

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

The Epiphany of the Lord - 7 January 2024 - Year B



*In Peter writes:* The drama of Christmas night, the well-known details surrounding the birth of Jesus in a stable, might well seem to be racing backwards as the new school term is about to start on Monday. Before returning to 'normal', the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany this Sunday. If the Nativity is all home-spun wonder, joy and adoration, the Epiphany is consideration, journey and adoration. Both moments conclude with Adoration, that of the Shepherds and that of the Three wise men. Adoration is the end point of faith, because Adoration leads to developing one's spiritual life and understanding, that in turn leads to the outpouring of charity and love towards others.

Christian faith requires both types of Adoration, without the wonder, faith can never start, but without consideration and journey, faith cannot remain. Despite so many claims about the secularisation of Great Britain, churches of all denominations, can claim a crowd for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. My sentiment is that the local catholic churches have returned to their pre-pandemic numbers for Christmas which is reassuring news. Yet, here as elsewhere, numbers reduce during the following weeks and months, much like the change in traffic between pre and post-Christmas.

To all those who make the journey to the Epiphany and beyond, may draw strength from this Sunday's Solemnity. Every child or adult can summon up an enthusiasm for playing sport, musical instrument, or gardening but without commitment or drive every enthusiasm quickly perishes. The three wise men from the East were by Gospel accounts, astronomers, who traced the skies for meaning locked within the mysterious world of the stars. Basic wonder and the search for hidden secrets about the cosmos predisposed the three wise men to reflect on the star they saw in the East which the carol describes poetically: 'Star of Wonder, Star of light, Star of royal beauty bright'. Our created world holds within itself hidden depths of meaning waiting to be understood and contemplated.

The wise men's journey brought them so far, to Jerusalem, the obvious centre of power and prestige. The city was their first port of call. Yet their journey was not complete. It required the unwelcome contribution, as far as Herod and the authorities were concerned, of religious figures, to point out the prophecies of the Scriptures that Bethlehem was the final destination.

God needs to reveal Himself for our journey to be completed. Self-help courses, initiatives and intellectual endeavour can and should take us so far, but those final steps need divine intervention because the destination is never quite what it seems from the outset. Thus, the three travellers find the infant king of the Jews in a stable on the fringe of an insignificant village, not in a palace in the centre of the city. This surprising detail needed to be made known for the journey to be completed.

On the side lines, what might seem quite odd, was the complete lack of interest from the religious authorities of investigating themselves whether this prophecy was being fulfilled. Only Herod sensed danger for all the wrong reasons. Religious knowledge may take us on our religious journey, as it did the three wise men, or it can become the dead weight of tradition, a guilty secret that needs to be ignored or argued away.

Without possessing the sense of life's journey or of the mystical sense of the world, a world of wonder with all its people, places and life-sustaining nature, then the divinely offered answers will only seem an imposition. The shepherds possessed a naïve wonder, the three wise men a learned desire to know, the little people of the Judaeans within whom the drama surrounding the birth of Jesus took place, hills clung to their hope of salvation, they all already knew the potential saving power of God.

Both shepherds and wise men ended their journeys with adoration that marked the beginning of a new journey of faith as it is for us. The consequences drawn from adoring the infant king, the accounts of Jesus public life in the Gospel, and the tradition and teaching of the Church form a seamless whole. Our journey is not complete in just finding in Jesus but of allowing Him to accompany us on our subsequent journey of life.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk](http://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: 6/1 - 14/1**

06/01	Sat	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
07/01	Sun	8.30am	Patricia 'Mary' Picton RIP	Vicky Phe-lan
		10.30am	Allieth Morales RIP	Lily McCaw
		6.30pm	For you the people	
08/01	Mon	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
09/01	Tue	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
10/01	Wed	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
11/01	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
12/01	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
13/01	Sat	10.00am	For the Holy Souls in Purgatory	
14/01	Sun	8.30am	Steve Mackenzie recently deceased	Vicky Phe-lan
		10.30am	Intentions of Anne Bailey	Margaret Crowe
		6.30 pm	Fara de Souza RIP	Barbara de Souza

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**Response to the Psalm:**

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Mass Times & Liturgical Services (8/1-14/1)**

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

**Thank you**

May I thank everyone for their generosity in the Christmas collection. Both Christmas and Easter collections help fund your parish priest's annual stipend. All of us can be very grateful for the effort undertaken by our musicians, greeters and hosts and hostesses over the Christmas period. The Church looked very beautiful and the large numbers of parishioner guests was wonderful to see.

May I wish all a very happy new year.

Fr Peter

**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 HOUR**

Holy Hour will resume on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January from 8:00 pm -9:00 pm and all are welcome to attend. For those not able to attend we will be starting a book of intentions in which you are welcome to write your intentions. Those attending Adoration will present your intentions before the Blessed Sacrament.



**Peter Coghlan RIP:**

It is with sadness, we have to inform you that Peter died peacefully in Maryville Care Home on December 26th 2023. His funeral will take place in the Care Home on Monday January 22nd 2024 at 11.00 am. May he rest in peace.



**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Catherine 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 Poland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

**Anniversaries** - Janina Jascia, Stanislaus Leszczynski, John Winter, Patricia Margaret O'Callahan, Desmond McGinley, David Mathewson, Helen Colsey, Charles Bendy, Marje Kensit, Alice Bendy, Thomas Goulds, Timothy Exley, Mary Sharratt, Ida Verbruggen

**Recently deceased** - Gerda Kerrigan RIP, Josephine (Jo) McKenna RIP, Peter Coghlan RIP

*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~*

**January Prayer Intention**

**For the gift of diversity in the Church** : Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

### 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.



### New parishioners meeting online

Are you new to the parish and would like to find out more about what is going on? Would you like to find out about how to be more involved?



Meet Fr Peter and some of the parish team on Zoom.

### Monday 29th January 2024 at 8 pm

Email the parish office for the invitation and link. [Stmargaretspmthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Stmargaretspmthames@rcdow.org.uk)



### Foreign Currency Initiative

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to its Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £652.21 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 34 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.

Thanks again and God bless  
Gerrard

*Enjoy warmth and good company here at St Margaret's at our much loved*

*"Tea & Chat"  
every alternate  
Wednesday from  
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm*



*Dates for your diary.*

*January 10 & 24  
February 7 & 21st  
March 6 & 20*

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

Used stamps: Collection for the Medical Missionaries of Mary. The retired sisters sort and sell the stamps to support their missions overseas. Please put in the box in the porch



### THE MUSTARD SEED

You are invited to join our Mustard Seed Prayer Group, whose next meeting is Saturday 27th Jan followed by 24th Feb, 23rd Mar, 20th April, 25th May, and 22nd June 2024.

Mustard Seed is a Charismatic group open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The group begins with tea & coffee at 7.45pm, followed by a period of praise and worship, time for quiet reflection and input from a guest speaker. There is also opportunity for individual prayer ministry, provided by the team.

The evening ends at 10pm.

Everyone is very welcome to come along to group, whether it's your first time or your twentieth!



### Bereavement Café St Margaret of Scotland Church Hall

2.30 - 4.00pm on the 3rd Saturday of every month.



**Our next ones are** 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 16 Mar, 20 Apr, 18 May & 15 June 2024

Everyone experiences grief in a unique way. The Bereavement Café is a place to meet others who have had similar experiences to your own. It is somewhere you can speak freely and share stories with others coping with losing a loved one.

All are welcome!

130 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, TW1 1RL Tel: 07547 976953 or Email: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) with any questions, Or just drop in on the day.

**Little Feet Toddler group, Thursday's  
10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

We will meet now on Thursday 18th January 2024. Everybody is welcome! If anyone is interested to volunteer, please contact the parish office.



The second collection on the Solemnity of the Epiphany will take place for relief for those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land.

**CAFOD**, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information or get in touch with [brozycka@cafod.org.uk](mailto:brozycka@cafod.org.uk) Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? [cafod.org.uk/walk](http://cafod.org.uk/walk)



**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.

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES X 2**

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Closing Date for applications: Fri. 12th January 2024



Foundation governors are appointed by the Archbishop to serve as his representatives on the governing body of diocesan schools to ensure the Church's mission is upheld.

Governing boards have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The governing body requires people with a mixture of skills and experience and the school would currently benefit from applicants that reflect the diverse cultures within the school and if possible, an interest or experience in sustainability. Training is provided to help governors fulfil their very important role.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications for Foundation Governors from anyone with a child attending St Edmund's School as our quota for this is currently full. If you would like to know more, please contact the Clerk on [g.nicholl@st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:g.nicholl@st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk) or 020 8894 7898 or visit the diocesan website which can be found at [www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/serving-as-a-governor](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/serving-as-a-governor)

**Women's Recollection**

**Every 3rd Wednesday of**

**the month, 10.00 am -12.30 pm. Next will be on  
Wednesday 17th January 2024.**



There will be a mini retreat for Women. This is a chance to recollect and reflect as we head into the new Year. Included in this time will be mass, two meditations. Reconciliation available as well as Tea and Coffee and chat afterwards. All welcome including small children.

**Looking for a party venue?**

The light and airy church hall, kitchen and bar facilities, with access to the lovely outdoor space, are available for hire during the day and at week-ends. £150 for a standard 4-hour booking for children's birthday parties. Some slots for regular weekday bookings are available - rates on application.



Please contact the parish office:

020 8892 3902 or via email [stmar-garetsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmar-garetsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

