

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Baptism of the Lord - 10th January 2021 Year B



In Peter writes:

The simplicity of the birth of Jesus celebrated at Christmas quickly takes on a more complex hue as the days move forward. Just as a new born baby quickly develops a personality through their facial expressions, so at the Epiphany the infant is revealed as King of the Jews to the wise men. Now in the space of a few days the Church has travelled to the cusp of Jesus' public life, and the baby has become an adult.

Sunday's Gospel forms part of the introduction about who is this Jesus who will proclaim the need for repentance, personal moral change, and the coming of His kingdom. This Sunday two key facets about His identity and mission are being made known, firstly that his way of salvation will be through solidarity with sinners, and secondly that He is the beloved Son of the Father who carries within Him the Holy Spirit. Every meeting with Jesus, both then and now, will be an encounter with God made visible and tangible, God not as an idea, good or otherwise, but as a person.

The meeting that Jesus wishes to seek with us is a meeting, on one level, of equals. Jesus has, without any need, lined up with fractured and sinful humanity to receive John the Baptist's baptism of repentance. Strangely He has become like us without becoming us. There is complete consistency between His life and its meaning, and being consistent He has no need to lord it over us. Only those insecure about their position throw their weight around, whether it be at home or in the workplace. Nearly everyone, at one time in life, has had the misfortune of having to interact with an insecure and thus overweening manager.

This is probably, deep down, the image many possess about the nature of religion. Overweening authority that fails to speak to me, and that is more often inconsistent between word and deed. Inconsistency is not reserved for the religious alone, but is a universal characteristic shared by all. However, it becomes a problem when Catholicism is understood as 'priests telling me what to do'. Yet life requires us being told what to do, it just depends how and in what context such commands are made.

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm	
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat		10.00 am
Saturday	Adoration	10:30 - 11:00
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Confessions	By request	

Throughout the Gospels Jesus is telling us what to do, often something as prosaic as 'go home' to a recently healed supplicant. Other times He is telling us 'not to sin anymore', or 'go and do likewise'. Yet when Jesus speaks it is not spoken as distant overlord but as companion. The pursuit of holiness still remains, 'be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect', but this becomes a shared enterprise both in the continuous relationship Jesus establishes with us and we with each other as fellow pilgrims.

Accepting the baptism of John for repentance continues the bodily consequences of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us. Divine providence located the birth in a stable on the fringes, the three wise men found the exact location only through the interpretation of Isaiah's prophecy. This birth on the fringes was purposeful, and on the fringes, Jesus remains by lining up with sinners rather than judging from afar.

Solidarity is on everyone's mind as the country endures the third national lockdown, and behaviour not given a moment's thought before last March is now seen as being grossly irresponsible: meeting in groups of diverse households, arranging illicit parties, making 'unnecessary' journeys. These collective restrictions are one way of combating the harmful effects of the virus. The Church proposes a positive solidarity as the way for a pilgrim people to move forward. This positive solidarity between peoples, identified by Jesus as His way, will be the way of the Church and every community after the pandemic has abated. This Sunday continues what was begun at Christmas.

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 9th January – Sunday 17th January

9 Jan	Sat	10.00 am	Private Intentions	Francella
10 Jan	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP	Margaret & John Houlton
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For students and teachers	
11 Jan	Mon	10.00 am	For the intentions of Mo Walker	
12 Jan	Tue	10.00 am	For unemployed seeking work	
13 Jan	Wed	10.00 am	For all young people	
14 Jan	Thur	10.00 am	For students and teachers	
15 Jan	Fri	10.00 am	For unemployed seeking work	
16 Jan	Sat	10.00 am	For all young people	
17 Jan	Sun	8.30 am	For unemployed seeking work	
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Helen Edes RIP	Jean & Des McGinley

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, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga) and Kevin Sweeney

Recently deceased– Anthony (Anton) Barber RIP, Desmond McGinley RIP, Father David Palmer RIP (Isleworth Parish), Pat Doyle RIP, Sr Elizabeth Emmett RIP

Anniversaries- Edna Hughes, Florence Pluck, Doris Geary, Jack Halligan, Alison Noble, Rose Polland, Angela Crowley, Nessa Sweetman, Dennis Leillot, Syd Pascoe, William Cowell, Patrick Farrell, Frederick Morgan

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Response to the Psalm

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.



New Year's arrangement for Mass

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

Fr Tim will celebrate Mass on Friday's at 10.00 am, (not streamed).

Sunday Mass as normal 8.30 am, 10.30 am (streamed) and 6.30 pm.

Rosary on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 9.30 am (join via Zoom).

Churches remain open for worship.

10th January - Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm Isaiah 12

1 John 5:1-9

Mark 1:7-11

17th January - 2nd Sunday in OT

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20

John 1:35-42

obituary



Anton Barber RIP

Anthony (Anton) Barber first came to the parish with his family in 1962 when Fr Sidney Dommersen was the parish priest.

Anton was part of a generation who were motivated by Fr. Dommersen to commit themselves to work as a community, following Fr. Dommersen's own experience as an Army chaplain ministering to the troops in action during the Second World War. Many people of Anton's generation were drawn to doing things together, and the creation of the 'Complex', of Mass Room, Chapel and Hall was their collective legacy to this parish. During these years Anton's wife created the set of pottery vases for flower displays and the candle sticks for the main altar.

After the death of his wife, Anton Barber moved to Hungerford where he spent his last years in a nursing home. May he rest in peace.

Desmond McGinley RIP

Desmond McGinley died peacefully on December 20th in the West Middlesex Hospital, aged 90. Born in Donegal, he had been a science teacher and a director of students in Dublin, and a theology teacher and Vice-Principal in St Mary's College, Twickenham. When he joined our parish in 1984, he was a Director of Age Concern, but for the next decade he also looked after both the Monday banking of the Offertory collection and the writing of our Bidding Prayers. In 1991, he married Jean Jones (Canon Swan conducting), later our parish secretary. After recovery from serious illness in 1994, and now retired, Desmond remained a wise, humble and deeply prayerful presence at many parish meetings – and a powerful support for Jean.

Sister Elizabeth Emmett RIP 1931 - 2021

Sister Elizabeth Emmett was born into a staunch Anglican family, in Leicester in 1931. Her family moved to Birmingham and she attended school with the Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion where her spirituality developed and she became a Catholic aged 16. She joined the Order of the Sisters of Compassion, and at a later date when this Order dwindled, she became a member of the Order of the Sisters of Charity of St Louis. St Elizabeth worked as a teacher, becoming Headmistress of a school in Glastonbury in 1967. In the 1980s, she retired from teaching and took up parish work, coming to St Margaret's as the catechetical co-ordinator, working with Fr Desmond Swan in the late 1980s. She was principally responsible for the First Holy Communion programme and worked with the younger children, organising the children's crèche and the various children's liturgy programmes. A firm and strict educator, but very gentle, she was particularly understanding when children had doubts and questions.

obituary



Sister Elizabeth Emmett RIP 1931 - 2021 (continued)

She retired from her post in 2000, worked in another parish outside Paris for two years and then latterly worked as a volunteer at St Patrick's in Soho with Fr Alexander Sherbrooke, former PP of St Margarets. Sr Elizabeth lived until very recently in the community house in Sheen. With increasing ill-health, she spent the last 4 months at Maryville Care Home in Brentford, where Fr Hilary is Chaplain, and she died peacefully at the West Middlesex Hospital on January 3rd 2021.

Confirmation

The Confirmation course, for those in Year 9 and above will begin on **Saturday 27th February at 5:15pm followed by Mass.**



This year the Course is being led by Deacon Joseph Estorninho, Joseph Kilsby, a recent graduate from St Marys and Kirsten Roy, long standing parishioner.

If you would like to participate please contact Fr Peter at the Parish Office to obtain an application form.

First Holy Communion Sessions 2021

The session will now start after half term on **Saturday 27th February**. This will mean that the date for the celebration of First Holy Communion will have to move from May to July, in order to make sure there is enough time to prepare your child.



The revised date for First Holy Communion will now be Saturday 3rd July.

Dates for Pre Baptism Course

Session 1 & 2

23rd February & 2nd March

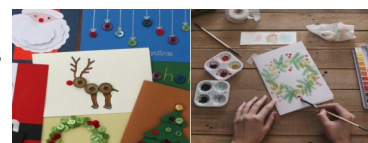
Session 1 & 2

11th May & 18th May



Please contact the parish office via email for more information.

Christmas Cards for our senior citizen parishioners & Dalemead Care Home



Special thanks to all the children who made cards for our senior citizen parishioners and the residents of Dalemead Care Home.

They were well received and appreciated. Thank you!



'Heart speaks to Heart' Prayer course January to March 2021

This month St Margarets will be joining St Elizabeth's Parish for a course on prayer led by Peter Asprey. A number of parishioners have already undertaken the course and found it very helpful, and so I thought it would be beneficial to offer the repeat course more widely within the Parish. Registration takes place through the St Elizabeth's parish website, the details of which are in the brochure.

I hope that those who choose to participate will be assisted in developing their prayer life. As Catholics it is easy to fall into the temptation that we belong to the Church in terms of cultural identity rather than in seeing the Church as the place to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship is at the heart of the Church's life, and sustains every Parish mission.

EXPLORING THE LIFE OF PRAYER

HEART SPEAKS TO HEART: GROWING IN PRAYER

Do you have a desire to encounter God more deeply?
Would you like to hear God more clearly in your life?
Do you want to grow in prayer?

START ON 21.1.21. | 19:30 - 20:30
ONLINE

"Absolutely brilliant! The course I never knew I needed"

"The most excellent course on prayer that I have ever been on"

"An amazing resource to bring people closer to God"

"Inspiring....practical....informative"

Join us for Heart Speaks to Heart: Growing in Prayer. This is an eight-week course that delves deep into the Catholic Tradition in order to give people a firm foundation in their life of prayer. Participants learn to develop intimacy with the Lord, to listen to His voice and to grow in silent contemplation. Each week focuses on one particular tradition of prayer, offering theological insight rooted in Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Foundational teaching then leads on to practical application.

Participants are helped to develop a structure for their daily prayer and shown how to meditate on Sacred Scripture. There is much practical help on how to grow and how to deal with problems as they arise.

There is also a weekend away that focuses on the Person of the Holy Spirit, praying for others and growing in the charismatic gifts.

'Heart speaks to Heart' Prayer course (Continued)

The course draws on a wide variety of wisdom through the ages, from the contemplative traditions of the Carmelites, Benedictines and Desert Fathers or the theology of St Bernard of Clairvaux, through to Ignatian Spirituality, the Charismatic Renewal and much more!

To sign up:

Visit St. Elizabeth of Portugal website

www.stelizabethschurch.org.uk

go to the calendar (21.1.) or click here:

<https://stelizabethofportugal.churchsuite.co.uk/events/khjxaphq>



For further questions:

Send an email to Peter Asprey at
richmondprayer@caos.org.uk



PRAYER COURSE SESSIONS AND DATES

(7.30pm unless otherwise stated)

Thursday January 21st: Introduction and getting started. What is prayer?

Thursday January 28th: Vocal Prayer

Thursday 4th February: Worship

Thursday 11th February: Praying with scripture I: Lectio Divina

Thursday 18th February: Praying with scripture II: Ignatian contemplation

'Weekend Away' (Online): Friday 26th February (7.30pm) and Saturday 27th February (10am-12pm): The Person of the Holy Spirit and the Charismatic gifts.

Thursday 4th March: Praying with scripture III: The Divine Office

Thursday 11th March: Silence. Practicing the presence of God.

Thursday 18th March: Growth. Where from here?

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ASCENSION
The Faith Formation Leader



New Podcast
From Fr. Mike Schmitz:
The Bible In A Year

The Bible in a Year

Why not make 2021 the year in which you read the Bible? 'The Bible in a Year' is a daily podcast (20-25 mins) by Fr Mike Schmitz. It includes two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr Mike, and a guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

Lenten Alms

Having just celebrated a rather denuded Christmas and New Year, it might seem strange to start talking about Lent already but Wednesday 17th February will come around soon enough.

This Sunday, 10th January, marks the opening for nominations for a charity that St Margarets Parish might support as a collective endeavour over Lent and a little beyond. Applications will close on January 27th January, and if you would like to nominate a charity on which the Parish can vote on Sunday 6th February (for those who are unable to attend Mass, an email vote will be permissible) please send your application to the Parish Office before 27th January .

Timetable

Jan 10th - 27th Application period - forms available on the parish website and by emailing the parish office: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk

January 27th: closing date for applications.

Pastoral Council to review applications

February 6th: short-listed charities will be invited to make a presentation to the parish and parishioners will have an opportunity to vote (in person and on-line)

February 14th: Announcement of chosen charity in newsletter and on-line. Winning Charity to propose some zoom-friendly fund-raising activities and some post-Easter social events (legislation permitting)

February 17th: Ash Wednesday

April 4th: Easter Sunday (More dates to follow)

Children's Liturgy

Before lockdown the Parish managed to offer children's liturgy at the Sunday 10:30am Mass on a regular basis. Since the lockdown began this activity had sadly ceased and the Parish Pastoral Council feels it is time now to resume this activity but by zoom, rather than face to face.



If you had been involved beforehand or would like to become involved in providing a children's liturgy, at a different time to 10:30am Mass please make contact with the Parish Office. I do not wish to be a pessimist but the parish should think of providing such a service till Easter. If we can return to normal before then all well and good.

Fr Peter

**New year's resolution:
Make a difference with
CAFOD as a volunteer.**



CAFOD Westminster is looking for volunteers, who care about global poverty, to help us inspire others to act here, so we can tackle poverty and injustice across the developing world.

Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others? Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking about our work in a Parish or School?

Please get in touch with us on westminster@cafod.org.uk or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our CAFOD online information sessions.

Thanks for your support
Tony Sheen Community Participation Co-ordinator – CAFOD Westminster

Crossway Twickenham Centre

Director Vacancy Crossway

Pregnancy Crisis Centre Twick-

enham Ltd is seeking to appoint a new Director. CPCC is a faith-based charity operating with a Christian ethos, committed to providing compassionate and constructive non-directive support to those facing unplanned pregnancy and pregnancy loss, plus education services for young people and vulnerable adults. As Director you will support an enthusiastic board of trustees, having overall responsibility for running and developing the work of the charity, including raising awareness of the work we do. This will include managing the budget for the charity, and line management of a team of staff and volunteers. We are seeking an individual who is passionate about our vision and who will combine spiritual maturity with excellent skills in charity management. Salary £35,000 - £37,000 full time equivalent for 20-25 hours per week. Deadline for applications is Friday January 22nd 2021. Visit <https://www.crosswaypregnancy.org.uk/vacancies.html> for further details and application pack.

VACANCY