

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT - 7th March 2021 Year B



In Peter writes:

Everyone has probably said or at least thought at some point that I can worship God in my own way. This is indeed true, one can, but there are hidden dangers here, of worshipping a god who is not much more than a better person than oneself, or alternatively the god of current concerns – a god of woke ideology and identity. There is also a similar reduction in morality from being the commands of God to the acceptance of current social norms. Such a god cannot save because the answer has already been given before worship begins and before questioning our daily conduct has started. There is no mystery, no hidden depths of meaning with which to test our faith and moral conduct.

It is reasonable to ask why does faith need mystery, that is for detectives surely or for sci fi. Mysteries are more akin to complex mind games of sinister individuals decoded by the insightful detective or gallant space warrior. That sort of mystery is not the mystery of religion. The mystery of God, for the Christian, is His utter simplicity, there is nothing in God to divide in order to understand, no bite size piece of knowledge to plunder and make my own. The question 'why' cannot be answered from within the created world, whether of the world at all or even of myself. I always remain at the very centre of my existence mysterious to myself how much I might analyse myself either alone or with the help of others.

Christian mystery does share something with our common understanding of the word because both involve plan; for the detective, the plans of the villain or malevolent individual and for faith, God's intention of making Himself knowable through His interventions, whether in timeless myth or narrative history. For the Christian, God chooses to present Himself in narrative history through a human face whether through Moses and King David, and ultimately through Jesus Christ who is the face of God. God communicates through Moses, David and others, and their proclamation makes God's will known to others.

God chooses to reveal Himself completely in Jesus Christ, but God still remains unknowable to us in His inner being, because full knowledge is only possible through complete love, and such complete love is not available this side of death. Worship recognises that God wishes to initiate the conversation through

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday	10.00 am	
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Adoration	Saturday	10:30 am - 11:00am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat (via Zoom; please email the office for link)	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday Sunday	10:30-11:00am 10:00-10:20am

prayers and liturgical rites of words and actions. Worship begins with God and not with us, as the First Commandment makes clear, 'You shall worship the Lord your God'.

This Sunday's Gospel concerns the true place of worship. Jesus cleanses the Temple of the money changers and pigeon sellers. The awesomeness and mystery of God had been replaced by transactional relationships as to the price of pigeons and market rates for gold coins. Jesus restores the atmosphere of awe that surrounded the original tent of meeting, in the days when the tent covered the ark of the covenant.

Cleansing the Temple comes at the beginning of St John's Gospel rather than during Jesus' final week as narrated in the other three Gospels. This remains an abiding question for biblical scholars which on a historical level can never be explained. Another level of explanation as to why St John placed the incident here may be answered from the way Jesus systematically replaces the Feasts of the Jews with Himself, as the Bread of Life, the True Light, and the Water of Life. This sequence of replacements forms the prelude to the ultimate focus of worship the Passion, Cross and Resurrection of Jesus.

True worship focuses on Jesus Christ, on His sacrifice on the Cross, for our sins and the sins of the world, and His Resurrection from the dead, and entry into eternal life. Sharing His Holy Spirit, the Christian necessarily connects true worship with the moral enterprise of creating a holy life. The two go hand in hand, and so to worship God in my own way might sustain moral consequences that are rather less appealing. Christ cleansed the Temple and He needs to cleanse our hearts too, only possible and still difficult when He sets the form of worship and conduct.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretonthames@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: Parish Office is closed. Emails are checked regularly.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 6th March – Sunday 14th March

6 Mar	Sat	10.00am	Tom & Terry Martin RIP	Mary Martin
7 Mar	3rd SUN-DAY OF LENT	8.30 am	Dan Heffernan RIP	Su Slattery
		10.30am	Bernard Sharratt RIP	Maz & Bernard Winter
		6.30 pm	Pat Doyle RIP	Barbara de Souza
8 Mar	Mon	10.00am	Eileen Phelan RIP	Vicky Phelan
9 Mar	Tue	10.00am	Margaret Tobback RIP	Catherine Sugrue
10 Mar	Wed	10.00am	Jane Gallagher RIP	Mary Gallagher
11 Mar	Thur	10.00am	John Walker RIP	Erica & Matthew Walker
12 Mar	Fri	12.00pm	Funeral Mass for Lucia Carolina Lelliott	
13 Mar	Sat	10.00am	Margaret Tobback RIP	Erica & Matthew Walker
14 Mar	4th SUN-DAY OF LENT	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP	Su & Peter Slattery
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Helen McLeish (RIP anniv)	Maz & Bernard Winter

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, Patricia Mary Picton (Mary), Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, 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 and 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 & Barry Sheehan

Recently deceased - Lucia Lelliott RIP, Bernard Sharratt RIP, Margaret Tobback RIP, Peta Ledingham RIP, Eileen Phelan RIP (Ray's mother), Jo Carter RIP

Anniversaries - Charles Byrne, Antoinette Lunn, Cyril Bowers, Hans Michels, Kathie Harrington, Rose Wood-Collins, Eric Bonnici, James Distelhurst, Mark Gapper, Louisa Tobback

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Response to the Psalm:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.



Current arrangement for Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday
at 10.00 am (streamed on YouTube)

Eucharistic Service on Friday's
at 10.00 am (not streamed)

Sunday Mass as normal
8.30 am
10.30 am (streamed) (Bookings via website)
6.30 pm

Rosary on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at
9.30 am (join via zoom)
Government guidelines allow Churches to remain open for worship.

Parishioner's Funerals



Lucia Lelliott RIP - Mass on Friday, 12th March at 12.00 noon.

Bernard Sharratt RIP - Mass on Wednesday, 17th March at 12.00 noon. Please note that parishioners will be unable to attend owing to government regulations as to numbers. The funeral will be live streamed, and a memorial Mass will be held when possible.

Margaret Tobback RIP - Mass on Wednesday, 24th March at 12:30pm. The family have kindly offered 7 places to parishioners who might like to attend the funeral, as government restrictions place a cap of 30 on funerals. Please contact the parish office if you would like to attend. Only those who book may attend. The funeral will also be live streamed.

7 March - 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm18	1 Corinthians 1:22-25	John 2:13-25
14 March - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT	2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23	Psalm136	Ephesians 2:4-10	John 3:14-21

Lenten Almsgiving

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

This year, St Margaret's is raising money for Richmond Furniture Scheme to procure starter packs of essential home items for those being re-housed or moving into accommodation for the first time.

QUIZ NIGHT: join our host and quizmaster, Fr Peter, for a fun and not too serious evening:

Friday 12th March at 8:30 pm

Suggested donation: £5 per household - donations to be made through Virgin Money link on the website; please add **Quiz Night** in the message box.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82957759338?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82957759338?pwd=VUwxWmtvWmRZWUt0Z0lRYnlYM3pNZz09)

pwd=VUwxWmtvWmRZWUt0Z0lRYnlYM3pNZz09

Meeting ID: 829 5775 9338

Passcode: Quiz

AN EASTER GARDEN COMPETITION FOR ALL AGES

AIM

Using an extra large plant saucer approx 14 3/8 " or bigger (the kind used for sitting large garden pots on). These are available in garden centres & large Sainsbury's at the moment.

Create a garden out of whatever you have available.

It should contain these 5 things:-

A tomb

A flat stone to roughly cover the entrance to the tomb

A small piece of white cloth to fold & leave inside the tomb

Flowers (real or crafted)

A line from scripture or a word eg 'He is risen!'

It could also contain if you chose:

A small hill with tomb buried inside or 3 crosses on top for Calvary

Figures

Animals

Battery operated candles etc

Any other lovely ideas you have

This is a competition for all ages, so you can create a garden as a family or a couple or as a single person. There will be a small prize for the best gardens.

To raise money for the Lenten project please could we ask for a small donation to enter so we can raise some much needed funds to help create a home for someone in need.

Suggested entry donation £5. Deadline 27th March. The gardens will be displayed at church on Palm Sunday.

How can you get involved?

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Have you got a skill, passion or talent that you could share? Would you hold a mini-workshop on Zoom?

We are keen to hold mini online fundraising events on Zoom typically half an hour or 45 minutes long. Could you help with this fundraising? If you own a skill that we could benefit from which could include baking, cooking, crafting, keep fit, singing, home pub night socials, quizzes, acting skills, music, poetry reading, IT skills workshop, gardening (for example creating a spring planter etc) or any other skill that you are happy to share.

Could you run a children's competition? Or organise a family bake-off, lead a craft session?

As well as raising money, this would also be a good way of keeping those who are shielding feeling connected with the parish community. Please get in touch either with Vicky Phelan or the parish office if you would like to know more. Envelopes for weekly or one-donations will also be available.



Diocese of Westminster

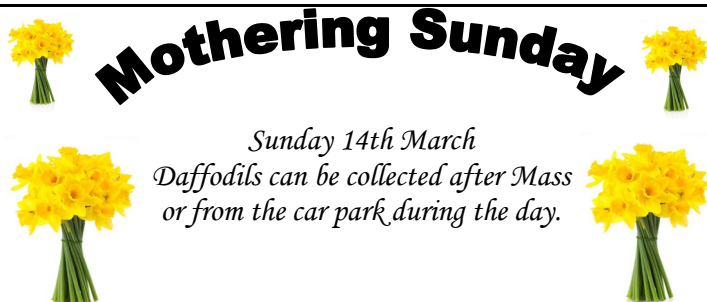
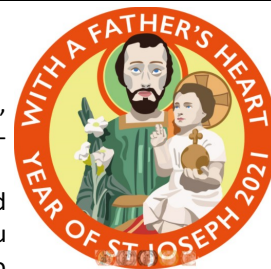
Information shared by Fr Chris Vipers, Director of the Agency for Evangelisation.

March, a month specially dedicated to St Joseph, I am pleased to send you some resources and ideas for how to celebrate this whole Year of St Joseph with your parish community.

Please find - A suggested **Novena of Prayer** for use by your parishioners, running from 11th – 19th March (the Solemnity of St Joseph). Compiled by Sister Silvana Dallanegra rscj from Caritas Westminster and Deacon Adrian Cullen from the Agency.

You can find further updates and ideas throughout the year on our dedicated website page: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph/>

"We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion." Patris Corde





Baptism

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

with him.

The next pre-baptism courses for parents will be on

Session 1 & 2

11th May & 18th May at 8 pm (online)

First Holy Communion Programme 2021

Last week the Bishops Conference issued guidelines about preparation for sacraments. Such groups can now meet from Monday April 12th.



The course will now begin on Saturday 17th April and compose of 12 classes. The celebration of First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 17th July. Every family should have been contacted individually but if you have not heard please contact the Parish Office.

Children's Liturgy on Zoom; on alternate Sunday mornings

9:45 – 10:15 am

For children aged 4 – 11 (roughly)



Upcoming dates: 21st March

If any children would like to join the children's liturgy sessions, please email the parish office for the zoom link and to arrange to pick up a pack of the craft materials.

Marriage Course

The next Marriage Preparation Course will take place here at St Margarets on **Saturday 27th March**, on-line. The cost of the day-long course is £50 per couple (if held on line). More details as to the form of the course will be taken at the beginning of March.



This year the parish will offer a 30-minute weekly Lenten reflection beginning with a short presentation by Fr Mark Toops of Ascension Press on the previous Sunday's Gospel. This will be followed by some discussion prayer and music.



The times are Monday 8:00pm and repeated Tuesday 11:30am. If you would like to participate, please look at Fr Marks' first video for Ash Wednesday. We will look at his other videos on the days themselves.

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<http://www.youtube.com/embed/dPn86vrvIMc?autoplay=1&rel=0>

I look forward to sharing our Lenten journey together.

Fr Peter

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday during Lent, join Deacon Joseph for Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm.



To join, go to the St Margaret's website and click on the link.

[St Margaret's \(stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk\)](http://stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk)

MARCH SOUP LUNCH



Despite not being able to have our usual lunch, many thanks to those who kindly made a donation to the collection for February. We were able to send £260 to Fr David Cullen for the work among the poorest in and around Chipata, Zambia.

We are planning to send our next donation on Friday 19th March. If you would like to make a donation to help that community, please contact Maz and Bernard Winter, on: 02089430824 or 07801493348.

100% of what you donate will go to help the poor and needy in that community. Thank you.

Two family vegetable plots available in the parish garden.

Please contact Fr Peter for more details. (We ask that a portion of the produce is sold to parishioners, with monies raised donated to CAFOD).



Fr Peter and the Parish Finance Committee would like to thank Terry Gannon and Joe Bahoshy who are stepping down from the Committee.



Terry has been on the Finance Committee for more years than we can remember and we thank him for this service, his insightful comments and thoughtful probing. We are grateful that he plans to continue to be the parish Gift Aid administrator and to organize the team of weekly cash counters.

Joe Bahoshy has been chair since 2016 and oversaw the successful stewardship campaign three years ago.

Peter Slattery has agreed to take on the role of Chair. We are pleased also to welcome two new members - Marta Baker and Fionn O'Leary.



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!

