

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 4 February 2024 - Year B



In Peter writes: National Holocaust Memorial Day when we were asked to remember the tragic events that led to the murder of six million Jews during the Second World War. The last scattering of survivors is now passing into history, and though the events of middle of the 20th century has been the background of anyone over 50 years old life, those younger might not feel the same about events that took place long before they were born. There have been many acts of group killing, brutal in their intensity, since the Second World War especially in Cambodia, Rwanda, Gaza and Israel, but they all lack the industrialisation of death that marked the Holocaust.

Christian history has been marked by periodic bouts of anti-Semitism, expulsions from England, Spain and other European countries. Religion here being used as the cloak around envy at perceived economic success, different racial profile and their perceived role in the death of Jesus. The Holocaust was on a different scale utilising the bureaucratic instruments and post-Christian ideology about the role of the state. Pagan cults centred around the role of the nation, brut nature and the people, the triad that replaced the Churches as worldwide, multinational and humane institutions. Yet what made the Holocaust become possible was the public acceptance fifteen years earlier of a victim political ideology in the economic depression of the 1920s along with the passive acceptance of latent anti-Semitism as being normal.

When I visited Auschwitz many years ago I could hardly comprehend, gazing upon the four demolished gas ovens what had brought European culture to this point. How could the land of Goethe and Beethoven descend to this barbarity? The landscape of the brick piers of the former huts in serried ranks stretching out in different directions, the railway marshalling yards, the workshops and old barracks combined to make the place look like a disused 19th century industrial complex overtaken by technological advance. This deceptively calm landscape was the landscape of death and the local museum testified to the human suffering. A number of the rooms contained large glass boxes filled with spectacles taken by the guards on arrival along with small travelling cases and other personal mementos, material signs of life and hope, cruelly brought to a barbaric end. Here were the signs of humanity sacrificed and it made a poignant contrast to the inhumanity of the enterprise.

No-one will ever know quite why this tragedy was allowed to unfold in all its details. There are obvious culprits in the Nazi Party, and those who actively subscribed to its ideology. Yet what of the thousands involved, each in some small way, in this process of human destruction, those who passively sub-

scribed to Hitler's message of national renewal, those whose prejudices blinded them to the suffering involved, and those who cared not to listen.

The antidote to this or similar happening again is never going to be provided by legislation alone, but only through the conversion of minds and hearts, that we may see the pain of the world, and actively participate in constructing and maintaining a civilised society. This is becoming increasingly difficult, not simply because of the threat of resurgent totalitarianism but more because western culture has become unable to make collective moral judgements about right and wrong. Pope Francis described the role of education as the place to learn the grammar of dialogue. Grammar is the shared resource for anyone speaking the same language and vital for communication. Western culture is finding this process difficult, assertion whether on internet platforms, in the media or even from ourselves has taken over from reason. Recent events here and in the US demonstrate the difficulty in finding the 'grammar of dialogue' and thus establishing common ground with others.

Here the Church has a unique role. At the heart of faith is the recognition that Jesus Christ reveals men and women to themselves, both as their Saviour and as role model. This Sunday's Gospel records the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, who promptly starts serving Jesus and His disciples but also how Jesus left early to pray alone with the disciples frantically looking for him. Peter's mother-in-law was not conforming to social stereotype but giving her response to healing grace, the same response that each of us should give too. Such service becomes the glue that unites people together despite their differences, yet to do so effectively requires seeing the Gospel message as not simply validating but questioning our service. Foolishly the disciples were keen to capture Him for their town alone, yet that would both deprive others of hearing His saving message and also prevent the disciples for stepping up to preach the Gospel themselves. Jesus leaving for the next town was essential for the Gospel to take root through the faith and service of His believers left behind. The community that is the Church then becomes the repository of true humanity marked by faith in a higher power, healing from above and service to others. Christians are invited to exhibit child-like faith but act in redeemed adult ways.

Fostering this humane culture of healing and service within the Church is the best defence against totalitarian regimes around the world because they would have no traction as their ideology would not be seen as a cure for their personal malaise, psychological, social and economic.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretonthames@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: 3/2 - 11/2

03/02	Sat	10.00am	Josh Pricket RIP (friend of Libby McLoughlin)	Olga McLoughlin
		6.00 pm	William Hickey RIP	Rosaline Hickey
04/02	Sun	8.30am	Bernard Sharratt RIP anniversary	
		10.30am	John McHugh	Mary McHugh
		6.30 pm	For you the people	
05/02	Mon	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
06/02	Tue	10.00am	Lucy Leahy RIP	Teresa Histon
07/02	Wed	10.00am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
08/02	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service - Bernard Sharratt RIP anniversary	
09/02	Fri	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
10/02	Sat	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
11/02	Sun	8.30am	Maura Kirby RIP	Peter & Su Slatery
		10.30am	Peter Coghlan RIP	Catherine Sugrue
		6.30 pm	Joseph de Souza RIP	Barbara de Souza

Entrance Antiphon:

O come, let us worship God.
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

Response to the Psalm:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (5/2 - 11/2)

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, 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, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter

Anniversaries - Mary Mangan, Millicent de Lord, Edwin Atkinson, Veronica Pierce, Rosamund Chalkley, Gertrude Mason, John McHugh, Alexander McDonnell, Dan Kavanagh, Margaret Tobback, Julia Mangan, Frank Morgan, Emma Jarmain, Charles Nutall, Edith Fowler, Mona Keegan, Mary Newman

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Amen~

February Prayer Intention - For the terminally ill- Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic



The next course for those wishing to inquire about becoming a Catholic or who wishes an Adult be confirmed, begins in the middle of February, lasting till the middle of May. Meeting will take place on Monday evenings beginning on Monday, 12th February 2024.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Ash Wednesday - 14TH FEBRUARY

Mass will take place at 10.00 am & 7.00 pm



Ashes delivered to your home

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to have the ashes and the Ash Wednesday liturgy sent to your home, please contact the parish office via email or phone.



Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass will resume on 20th January 2024 and will take place when the First Holy Communion children meet. The dates are - Jan - 20, 27, Feb - 3, 24, March - 2, 9, 16, April - 13, 20, 27, May 4.



Coffee & Croissants

Join us for coffee & croissants on Sunday 18th February after the 8.30 am Mass.



Donations to Parish Funds

If you would like to set up a standing order, please complete a form available on the website or from the parish office or you can do this yourself through online banking. The parish bank account is:

Bank: HSBC

Account Name: WRCDT St Margarets on Thames

Sort Code: 40 05 20 Account No: 01094823

For offertory giving, please use the bank reference: XOF your surname and initials

For donations to the building fund and refurbishment project, please use the bank reference: XBF your surname and initials

If you are a UK tax payer, please gift aid your donation which increases the amount the parish receives by 25% at no additional cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available from the parish office or on the website.

Thank you.

"Tea & Chat"

every alternate Wednesday from

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Enjoy warmth and good company here at St Margaret's at our teas.

Dates for your diary.

February 7 & 21st

March 6 & 20

All are welcome.

Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.



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 and the course dates / information will be shared with you.



First Holy Communion 2024

The course has now begun and the Sacrament will be received on Saturday 11th May 2024



Confirmation 2024

The course has now begun and the Sacrament will be received on Saturday 27th April 2024.



Marriage Preparation

St Margarets will be holding the course on Saturday, 13th April. Please contact the parish office to register your interest and information will be shared.



We alternate our courses with The Brompton Oratory, who are holding their courses on 24 February and 1 June 2024.

For information and any further details at The Brompton Oratory kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk).

SAVE THE DATE !

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH at 7:30 pm

The FULHAM
BIG BAND is
coming to
play.



Further details to follow shortly!

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes, 10th February 2024



On Saturday 10th February 2024, 2.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered.

Tickets are in three categories:

- Wheelchair users who require anointing
- Walking sick who require anointing
- Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

As per the request of the Diocese, the tickets can only be booked via the parish office. So kindly send in your requests considering the options above via email to the parish office.

Forthcoming Arms Fair at Twickenham Stadium

In the coming weeks, Twickenham Stadium is hosting two events for arms companies producing weapons and military technology.

It is shocking that the Rugby Football Union is allowing the stadium to be used in this way, giving a platform to arms companies providing weapons.

The events must be cancelled. Will you please write to the Rugby Football Union to demand it revokes permission for these type of events to take place at Twickenham Stadium which is primarily a sporting venue.

Please contact the venue that this is an inappropriate use of their venue.

Subscribe to newsletters Online

You can subscribe to the weekly newsletters to receive them online.



Please visit our website [St Margaret's \(stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk\)](http://StMargaretsrccchurch.co.uk) and provide your email address.

You will receive a weekly notification for the link to the Mass on YouTube, a link for Mass Readings and the newsletter along with any relevant updates straight into your mailbox.

Joy in Ageing Poetry, Art and Multimedia Competition that opens on 1st February 2024.

We believe this Joy in Ageing competition will serve as a powerful reminder that ageing is a journey filled with laughter, love, and continued discovery.

Entrants can share their voices, unleash their creativity, and help us rewrite the narrative on ageing – one brushstroke and verse at a time.

The closing date is 30th April 2024.

For more info and competition guidelines: embracingage.org.uk/joyinaging 020 3778 0035



The Divine Mercy Apostolate,

London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February 2024 from

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge, Road London SE1 7HY

The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, 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

TWICKENHAM CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFASTS WE HAVE A WONDERFUL DOUBLE-HEADER FOR YOU

Our friend David will give us an update on the amazing journey GETA has been on supporting St Theresa's School in Uganda over the past 10 years.



And our new friend, Phil will be telling us about the work that TWAM does in helping African communities with the tools you have been donating.

Saturday 2nd March 8:15 - 10:00 AM

Enjoy a delicious healthy breakfast

Suggested donation. £10

Venue: St Margaret's Church

130 St Margaret's Road, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL

To buy tickets e.mail: info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org

