

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 11th DECEMBER 2022 - Year A

In Peter writes:

Over the last few weeks we have heard much from a famous couple about 'their truth' as opposed to 'the others' truth'. This is a very modern phenomenon, energised by the contemporary view that there is no such thing as absolute truth, only socially acceptable or non-acceptable groups of opinions. Pilate's question to Jesus, 'what is truth' remains as valid today as it was then. The collapse of faith has not led to the dawning of another age of reason but the collapse of society into competing truths about every aspect of life. Speaking about 'my truth' in every context might seem obvious in the modern world but it becomes the pathway to insanity, because taken too far, any shared knowledge of life becomes ultimately impossible.

Everyone has opinions and their own understanding of some situation or moral conundrum in which they are involved, at home, at work, amongst their friends, and within their community. When agreement and reconciliation are sought for the good functioning of home, work, friends or country, a shared perspective and understanding which seeks the truth is necessary. Conversation, argument even, identifies, even if sometimes very painfully, the lack of knowledge, or lack of perspective within ourselves. We have to change our minds, most difficult certainly but ultimately of deeper satisfaction.

Advent might be described as the season to change your mind, or fire up your imagination, to step away from the rabbit hole of 'my truth'. The season of Advent differs to that of Lent which is the recognition of sin and conversion of heart subsequent to death of Jesus on The Cross. The readings of Advent are orientated to what only God can achieve amongst His people, a dawning of the age of peace in the Prophet Isaiah, the possibility of spiritual rescue in the Gospel. Our first step is to change our minds and step out from within our own limited thinking into the universal truth of God, the superabundance of goodness is God, and of accepting the invitation to see the wonderful gift of life.

Isaiah speaks of cosmic transformation, of turning dry lands into verdant pastures, of bodily transformation and its spiritual equivalence; sight to the spiritually blind; movement to those locked in despond, the language of hope to those mired in negativity. Universal bodily transformation will need to await the Resurrection, spiritual transformation can take place now. Yet

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Weekend	Saturday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm No 6 pm Mass from 16 Dec – 14 th Jan '23
	Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekdays	Mon, wed & Friday	10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Tue & Thur	10.00 am
Rosary	Monday to Saturday	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
		10.00 – 10.20 am

in anticipation of this universal transformation Jesus is affecting such miracles in His public life and they are markers of His status as the long-expected Messiah.

Sunday's Gospel records the doubts of John the Baptist, now languishing in prison, far from Jerusalem in one of Herod's fortresses. Jesus was not acting in the way his limited human imagination had expected, despite his call to be the prophet of last times. Jesus tells his followers that His actions were just the foretaste of this cosmic transformation. Communicating the reality of this Good News will always require the commitment of faith because the consequences of the Holy Spirit are small scale. Like the good news received in a family after a positive diagnosis from hospital, of a singular reconciliation between family members, these small-scale moments have greater consequences. Closing our minds and hearts make us unable to see these ripples radiating outwards from these singular spiritual moments. Grace is at work. Advent is the season to see grace at work now but also to open our imaginations to see the possibility of grace acting far beyond our greatest imaginations.

John the Baptist entered the desert to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' arrival, echoing the Prophet Elijah in his ministry yet even he was unable to equate the message of renewal to the reality of Jesus' mission. Strangely this gives hope to all of us who struggle to connect the two ourselves, the beauty of the message and the reality of the Christian community, the Church. Jesus asked John to reflect on what is happening, to open up his mind and heart. The invitation is also made to us to make the connection. Opening our imaginations as to what transformations are possible through the coming of Jesus Christ into my life and the world both gives hope to our own personal spiritual transformation and to where it is currently taking place within the Church and world.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: 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 Sat 10 Dec – Sun 18 Dec

10/12	Sat	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
11/12	Sun	8.30 am	Moya Crosgrove RIP	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	Tulia de Vergara RIP anniversary & Edna McCaw RIP anniversary	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	For you the people	
12/12	Mon	10.00 am	William Carroll RIP	Rita Johnstone
13/12	Tues	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
14/12	Wed	10.00 am	Barry McNamara RIP	Rita Johnstone
15/12	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
16/12	Fri	10.00 am	Mary Maguire RIP	Davis
17/12	Sat	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
18/12	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP Anniversary	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	Robert Patrick Bailey RIP	Margaret Crowe
		6.30 pm	John Winter RIP 1st anniversary	Bernard

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cathy McKendry, Sue Rolph, 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), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew, Theresa Bulpitt (sister of Margaret Crowe) & Michael Barnes

Anniversaries - Angela Crowley, Nessa Sweetman, Dennis Leillot, Syd Pascoe, William Cowell, Patrick Farrell, Frederick Morgan, Janina Jascia, Stanislaus Leszczynski

Recently deceased - Mary Maguire RIP

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

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I saw rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm:

Come, Lord, and save us.

Christmas Mass



Christmas Eve Mass - especially for families 5.00 pm.

Refreshments provided in the hall afterwards.

Mass of the Night - Carols & Readings 9.30 pm and Mass at 10.00 pm (In lieu of Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day Mass - Feast of the Nativity 8.30 am & 10.30am

Weekday Mass in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 26th December will be at 12.00 noon.

Feast of the Epiphany, Friday 6th January 2023 - 10.00 am & 6.00 pm

Calling out all young children (3+ years) to be part of our Christmas Tableau taking place during Mass on Christmas Eve at 5.00



pm. **We need shepherds & angels to join us for the Nativity story.**

If your child would like to take part, please contact the parish office.

Adult helpers also needed to serve hot chocolate and refreshments after the Mass. Thank you.

Friday Night Adoration



Friday 16th December will be our final session for 2022 and we will resume on Friday 13th January 2023.

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A—11 DEC 2022

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Psalm 145

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A - 18 DEC 2022

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 23

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

THERE WILL BE NO SATURDAY EVENING 6.00 PM MASS DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK. 6.00 PM MASS WILL NOW RESUME IN THE NEW YEARS ON JANUARY 21ST 2023.

Foodbank Collection, Sunday 11th December – please give generously

Our First Holy Communion families are organising a Foodbank collection for the Foodbank at St Pauls' Church, Hounslow. The Foodbank has supported over 5000 households this year and is experiencing increasing demands as families struggle to cope with rising prices.

Donations required

Milk (UHT/powdered), Breakfast Cereal, Jars Of Pasta Sauces, Pasta & Rice, Baked Beans, Tinned Pulses, Packets Or Tins Of Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Puddings (Sponges, Custard,

Rice Pudding, Angel Delight), Cereal & Porridge, Biscuits And Chocolate, Tinned Fish & Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Fruit Juice (Long Life), Tea, Coffee & Sugar, Baby Wipes & Nappies, Toiletries (Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitary Towels, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes), Washing Powder

Please – only tinned or dried food; nothing fresh or perishable.



Please bring your donation to the church hall before or after any Mass on Sunday 11th December. We can't accept donations before this day as there is no storage space.

Thank you for your generosity.

"The Mustard Seed Prayer group—an evening of Praise and Worship

Due to unavoidable circumstances, our meet on Saturday, 10th December has been cancelled.



Our first Mustard Seed will, therefore, be on 28th January 2023.

**Friday 6th January 2023
Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council
invite you to a shared Epiphany supper
after the 6.00 pm Mass**



Please sign up in advance to allow us to cater accordingly. If you don't sign up, we might not have enough food to serve you. Signup sheet at the back of church or send your names into the parish office.

Bring a salad, side dish or pudding to share. Cash donations on the night also gratefully received.

Film for children will be shown in the library after the meal.

Helpers needed for setting up/serving food/clearing away – **Please find the signup sheet at volunteersignup.org/W9CAY**



Twickenham Repair Cafe - 17th December

For December's Repair Cafe we will have a special focus on fixing your broken Christmas stuff and another Kids Repair Zone -

See you on the 17th December. 10:30 to 13:00

**Bereavement
café**

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



3rd Saturday of every month

2.30—4.00 pm at St Margarets Church Hall, 130 St

Margarets Road, Twickenham TW1 1RL

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. Want to join.. Call this number for any enquiries 07547 976 953 or Email: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk with any questions Or just drop in on the day.

All are welcome!

the
GIFT **a life in the Spirit course**

As we gradually begin to turn our attention to Advent and Christmas, come join us as we start to explore "The Gift," a course that will help us develop a much closer personal relationship with God: The Catechism reminds us that we can actually come to know the Father's love like Jesus did while on earth.

'This is the most beautiful moment of any creature's life: to know that one is loved, personally, by God, to feel oneself lifted to the bosom of the Trinity and to find oneself in the flood of love that flows between Father and Son, enfolded in their love, sharing their passionate love for the world.' Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Come, Creator Spirit.

The first three sessions of the course have taken place before Christmas. In 2023, we will have the sessions on 12th, 19th & 26th January.

The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evangelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis. Sessions are comprised of a 30 minute video followed by small group discussion over tea and biscuits. Please do join us!

Used stamps for Medical Missionaries of Mary



Please collect all the stamps from your Christmas post. In January we will be collecting used stamps for the MMM, as we did last year; the sisters sell these to raise money for their work in Africa and other countries.

Come and join us for Our much loved "Tea & Chat" Our last one before Christmas



**December 21st
Wednesday from 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm**

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

**Recollection for Women
O Come Let Us Adore Him**

14th December 2022 10.00—12.30 at St Margaret's Church Hall

10.00 – Holy Mass
10.30 – First Meditation
11.15 – Rosary
11.45 Examination of Conscience
12.00 – Second Meditation

The priest will be available for confessions from 11.00 – 12.00
Join us !

Foundation Governor Vacancy



St James's
Catholic Primary School

Would you like to serve the local Catholic community in an important and strategic way, ensuring that our children benefit from an education that reflects a Catholic vision and ethos?
"Put out into the deep"

St James's Catholic Primary School, Twickenham, has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. St James's is an outstanding school and Governors play a strategic role in the school's development. Governors need to be willing to work as part of a team, read papers, attend meetings and ask constructive questions. There is free training available from the Borough and the Diocese.

For this vacancy, we are particularly seeking applicants who either have a background in finance or accountancy. This vacancy is open to Catholics who are not parents of children currently attending the school. Governors are appointed for a four-year term of office, which can be renewed.

If you would like to learn more about being a school governor please email Hilary O'Sullivan, Vice Chair of St James's Governing Body via aileen.sharp@st-james.richmond.sch.uk

A Room is available in a St Margaret's 3 bedroomed flat-share in the New Year.

It will suit a female professional who is a Non Smoker.

Please contact 07913 201 474 for more details.

