

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5th November 2023 - Year A

*In Peter writes:*

This Sunday afternoon the annual blessing of the graves of former parishioners at both Twickenham and Teddington Cemetery will take place. Both cemeteries are peaceful spots, quintessential English environments where the rustle of leaves, the air of quiet contemplation and repose after the busyness of the world are tangibly present. The deceased lie together in grave that make patterns of terraced streets, private estates and occasional cul-de-sacs, all in unconscious imitation of the urban layout of the living. Such close mimicking can only be explained by the difficulty of thinking beyond the bounds of common sense as to the appropriate way of placing the deceased. Italians, on the contrary, organise their dead in imitation hill-top villages with everyone sitting on top of each other within defined city walls of the cemetery.

By the practice of such care, the question as to the possibility of post-death survival is still open even if its quality remains profoundly mysterious. A completely secular society would never bother with such effort. Indeed, the secular agenda has been shrunk down to irony, as the only form of release from questions of immortality and what that might entail. Lauding the inability to take anything seriously might be a contemporary trait but it does not serve well. Funerals in pubs, scattering ashes on a football pitch, or such like are, in the light of these deepest questions, abnegating responsibility in front of traditional common practice. These public acts of irony invite others to participate thus forcing other to engage in a ritual contradiction where irony has become ritualised.

Certainly, stepping from the shadowy understandings of the afterlife to a more structured glimpse of the mystery of post-death life requires the gift of faith. Every believer recognises both the personal and communal aspects of eternal life, ourselves and the wider church. Wedged between the two, somewhat uncomfortably, are our families, practicing and non-practicing alike, plus countless others currently unknown.

Everyone who is to be saved is saved through Jesus Christ. Most die not ready to see God face to face, a fact recognised in the liturgy of the church which distinguishes between All Saints and All Souls. Praying for the dead is one of the spiritual acts of mercy, and for a long time praying for the forgotten souls was a common spiritual practice. The Reformers had rejected the Catholic Church's teaching on Purgatory as being unscriptural,

because it took its source, the Book of Maccabees, written in the language of the time, Aramaic. This book of the Old Testament, recounts the conflict between the Jews and their Greek overlords. At one battle, the Jewish soldiers make a sin offering in the Temple for those soldiers who died in combat but who were found to have pagan amulets hanging around their necks. Their immortal souls were thus sullied and needed the prayers of the living in order to be purified before seeing God face to face.

Thus, praying for the dead became a standard spiritual practice in Jewish and Christian culture because everyone was thought, except the Saints, to have died needing the prayers of the living. Beyond death, the choice for or against Jesus Christ and His Church is not understandable and therefore conversion after death impossible. There can be no post-death change of heart. Purgatory is therefore a passive place for the deceased who rely on the actions of others, Jesus Christ and His Church, both for the mercy and for the prayers.

Today most Catholics have little understanding of Purgatory but this brings its own psychological implications. Peace becomes difficult to find, unless one can actively engage in purifying one's own memory of the deceased that combines both love and reconciliation since no relationship or friendship is perfect in this life. Rejecting Purgatory is tantamount to accepting unfinished business as being the only possible outcome for our relationship with the deceased.

The Catholic faith is not proved by psychological wellbeing, but finding peace through prayer, through offering of Mass and other spiritual practices in relation to the dead, does offer a mark of credibility. Thus, to pray for the deceased in the month of November recognises all salvation comes from Jesus Christ, that life on this earth is transient and that reconciliation with the deceased through our prayers and grace of Christ benefits them and ourselves simultaneously.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**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: 4/11 — 12/11

04/11	Sat	10.00am	Intentions of James Gallagher	Mary Gallagher
05/11	Sun	8.30am	Sarah Bonnamy RIP	Peter & Su Slatery
		10.30am	Madie Key RIP - 2nd anniversary	Chris Key
		6.30pm	Homer Baker RIP & Skip Curry RIP	Marta Browne
06/11	Mon	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
07/11	Tue	10.00am	Patrice Ford RIP	
08/11	Wed	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
09/11	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
10/11	Fri	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
11/11	Sat	10.00am	For -Holy Souls in Purgatory	Adrian & Cathy
12/11	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Repose of the souls of Armand & Nahid Korkis	The Bahoshy family
		6.30pm	For the Holy souls	

### Entrance Antiphon:

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
 Be not far from me!  
 Make haste and come to my help,  
 O lord, my strong salvation!

### Response to the Psalm:

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

### Mass Times & Liturgical Services (6/11-12/11)

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

## 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, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

**Anniversaries** - Archibold Lowe, Marie Wright, Winifred Kingdon, Dennis Scaibe, Mary Barron, Joan Scriven, Agnes Walsh, Molly Maxwell

*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~*

### November Prayer Intention

**For the Pope :** We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

### Advance Notice– First Communion 2024

May I give advance notice for a brief meeting after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, **26th November 2023**, to explain the course, give out the dates for the classes and answer any questions that you may have about your child's course. Please note the date for the First Holy Communion is Saturday 11th May 2024 at 11.00 am.



### November Month of Holy Souls

There will be 3 Masses a week offered for Holy Souls and a weekend Mass. Please write the names of the deceased family and friends on the purple sheets provided in the Church on the table as you enter and leave them in the basket. We will put them on the Holy Altar for the duration of November.

Kindly put your donation in the envelopes provided alongside.



31ST SUNDAY IN OT - 5 NOV 2023

Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10

Psalm 130

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

Matthew 23:1-12

32ND SUNDAY IN OT - 12 NOV 2023

Wisdom 6:12-16

Psalm 62

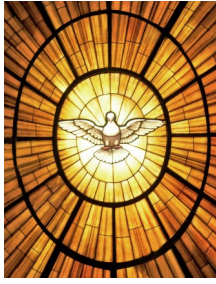
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

## **The Year of the Council: Sharing Faith Course**

You are invited to join us in preparation for the Year of the Council with the Diocesan "Sharing Faith" course.

The course will run for 4 Wednesdays from 7.30-9pm in the Lower Sacristy, starting on **Wednesday 8th November** and finishing on **Wednesday 29th November**.



This new course, for faith-sharing communities across the Diocese, seeks to bring us into an act of love, as we journey through the 4 Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

All are welcome to join us—teas & coffees provided.

## **Patronal Feast Weekend Celebrations** **18th & 19th November**

### **Saturday 18th November: 5pm in the Hall**

Talk by Melanie McDonagh: "The powerful women of the Mediaeval Church, St Margaret of Scotland included".

Melanie McDonagh writes for The Tablet and The Evening Standard, amongst other newspapers.

### **Sunday 19th November: 12pm in the Hall**

The traditional St Margaret's BBQ will take place after the 10.30am Mass. Tickets at amazing value! £15 per family, £5 per person—please bring a salad or dessert to share.

*The memorial of St Margaret of Scotland is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, and may be transferred to the nearest Sunday in churches dedicated to her name.*



Reporting back from our second wellbeing breakfast. Well, we had a cracking session from Carl today, covering: Stress, Mindfulness and Mindful Eating We learnt about the two types of stress.

Acute - small easy to deal with, Chronic - hard, try not to get to this stage.

"Its not selfish to look after your own body".

Build your own Stress management toolbox

If you want copies of the slides just ask

at: [info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org](mailto:info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org)

**Hope to see you at the next, and final session, November 11th - Sleeping and creating your health blueprint.**



## **Coffee and Croissants**

Please join us for coffee and croissants after 8:30 Mass on Sunday 12th November.



**Everyone is welcome !!**

## **The Bug Hotel - 19th November 2023**

To all children - Making a bug hotel

Calling all children who wish to create and help build a bug hotel that we can put into the garden to make it their happy home. Below is a deluxe version, we could do something simpler.



## **'Twickers Macknitters' (for Macmillan Cancer Support)**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

'Twickers Macknitters' is a group of friends who live locally. We meet in each other's homes to knit and craft items to sell, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are non-profit making, and all funds go to Macmillan.

Your Church is kindly enabling us to come and sell what we make on: **Sunday 12th November**

We shall be in the hall after the 8.30am and 10.30am Mass. We have a range of children's jumpers, and cardigans, also hats, mitts and scarves in all sizes, as well as Christmas items and gifts, all at reasonable prices.

Do come and say hello and see what we do. We look forward to meeting you. Thank you for your welcome.

Janet and Hazel (for Macmillan Cancer Support)



**FAMILY BINGO NIGHT -  
SAT 11TH NOV 7.00 PM**



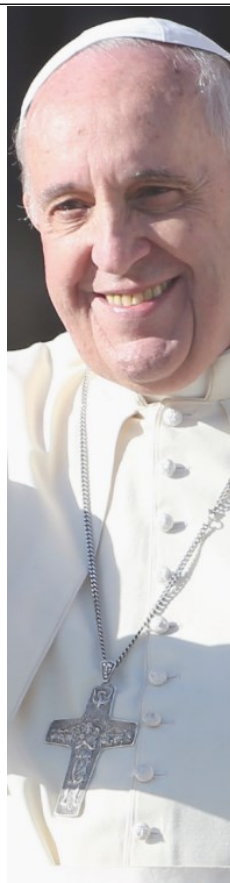
Come along, join us on our BINGO night and have a great evening—for all the family. Tickets - adult £5/- and children £3/- (Year 3 up)

Pre order for a pizza meal. (Tickets and pre order for meals will be on sale after Sunday Mass)

Donations for prizes requested - any unwanted gifts (adult or child). Please drop off at the parish office.

**Second collection – Sick & Retired Priests'**

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can also donate online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today, for more information. Thank you in advance for your kindness.



**Westminster  
Cathedral  
Interfaith**

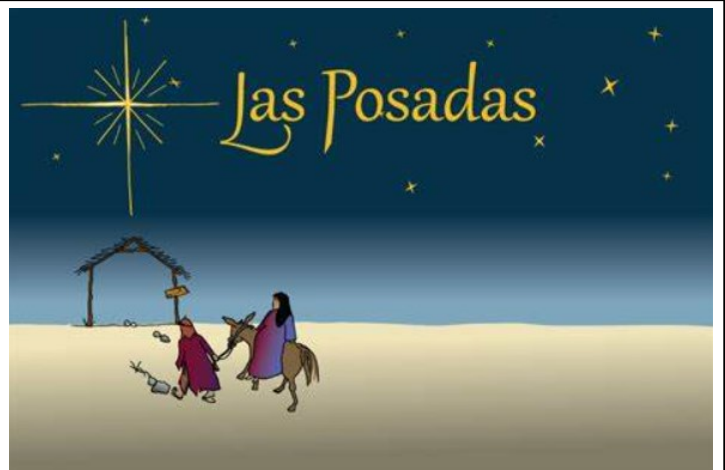
**Upcoming Event**

A discussion of *Fratelli Tutti* Chapter 8:  
Religions at the service  
of fraternity in our world

**Wednesday 15th  
November // 1.30-3pm**  
in the Hinsley Room,  
Morpeth Terrace, SWIP IEP

**All are welcome!**

For more information, contact:  
[woodhousesopten@btinternet.com](mailto:woodhousesopten@btinternet.com)



**LAS POSADAS 2023**

**Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent**

Small figures of Mary & Joseph will be travelling through Twickenham this Advent. Innkeepers are needed to host them for a night as they continue their journey. Would you like to welcome them into your home? Innkeepers then become pilgrims as they take Mary and Joseph on the next leg of their journey to the next home they will be staying at.

The tradition of the travelling crib is hundreds of years old and originates from Spain and South America where each evening during Advent "Las Posadas" takes place ("posada" means inn or lodging). Pilgrims re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus, travelling on their journey looking for somewhere to stay for the night.

This is a lovely way to do something spiritual in Advent and enhance your anticipation of Christmas and the excitement of receiving again the new life that comes to us with the birth of the baby Jesus.

Young and not-so young; singles, couples and families can all take part.

The sign-up sheet is online. If interested, please sign up for one date on the sign-up sheet at <https://volunteersignup.org/QAETJ> with your name, address and contact details. Ann will then be in touch with further details of Mary and Joseph's journey.

Any questions, please contact Ann Edes on 07837 095 837 or [annxedes@gmail.com](mailto:annxedes@gmail.com)