

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12 February 2023- Year A

In Peter writes:

Last week the Church celebrated the Memoria of St Josephine Bakhita, a remarkable South Sudanese woman, born in Darfur in 1869 and who died a well-loved Religious Sister in a North Italian convent. After a happy carefree childhood she was captured at the age of eight by slavers and sold in the slave markets at El Obeid, in the Sudan. Beaten every day by one slave owner, with cuts and salt added to her wounds, a traditional practice meted out onto newly acquired slaves, she eventually passed through various owners before being taken up by the Italian Consul in 1882. Her treatment improved and beatings were no longer part of her regime. Through the vicissitudes of the Italian family she was left in the care of the Canossian Sisters. Here she encountered the Christian God for the first time and as she described later in life; 'those holy mothers instructed me with heroic patience and introduced me to that God who from childhood I had felt in my heart without knowing who He was.'

Deep in her soul was the realisation that encountering the living God brings hope not simply knowledge. Sadly, in contemporary society, the knowledge of God rarely brings hope but the dead weight of unwanted knowing, religious faith seen as a GCSE exam. Missing too for most is the liberating truth of the Gospel sadly submerged by the cares of secular life.

Later after a dispute with her 'owners' and through the intervention of the secular legal system and the Patriarch of Venice, Josephine was given her freedom and did not have to return to Sudan. She was baptised in 1890 with name Josephine Margarita Fortuna (Italian for Bakhita) and continued to live in the Canossian sisters. Later she joined the order, living as a sister for forty-seven years in obscurity in different convents in Northern Italy. St Josephine had found her real master, not the human masters of violence, but one who made her realise that as she said, 'am definitely loved and whatever happens to me, I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good'. It was this knowledge that redeemed her, that gave her, her true freedom. Whatever our previous life the vision for the future remains the same.

Late in her life she was famously interviewed by a student journalist who asked her, "What would you do, if you were to meet your captors?" Without hesitation, she replied: "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would

Mass Times & Liturgical Services

Weekend Mass	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Mass	Mon & Fri	10.00 am
	Wed – Funeral Mass	11.30 am
Eucharistic Service	Tuesday & Thursday	10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today". Sr Josephine gave an answer that makes her a saint, the complete absorption of her own sufferings into God's greater plan. Her suffering was at the hands of slave traders and owners, not God. St Josephine's offers the remarkable example of struggling through pain and adversity and not descending either into vitriol or victimhood. Both attitudes would be entirely understandable on the personal level, and for some might become 'their truth' to broadcast abroad. Yet for some mysterious grace-filled reason she descended into neither vitriol nor victimhood.

Wishing to know God from an early age, of appreciating the spiritual depth of her soul gave her an inner strength. Encountering Jesus Christ as the one who suffers for us, taking on the sins of the many, those slavers and owners had unintentionally given her access to the deepest meaning of the Cross. That strength did not entail denying the reality of her suffering but of integrating her suffering as the paradoxical way in which she encountered the love of Jesus Christ.

St Josephine Bakhita's life was the example used by Pope Benedict, in his Encyclical Spe Salvi (the Hope of salvation) to demonstrate that Christian faith brings an encounter with the living God and an encounter with a hope stronger than the sufferings of slavery, and therefore faith possesses the hope that transformed her life and her world from within. We too are invited onto the same path, of being invited to grasp through the inevitable sufferings in life, the mysterious access point to God's mercy. At no point did she justify suffering in that way but that through this unwanted and uncalled for experience, she could on encountering Jesus Christ see that her suffering and experience of pain did not describe her life which at heart was with the true Master, Jesus Christ.

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 11 Feb – Sun 19 Feb

11/02	Sat	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
12/02	Sun	8.30 am	Eithne Whelan recently deceased	Su Slattery
		10.30 am	Sheila Roghan recently deceased	Catherine Sugrue
		6.30 pm	Thanksgiving Mass for Alexandra D'sa	Barbara de Souza
13/02	Mon	10.00 am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
14/02	Tue	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
15/02	Wed	11.30 am	Funeral for Patricia Mary Picton	
16/02	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
17/02	Fri	10.00 am	Josie Walsh RIP	Kathleen Barry
18/02	Sat	10.00 am	For You the People	
19/02	Sun	8.30 am	Margaret Bigwood recently deceased	Su Slattery
		10.30 am	Gordon McCaw RIP recently deceased	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	Gerard Crowley RIP	Joseph Henry

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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 Master-son, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins & Eleanor Drew.

Anniversaries - Mona Keegan, Mary Newman, Rosemary Innocent, Joe de Souza, Nicola Forgione, Alan Dommersen, James McHugh, Marguerite Stone, Jean Brown

Recently deceased - Patricia "Mary" Picton RIP (Vicky Phelan's mum), Clare Gillis RIP, Michael Roper RIP, Michael Barnes RIP & Gordon McCaw (Lily McCaw's Father in Law)

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

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.

For you are my rock, my stronghold!

Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Response to the Psalm:

They are happy who follow God's law!

Mass Schedule

- ◆ There will be no Saturday 6.00 pm Mass on 11th, 18th & 25th February. Saturday Mass will resume on 4th March 2023 onwards with an exception on 11th March.
- ◆ There will be no 10.00 am Mass on Wednesday 15th February as we have the funeral Mass for Patricia Mary Picton at 11.30 am.

Ash Wednesday

- ◆ Mass on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February will take place at 10.00 am & 7.00 pm.



If you are unable to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday and would like to have the blessed ashes and Liturgy sheet sent to your home, please contact the parish office via email or phone.

Holy Hour

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Friday evenings at 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.



Sacramental Programmes

Sacramental preparations are open for parishioners and those who attend Mass regularly at St Margaret's.

Baptism

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at our Pre



Baptism course is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office. Courses for 2023 - **Jan course (Lapsed), March 7th and 14th, May 2nd and 9th, July 4th and 11th, September 5th and 12th, November 7th and 14th**

6TH SUNDAY IN OT - 12 FEB 2023	Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20	Psalm 118	1 Corinthians 2:6-10	Matthew 5:17-37
7TH SUNDAY IN OT - 19 FEB 2023	Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18	Psalm 102	1 Corinthians 3:16-23	Matthew 5:38-48

LENT AT ST MARGARETS

• **ASH WEDNESDAY** –
22nd Feb Mass at
10.00 am & 7.00 pm.

• **Lenten Faith Formation** - Lenten Companions course,
Monday's commencing 27th Feb at 7:30 pm

• Lenten Devotions

- ⇒ Stations of The Cross - Fridays 7:30 pm
- ⇒ Holy Hour - Fridays 8:00 pm
- ⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 29th
March at 7.00 pm
- ⇒ Live Way of The Cross (A live enactment of the final hours of Jesus' journey until his crucifixion -
Saturday April 1st 6:00 pm (save the date, more details to follow)

• **Almsgiving** – SPEAR (Local charity, helping the homeless) + School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus, Madagascar (International charity, funds to provide lunch to the very poor children at school)



Lent is an important season in the Church's liturgical year, the time when we take stock of where we are in our faith and prepare for the death and Resurrection of our Saviour. Often we lose sight of the point of this season because we get caught up in ourselves—how hard it is to fast, how bad we are at fasting—and we end up just waiting for the season to be over at Easter. Because of this, we sometimes arrive at Easter with our lives no different than they were on Ash Wednesday.



As a parish, we are seeking to prepare for Jesus' death and Resurrection and experience true transformation in our lives during this powerful season.

To help us in this journey we will be running a series of sessions through Lent on Monday evenings starting 27th of Feb, consisting of a short video presentation followed by time for group discussion and reflection. The sessions will begin at 7:30 pm and run for about one hour.



All are warmly invited to join us.

Lenten Project 2023

This year, the process of selecting charities for our parish has been slightly different from previous years.



The Parish Pastoral Council have decided to choose the Charities for this year.

The 2 charities chosen as our Lenten Project 2023 are

- ◆ SPEAR (Local charity) Homelessness to Independence and
- ◆ School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus (Primary & Secondary), Madagascar (International charity)



You may remember Sr Josephine, the Mexican Sister of the Assumption who came to the 10.30 am Mass while studying English here in London.

Sr Josephine works in one of the poorest forgotten countries of the world, Madagascar. She is working in a country who is on the verge of economic collapse. The Sisters have a school and our project will be to provide lunch to very poor children to enable their families to send them to school. The project would provide the lunch to more than 80 very poor children who attend the school and/or live far away from the school and cannot go home to eat.

Education is one of the great enablers to bring people out of poverty.

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible.

Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather.

Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike.

For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency

Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

Did you know... ?

Every year, the parish sends a report to the Diocese. This includes information about how people in the parish volunteer in different ministries and parish activities.



We at St Margaret's are blessed with **nearly 150 adults and young people** who support our parish mission—embodying the love of God in the Church and the world—and nurture our parish community in a myriad of beautiful ways. We would like to thank all of you ...

Readers • altar servers • welcomers • hospitality team at 10:30 Mass • ministers of Holy Communion, leading Eucharistic services and visiting the sick and housebound • musicians and singers • church “spring-cleaners” for special occasions • sacramental catechists (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) • children’s liturgy catechists • adult formation catechists • weekly collection counters • those who organize social outreach projects such as the “Angel Tree” and foodbank collections • flower-arrangers • bereavement café volunteers • the “Sunday lunch scheme” team • Wednesday tea n’ chat team • monthly soup lunches • Mass live-streaming • “Easy Worship” tech helpers • safeguarding officers • those keeping us on track with health and safety matters • gardeners • parish website support • parish pastoral council members • finance committee members • men’s breakfast group •

Most people help on a rota basis, often once a month, but sometimes less frequently. However often they volunteer, what stands out is their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to enriching our faith community and to sharing the love of God with others in practical ways.

Are you new to the parish and wanting to get to know more people? Are you not so new, but haven't yet taken that extra step to become more involved? Would you like to? Please email Cynthia in the parish office (stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk), introduce yourself, and let her know what you'd like to find out more about. We can't wait to hear from you.

The Parish Pastoral Council



New to the parish... or new-ish?

Would you like to meet other parishioners?

OR find out more about what goes on in our parish community? You are warmly invited to our new parishioners evening. Join us online from the warmth & comfort of your own home.

Please contact the parish office for more information
stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk

Come and join our lively Zoom meet hosted by
Kathryn James (parish pastoral council) & Fr Peter
on Monday 6th March at 8.00 pm

Enjoy warmth and good company here at St Margaret's at our much loved “Tea & Chat” every alternate

Wed from 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Dates for your diary.

15th February & 1st March



All are welcome.

Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.

My wonderful Ukrainian cleaner, who has been in the country for many years, has some time available. Perhaps there are people in the community who could do with some help with cleaning and other household chores. Reasonable hourly rate. Please contact me on 02085600411 and I will introduce you.
Maggie Thomson

