

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER - 11th April 2021 Year B



In Peter writes:

The magic day of Monday 12th April is nearly upon us, and from then it will be possible to sit outside for a drink, a coffee or even a meal, yet at the time of writing the weather is not making any of these activities in normal times seem an attractive prospect. Yet these are not normal times and many will shiver their way through an outside meal just to prove to themselves that such activity is now possible.

This might be a trivial example but it represents a very modern understanding of freedom, that freedom is defined as the ability of acting without constraint. So, if I can I should, or at least someone else should be able. Freedom of choice is fundamental to human beings and the exercise of liberal democracy but without a higher direction this exercise of freedom may become plainly destructive. In the case of dining outside in April, catching a cold is probably the worst it will get.

The same dynamic of danger holds in rather more complex and personal parts of life. The possibility of accessing internet pornography might be a matter of free choice, but its consequences are never so, as it warps the minds and hearts of those who access such material. The same may be said of internet gambling, violent games on xbox, or self-harming broadcasts. All such activities are legal, all such activities are thought by social liberals as being a right even if not eliciting personal engagement. These activities though are not choices of indifference because the free choice creates a rush of excitement that gives a buzz such that the internal moral compass is incapacitated. Such experiences become extremely addictive, and no-one is immune from potentially addictive behaviour. Addiction is just a secular way of speaking about one of the consequences of original sin. Addiction is the meaningless life and it is always tragic to witness because one feels powerless in front of such meaningless in others.

The 1960s might be known for the rejection of all higher authority, whether the government or of the

| Mass Times & Liturgical Services | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Sunday | 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm | |
| Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday | 10.00 am | |
| Eucharistic Service | Friday | 10.00 am |
| Adoration | Saturday | 10.30 am – 11.00 am |
| Rosary | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat (via Zoom; please email the office for link) | |
| Confessions | Saturday | 10.30 – 11.00 am |
| | Sunday | 10.00 am – 10.20 am |

Church. Many thinkers, commentators and theologians made a living simply attacking any institution's ability, the Church included to speak on moral issues. Fifty years later perhaps, in humility, they can see the havoc their teaching has caused, far from bringing in a age of enlightenment has brought in an age of moral slavery with all the attendant misery that this has caused. Their close identification of higher authority with parents, schools and churches made them fail to see that parents, schools and churches only participate in a higher authority, and often very imperfectly They are not higher authority themselves.

Higher authority is not founded on a set of rules but on the maxim, 'choose life' with God as its author. At this time of Easter, the Church invites us to make use of our freedom to 'choose life', not for dissipation, but for purpose. Everyone was created with a purpose; 'to love and serve God in this life and be with Him in the next'. This purpose can certainly appear obscure in front of the daily struggle of life, and is not a subject of daily conversation. Not every one of our actions can immediately be pigeon-holed into a grand plan either of God's or our making.

When the risen Jesus breathed out the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles and founded the Church, we too nearly 2000 years later would become part of this 'chain reaction' of the Holy Spirit. Receiving the Holy Spirit opens our lives outward beyond ourselves, and beyond our finite time on earth, into communion with God and others that can last into eternity. This is the real free choice not those that end in the slavery of addiction.

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: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

Mass Intentions Saturday 10th April – Sunday 18th April

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|--|---------------------------|
| 10 Apr | Saturday | 10.00am | Ernest Pacitto RIP Anniversary | Margot Watkins |
| 11 Apr | Sunday | 8.30 am | For you the people | |
| | | 10.30am | Donal Dwyer RIP (1st anniversary) | Mary Ibbett |
| | | 6.30 pm | Margaret Tobback RIP | Maureen Davis |
| 12 Apr | Monday | 10.00am | Sarah Everard RIP and her family | Mary Ibbett |
| 13 Apr | Tuesday | 10.00am | Bernard Sharratt RIP | Mary Martin |
| 14 Apr | Wednes- day | 10.00am | Edmund Sharratt RIP | Maria Sharratt |
| 15 Apr | Thursday | 10.00 am | For the intentions of Phyllis Sharratt | Maria Sharratt |
| 16 Apr | Friday | 10.00 am | Eucharistic Service | |
| 17 Apr | Saturday | 10.00 am | Tony Roche RIP Anniversary | Kathleen Walker |
| | | 6.30 pm | Anne Whittlesea RIP | Teresa Histon & family |
| 18 Apr | Sunday | 8.30 am | For you the people | |
| | | 10.30am | Bernard Sharratt RIP | Kathleen Walker |
| | | 6.30 pm | Deceased members of St Margarets Parish | |

Entrance Antiphon:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia .

Response to the Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.



Mass Arrangement for April

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 10.00 am (No booking needed) (live stream available)

Saturday
10.00 am (live streamed) & 6.30 pm

Friday - Eucharistic Service 10.00 am

Sunday
8.30 am
10.30 am (Booking needed) (live streamed)
6.30 pm

Rosary on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at 9.30 am (on zoom)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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 & 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 - John Clanchy, Ann Ruff Massa, Harold Ward, Paddy Otterway, Peter Grant, Thomas Payne, Dorothy Flanders, Mary Bailey, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Clare Scriven, Fay Shoolheifer

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

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER - 11 April
3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER - 18 APRIL

Acts 4:32-35
Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Psalm 117 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31
Psalm 4 1 John 2:1-5 Luke 24:35-48

Lenten Almsgiving

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.



Run/ walk/ cycle for the Lenten project

Have you found a passion for running, walking or cycling during lockdown?

Could you set yourself a goal to complete a challenge for the Lenten project & get sponsored by friends or family to complete it?

Perhaps a set distance to achieve 3k/5k/10k/20k?
Or a mile in a set time?



We would be so grateful if you could do this for the Lenten project during this very difficult time to hold fundraising events.



Events could be completed anytime up until the end of May 2021 to give you time to train. Please just let the parish office know if you would like to take up this challenge.



SOUP LUNCH DONATION



We will be sending our donation for April to Fr David Culen, on Friday 16th April. If you are able to contribute to help the poor and needy in Chipata, Zambia, please contact Maz and Bernard Winter on 02089430824 or 07769721975. They are fighting the pandemic as well as extreme poverty. All donations, however small would be most welcome. Thank you.

Pictures from the Easter Garden Competition

Winner - Alison Drew



It was a very close one for our deserving Runners up. Pictures as below in no particular order.



Horellou Vera



Grace Phelan



Ann Edes



Blackwood Family



Blackwood Family



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.

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

The course will begin on Saturday 17th April and compose of 12 classes. The celebration of First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 17th July.



Children's Liturgy on Zoom; on

alternate Sunday mornings

9:45 – 10:15 am

For children aged 4 – 11 (roughly)



Upcoming dates: April 18, May 2 & 16

Activity packs with craft materials will be available to pick from the Parish Office.

Suggested voluntary donation of £2.50 for 3 weeks of craft material for activities.

Marriage Course 2021



The next Marriage Preparation Course will take place here at St Margaret's on **24th April** in person as the Government guidelines will allow this from mid-April. The cost of the day-long course is £80 per couple.

Donating to Church funds

The next time you visit the Church, you might notice small posters on the pew uprights. The QR codes allow you to make a donation to Church funds using the Virgin Money Giving facility.

Offertory Giving

Thank you to all those who manage your regular giving through standing order, payroll giving or weekly envelopes. If you normally donate via the loose plate, but are not coming to Mass at the moment, please consider giving via our Virgin Money button on the website. Or even better, set up a standing order, forms for which are available from the parish office.

All donations are gratefully received, no matter how small. Thank you.

Fewer people carry cash at the moment and offertory income from the collection basket has significantly reduced over the past year. The Finance Committee has explored alternative ways to encourage direct giving. To make a one-off donation, please scan the QR code and choose the amount you wish to give. You can also gift aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. If you don't have a smart phone, please consider donating by card using the contactless device available in the foyer.

Alternatively, making a planned giving commitment to support the mission of the Church through a regular standing order affords the Parish greater financial certainty of budgeting and forecasting. Giving by standing order does not incur commission and we receive exactly the amount you give. It reduces our administration costs and, where applicable, makes processing gift aid straightforward. You can download a standing order form from the website or ask Cynthia in the parish office to send you one.

Thank you for your generosity.
The Finance Committee

March 2021

| Offertory Giving | Loose | Contactless | Envelopes | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Mar 7th | 94 | 190 | 40 | 324 |
| Mar 14th | 71 | 186 | 45 | 302 |
| Mar 21st | 54 | 132 | 55 | 241 |
| Mar 28th | 52 | 111 | 30 | 193 |
| Virgin Money Donations | | | | 343 |
| Standing Orders & Payroll Giving | | | | 4311 |

Total Offer-tory 4654

Building Fund

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Regular dona-tions | 1566 |
| One off dona-tions | 2240 |

Total Building Fund 3806

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!

