

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

6th Sunday of Easter — 5 May 2024 - Year B



In Peter writes:

Last Wednesday at the Chaplaincy lunch I was given a crash course on how to use and read emojis. What I had foolishly thought had been a smile was the pictorial form of that peculiar English phrase, 'may I help you', or more directly 'what are you doing here'. Looking more closely at the emoji I could see the face had a rather wan smile compared to the open mouths of other smile icons. These I had thought those smiling faces were typical examples of over-exaggerated emotions of celebrity culture but they now cover the traditional thank you. Now I am awaiting further lessons in my new found language!

Nearly 70 years ago Marshal McLuhan, the Canadian philosopher, wrote that 'the medium is the message', which Wikipedia explains as 'the form of a medium embeds itself in the message, creating a symbiotic relationship by which the medium influences how the message is perceived.' Luckily the medium of emojis requires traditional language to explain its intricacies! We have not yet reached the medium becoming the message. Luckily the animated conversation about which are appropriate or not, gives hope for the future of traditional language and literature.

Emojis though do emphasise that not all communication is simply verbal. How one speaks, where one dialogues, along with bodily demeanour, such is the broad context of communication that gives nuance to every conversation and explanation of the text. Jesus speaks to His closest associates, the Apostles, the night before He dies about the nature of His love for them, us and the world. Such love cannot be characterised by any emoji of smiles and hearts because this act of love is also an act of sacrifice: 'no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends'.

Jesus calls His apostles 'friends' not just servants as they will participate closely in His mission. Indeed, they will bring about the fruit of the vine that would remain bare without their contribution. To the Christian this is both a comfort and a challenge. No-one is asked to bear fruit by themselves, as every Christian is part of the greater vine, but every Christian is challenged to bear fruit too. Bearing fruit is qualified by the command to love one another first. 'Love' needs unpacking because the New Testament uses two different Greek words for 'love', eros and agape,

searching for the other, desire, and laying down life for the other, sacrifice. Philia, a third Greek word is more associated with friendship.

How could these two facets of love be translated into 'emojis'? Traditional iconography would the deer drinking from the brook for eros, an image taken from the Song of Songs, 'Like the deer that yearns for running streams so my soul is yearning for you my God.' Sacrifice is obviously the Cross, Jesus laying down His life for His people, but 'the life for' might also be represented by an image of the servant who earns the five talents during His Master's absence.

Emojis might help the internet generation navigate the complexities of human emotions but they cannot replace the richness of Christian iconography that embodies profound truths about the Gospel. Emojis have utilised the power of images to communicate, something lost to later generations. Conflicts within Christendom that developed into a fully blown movement of reformation was aided by the printing press. Later the same printing presses would dethrone Christianity in its multiple forms with new thinking, collectively described as the Enlightenment. Now the image has returned as one form of basic communication. Travel in any tube, bus or train and the likelihood is that most if not all the passengers will be engrossed with tiny images on their mobile phone. Christianity does not have to falter in front of this onslaught of electronically produced imagery because at the heart of faith is the image, of God made man, the true ikon, Jesus Christ.

Long before Marshall McLuhan's famous statement that the 'medium is the message', the Church had been saying the same thing. Jesus Christ is the medium, God made man, and is the message, God made man for us.

Christian discipleship then is to become the icon of the icon, of becoming the image of Jesus Christ, the image of God. What 'emoji' are we presenting to the world. Being in Christ should at least move us away from the emoji with the wan smile. What emoji could describe the Christian is unknown, at least to me. I have yet to find one. Maybe we might start with ourselves, imperfect as we most certainly are. The image is a work in progress, an unfinished work to date.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrccchurch.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: 4/05 - 12/05

4/05	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory
		6.00 P.M.	For you the people
5/05	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Joseph Coughlan
		10.30 a.m.	50th Wedding anniversary of Geoffrey & Allison Drew
		6.30 p.m.	Agnes Preston RIP
6/05	Mon	12 noon	John Coughlan
7/05	Tues	10.00 a.m.	Eucharistic Service
8/05	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Recovery of St Margaret's parish-ioners post-surgery
9/05	Thurs	ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holy Day of Obligation)	
		9.00 am	Pupils & staff of St Richard Reynolds & St James Schools
		10.15 a.m.	For you the people
		6.30 p.m.	Families of St Margaret's Parish
10/05	Frid	10.00 a.m.	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church
11/05	Sat	11.00 a.m.	Children receiving First Holy Communion
12/05	Sun	08.30 a.m.	For you the people
		10.30 a.m.	Juliet Grafton RIP
		6.30 p.m.	Those struggling with insecure housing arrangements

Entrance Antiphon

*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard:
Proclaim to the end of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

Response to the Psalm

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations

HOLY HOUR

Fridays at 8 pm — Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Should you wish to have your child baptised, please speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office, The next Baptism course will be held on July 23rd & 30th (online 8-9 pm)



Sunday 5th May

Will be the Golden Wedding Anniversary Of Geoffrey and Allison Drew

To celebrate, and to thank St Margaret's community for all the support we have received, in bad times as well as good, Allison & Geoffrey would like to invite all parishioners to share a glass of fizz and a piece of cake with them after the 10.30 Mass, which will be offered In thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cynthia Souza, Jimmy Green, Maz Winter, Natalie Shaw and Larry Fogg, Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, 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 Urruti-goity, 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 - Thomas O'Connor, Lourdes Pereira, Louise Godfrey, Dorothy Gavigan, Charles Knott, Daniel Delaney, Ann Macpherson, Annie Palmer

Recently Deceased: Catherine Philomena Poynter RIP

May Prayer Intentions - For the formation of men and women religious and seminarians. Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 5 May 2024

Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-8

Psalm 97

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 12 May 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Psalm 102

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11-19

Family Mass

Following a discussion at the Parish Pastoral Council, it was agreed that for a 3-month trial period, we will bring back the Family Mass on the **1st Sunday**



of each month at 10:30 am. This will aim to be more all-age inclusive, with a shortened, simpler homily and encouraging children to participate by being part of the offertory procession and reading the bidding prayers. There is be no separate children's liturgy on these Sundays. If your child would like to take on a role, please contact Kathryn James on 07889 952111

Gardening Day

Could you join George & Franz to help with some gardening tasks for a couple of hours on either Saturday 18th or 25th May: 1030 am—1230 pm . Please email the parish office and we will put you in touch.



First Holy Communion 2024



Please pray for all our First Holy Communion children who will be receiving the Sacrament on **Saturday 11th May.**

*May the Lord bless you and take care of you;
may the Lord be kind and gracious to you;
may the Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.*

Life in the Spirit Seminars



As we journey together from Easter to Pentecost, join us in the parish hall each Tuesday for the *Life in the Spirit Seminars*

Beginning with a shared meal, these seminars are an opportunity for personal and spiritual renewal

Starting on 23rd April, each session begins with a meal at 7.15pm & a talk from 8-9.30pm

To sign up, please contact the Pat Keane:
keane_pat@hotmail.com

Seminar dates & topics

23rd April: "God's love" - Joan Fernandes

30th April: "Salvation" - Canon Gerard Bradley

7th May: "New Life" - Janet Iannicelli

Friday 17th May: Evening retreat with Michelle Moran, 7-9.30pm at Vaughan House

Thursday 23rd May: "Growth" - Allegra Mutanda

28th May: "Transformation" - Gary Stephen



Why come along to the Seminars?

These seminars grew out of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and they speak to the power of the Holy Spirit, a power that can renew, refresh & revive us.

And so, if you'd like to refresh your relationship with God, come along to these sessions (free of charge!) and experience the Holy Spirit.

The St Mary's University Faculty of Education, Theology & the Arts is delighted to host Towards the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (325): The Council and its Creed in the Theology of Benedict XVI A Symposium jointly organised with the Neuer Schülerkreis Joseph Ratzinger/Papst Benedikt XVI

Saturday 11th May 2024 2-6pm

Open to the public. Free tickets. Poster on the notice board with instructions on how to register.

Congratulations to our Confirmands, who received the Sacrament on Saturday 27th April at the 6.30 pm Mass and were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the presence of their sponsors, family, friends, teachers and catechists.

As you continue your journey of faith, may you use the gifts given to you to love and serve others.



- Aarav Malhotra
- Aarish Malhotra
- Anna-Rose Blackwood
- Camilla Key
- Claudia Lucignano
- Enya McDermott
- Finn Blunden
- Francesco Ruosi
- Leon Furtado
- Martha Shah
- Matthew Dsouza
- Nicholas Hampartsoumain
- Otto Walker
- Paola Lucignano
- Petra Testoni
- Randall Akrong
- Rebecca Bergin



Photography: Phil Lewis

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
 Thursday 9th May—Holy Day of Obligation
 Mass at 9:00am, 10:15am & 6:30 pm

St Margaret's - Sunday Lunch Scheme - we need your help!

We are providing lunch on 26th May 2024 and 9th June 2024

Please sign up to:

Make a simple main meal or dessert (off site) to serve 8-10.

OR, on the day help to welcome and chat with guests, or stay in the background and wash up! If helping on the day, you'd need to be around between 1130 and 2.30pm. Signing up is easy- follow the link here <https://volunteersignup.org/3B9BH?>



Or call/message Shiny on 07771861638 or email Furtado.shiny@gmail.com.

Your help really makes a huge difference. Thank you.