

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5th September 2021 Year B

In Peter writes: Chairman Mao was famously asked about the effects of the French Revolution and he is claimed to have said that 'it was too early to say'. The same might be said about the effects of the Covid Pandemic on the country and on the Catholic Church in particular. Will there be a permanent decline in numbers at Mass? No one can say for sure. Whatever will happen about numbers, the truth of the Gospel remains the same, and its message of liberation from forces beyond our control and the consequent invitation to demonstrate solidarity in faith with others remains perennially valid.

This Sunday Gospel's account of the healing the deaf man with the speech impediment emphasises the intimately physical way Jesus conveys his power through applying his spittle. There is something very earthy about the manner of healing, emphasising the physicality of Jesus, confirming what the Church celebrates at Christmas, the Word becoming flesh. Jesus is fully human and truly divine. His divinity is not simply part of him, but radiates throughout his body, and so Jesus can heal physically utilising His divine power.

In recent years there has been much talk of issues surrounding mental health within the education system, and beyond, a cause taken up by celebrities. The post-covid world has brought the issue to the forefront of human consciousness. Thus making obvious trends in secular society that shrinking the human person to the material does not do justice to our condition. To describe someone as a collection of molecules and neural pathways fails the cut. Mental health covers what was traditionally described as issues of body and soul. Traditional human wisdom understands the soul being the animating principle of every living being and intimately connected with our physical health. The Church has always recognised the need to care for our mental health but as the care for the whole person. The secular world is now catching up with what the Church always taught.

To the Church the human soul is not simply the animating principle of life but also the non-material place where the spirit touches the soul that infuses the body. Care for your own mental health and so the care of other's mental health can go only

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (4/9 - 12/9)		
Saturday	10.00 am	
Saturday 11/9	11.00 am First Holy Communion Mass	
Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	10.00 am	
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Rosary (In church)	Mon, Wed, Thur & Sat	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

so far. As a stand-alone activity it cannot descend into the realms of the spirit, the inner sanctuary of conscience and personhood.

Despite the expansion of mental health awareness, this is no substitute for faith. The Church preaches her message of liberation because the world remains an ambiguous place. The world is both the creation of God, and so good, but also the place of spiritual combat with the forces of evil. The physical comforts of western European society can blot out this combat, but that has often led to that sense of existential emptiness that comes with wealth. For western cultures, even for Christians it has become difficult to say what exactly is Jesus saving us from in particular: 'what aspect of my comfortable life do I need to be saved from beyond the minor irritants of daily existence'?

Covid, though, has shown that European levels of comfort are no failsafe protection against the dangers of death and debilitating illness, and here perhaps is an opening for the narratives of faith to gain traction. Behind the physical, behind the mental, lies the soul and our Christian faith engages with our soul, the deepest God-given identity that we possess and are. Spiritual combat possesses an old-fashioned ring about it, but here at this level grace is needed and indeed offered by Jesus Christ to triumph in this battle. How we engage always expresses itself externally through our mental life and our physical life.

Everyone needs the grace, not just once, but continuously, participation at Mass remains the only way to receive this grace for a task that is larger than ourselves.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsontimes@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby, Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. Emails will not be checked out of office hours

Mass Intentions Sat 4th September – Sun 12th September

4/9	Sat	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
5/9	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP	Jean McGinley
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
6/9	Mon	10.00am	Thanksgiving to our Lady	
7/9	Tues	10.00am	Thanksgiving to Holy Souls	
8/9	Wed	10.00am	Tony Parkinson RIP	Maggie Thomson
9/9	Thur	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
10/9	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
11/9	Sat	11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass	
12/9	Sun	8.30 am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Joseph Gleeson RIP	Davis

Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Response to the Psalm:

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Mass Arrangement for week commencing 6th September



THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY 6.30 PM MASS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00 am
Eucharistic Service - Friday 10.00 am

Weekend Masses

Saturday - 10.00 am Confessions 10:30-11:00am
Next Saturday 11th September—11.00 am First Holy Communion Mass—No 10:00am Mass or Confessions

Sunday - 8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
(Booking no longer required for 10:30 am Mass)

Rosary: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at 9.30am in the Church

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rose Blackman, Georgina Lotitto, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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, Luca, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney & Patricia Parkes, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Kevin Sweeney, Christopher Cousins & Simon Barber

Anniversaries - Diana Donovan, Jaga Arulswamy, Anna Straub, George Benwell, Aletta Flynn, Domenica Leandre, Joe Ashton, Martin Leahy, Norman Lee, Edward MacDougall, Iain MacDougall

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed

through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Gathering safely for Mass post July 19

All legal restrictions on gathering will have now ceased and we can now return back to some form of normality. This will take place over an extended period of time.

Mask wearing is no longer compulsory but please be considerate to others who still wear masks. Wearing a mask inside the Church is encouraged.

Alternate benches will be available as before but more people can sit on each bench.

Celebration of Mass

The congregation are now able to sing if they wish (even through a mask) and news of the new musical arrangements are made elsewhere in the newsletter. The Prayers of the Faithful and the Offertory Collection have now returned. Distribution of Communion has returned to its normal position. I invite parishioners to leave Mass in an orderly way, block by block, using both exits.

Thank you, Fr Peter

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5th SEPT Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm 145 James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-7

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12th SEPT Isaiah 50:5-9

Psalm 114 James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2021-2022 year

Before outlining the many different liturgical and catechetical activities that will be taking place in St Margarets, I would like to thank those who have assisted in the running of the parish over the last eighteen months. I am sure none of the helpers thought they would be offering a helping and for such a long period of time and I would like to thank members of the welcoming committee, the cleaners, social event organisers and catechists. Each in their own way have allowed the parish to maintain both a liturgical life and sense of community.

Some of the good practices will continue notably our welcome desk in front of the church, of identifying new parishioners who have begun coming to Mass here.

The simple community events such as the regular tea parties will continue once the Hall has been refurbished.

Now the time has come in this period of post Covid recovery to reboot our parish life and help find the next generation of active participants to engage in parish life.

1. Music at 10.30 Mass

Before the summer, I wrote that Bernard Winter has retired from both overseeing the music at St Margarets and leading the choir at 10.30am Mass. Once again may I thank him for the long years of music ministry in this parish.

From the beginning of September, I am pleased to say that Gavin Evenhuis will lead a group on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's of the month, and Mark Underwood, the 1st and the 3rd Sundays.

Both choirmasters singing faith and worship music and more traditional hymns are inviting those who wish to sing to come forward and engage in this ministry.

Emma Higham will continue to play the organ and sing at the 8:30am, and Eleanor Hill will be starting a monthly music group at the 6:30pm Mass, and James Holland will be singing at the 6:30pm twice a month as well.

Lastly, may I ask the Congregation to refrain from clapping at the end of Mass. It seemed a strange habit to me because liturgical music is about participation in prayer and not attending a concert of sacred music.

2. Sacristans— during the **pandemic**, it was not possible to have sacristans work closely with the clergy, but now I am looking for 4 volunteers who might set up for Mass and return the sacred vessels and other items used at Mass, back to the sacristy. This will be very helpful to me and these are simple and straight forward tasks.

3. **Teenage Confirmation**—will begin in January 2022 after summer half term.

Sacramental Preparation Baptism



The next Baptism course are the following: should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at these courses is compulsory

September 14th & 21st, 15th & 22nd

November 9th & 16th

Should you wish for your child to be baptised, please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office.

First Holy Communion 2022



This year course will composed of a number of parts -

1. 10.30am Sunday Mass with children's liturgy. (November 7th till December 12th)
2. 10:30am Sunday Mass with children's liturgy (January 9th to February 6th)
3. 5:15pm Saturday Classes followed by 6:30pm Mass (27th February—3rd April)
4. 5:15pm Saturday Classes followed by 6:30pm Mass (1st May—22nd May)
5. First Holy Communion 11th June 2022

Should you wish your child to participate, please collect an attendance card from Fr Peter after Mass.

The First Holy Communion course is for those families who either live in the parish or have been coming here for a long time. Those from outside the parish who have not come to Mass here before are advised to contact your local parish for FHC.

Adult Confirmation

Mondays 6th September 6:30pm



This course is for those who wish to be confirmed before their wedding or perhaps wish to become a catholic. It will consist of a rolling series of talks and discussions tailored to fit those who come forward. The course will be led by Fr Peter and Deacon Joseph.

Donating to St Margaret of Scotland is very simple. You can make one off donations or pay monthly. Click on this link to contribute: [Virgin Money Giving](#). Thank you!

MONEY GIVING

A snapshot of another wonderful tea afternoon that took place in August.



The 1st of our 2 sessions of

First Holy Communion 2021 which took place in July 2021



Many thanks to our catechists Sarah Watts, Sarah Jones & John Jolliffe

*Picture courtesy - Simon & Emily
si-emridleyphotography@hotmail.com*

St Margaret's Revive and Reunite Weekend

**Save the Date: October
15th/16th/17th**

A weekend of activities to come together post COVID to rebuild the parish community and celebrate the newly refurbished facilities.



Provisional Timetable - details and exact timings to be confirmed nearer the time

Friday 15th

7 - 9 pm Praise and Worship evening: Music, Prayer and Adoration.



Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

9 pm: Bar open: Wine, soft drinks & nibbles

Saturday 16th

10 am Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation

11 am talk Fr Tim Redmond

Parish lunch followed by tea & coffee in the garden

Sunday 17th

10:30 am Family Mass

BBQ lunch in the garden

Craft corner and outdoor games for children, teens, and adults

Helpers needed: please register with the parish office. Thank you.

