

About the Season of Creation:

This is a time to renew our relationship with **OUR CREATOR AND ALL CREATION** through celebration, conversion, and commitment **together**. During **the Season of Creation**, we join our sisters and brothers **in the ecumenical family** in prayer and action for **OUR COMMON HOME**. Throughout the month-long celebration, **the world’s 2.2 billion Christians** come together to care for **OUR COMMON HOME**.

The season :

- **STARTS 1 SEPT.**, The day of Prayer for Creation, proclaimed by the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox in 1989.

ENDS 4 OCT., The feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Ecology.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) was instrumental in making the special time a **Season**, extending the celebration from **1 SEPTEMBER UNTIL 4 OCTOBER**.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the **Season** as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church’s warm welcoming of the **Season** official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for **CREATION** during the month-long celebration.



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023



Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, Michigan