

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 12 DECEMBER 2021 Year C

In Peter writes: Many years ago, I attended a seminar with some recent graduates on the relationship between faith and work. One presentation was entitled 'The gifts of the Holy Spirit in the workplace'. The speaker played a video from an evangelical film company that showed offices of fresh faced, clean shaven and wholesome individuals, a vision that bore little relationship to the 1970s workplaces of my own youth. Maybe things have changed since then but I am not too sure. I was reminded of that presentation when reading this Sunday's Gospel account. St John the Baptist is instructing the tax collectors and soldiers, to neither extort from nor intimidate the local population, and to be content with their pay. This might seem a strange place to begin to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Family Christmas might seem far from the realities of the working world but none of us lives completely compartmentalised existences, and thus the ethos of the workplace and its seductive demands can easily eat away into family life. This might involve the compulsive desire to check email and mobile telephone, to treat your husband and wife as if a member of the hapless workforce, and so on.

These obscure demands are joined by John the Baptist, with sharing your possessions and giving to the hungry. These last two make obvious sense to both religious and secular person alike, even if difficult to put into practise. John the Baptist answered the tax collectors and soldiers in a different way because the moment one steps outside of one's own selfish interest, to grasp the situation of others, it becomes possible to learn something of the human condition, and to be open to what only hope for change might inspire. This hope goes beyond that of earthly progress alone and looks to the more intangible realities of peace and reconciliation, an end to war and destruction. For the Christian these inchoate hopes, as prophesised by Isaiah and Zephaniah, are realised only in the person of Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus at Christmas gives a solid foundation to these hopes, whether they are for nations, peoples or just our own families. These

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (13/12 - 19/12)		
Saturday		10.00 am
Sunday		8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday		10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Rosary (In church)	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 - 10.20 am

hopes might not be realised in every detail, but the definite future has begun with Jesus Christ. Hope has a solid foundation.

The questions raised by St John the Baptist are the necessary prequel to meeting someone greater than anybody could ever imagine, Jesus Christ, the God who is now with us, Emmanuel. The message of Christmas is not a mute statement, abstract fact, or vacuous generality, but a living person who wishes to engage in a relationship with each of us. The coming of Jesus is the source of great joy, a joy that can never be exhausted because it has God's love for us as its origin. St Paul, writing from prison, instructs the Philippians to always be happy, not on their own account alone, or through their own abilities but only because the Lord is near. There is no circumstance when we need to leave God's side. Even in the case of sin, when we have pushed God aside for our own purposes, He remains close in terms of mercy and the readiness to forgive.

The season of Advent is the time to reflect both on these big questions that open us to see the bigger picture, and the answers that faith gives. This bigger picture is not something that takes place in the Church alone, but one that starts on the reflection that every life is always a whole life and not a series of exclusive boxes. The power of the Holy Spirit can potentially permeate every aspect of life, whether family, education, work, or leisure, they all influence each other. St John the Baptist spoke to the toughest members of his society, and they listened, so too in our times everyone is a potential recipient of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk

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 11/12 – Sun 19/12

11/12	Sat	10.00am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood
12/12	Sun	8.30 am	For you the people
		10.30am	Tulia De Vergara RIP Anniversary & Edna McCaw
		6.30 pm	Francis Mooney RIP Ciara
13/12	Mon	10.00am	Truss Davies RIP Paddy Walsh
14/12	Tues	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish
15/12	Wed	10.00am	Daniel Berger RIP anniversary Margo Watkins
16/12	Thu	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish
17/12	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service
18/12	Sat	10.00am	Alexander Kalmar RIP
19/12	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP Jean McGinley
		10.30am	For you the people
		6.30 pm	Ciaren Lynch RIP

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm:

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel.

Weekday Mass arrangement for

December—January 2022

Weekday Mass from Tuesday, 21st December till Monday 3rd of January 2022 will take place at 12.00 noon.



Kindly follow Government guidelines and wear face masks when inside the Church. Please follow the usher's guidelines on seating to be placed in accordance with the plan for social distancing.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rose Blackman, Georgina Lotitto, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Kevin Sweeney, Christopher Cousins, Irena Starzecki & Judith Thomas

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

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



Advent Service of Readings & Songs

Monday 13th December at 7.00 pm.

Guest confessors available.

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 12 DECEMBER 2021	Zephaniah 3:14-18	Isaiah 12	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:10-18
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 9 DECEMBER 2021	Micah 5:1-4	Psalm 79	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45

Sacramental Programmes

Baptism

The next available Baptism courses are as below:

January 12th & 19th 2022

March 8th & 15th 2022

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at these courses is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office.



First Holy Communion 2022

Sessions are now underway. Please contact the parish office for more information. **Applications close on December 19th .**



Confirmation 2022

The course will start after Christmas. Please register through the parish office.



Marriage Preparation

The next course will run at St Margaret's on **Saturday 9th April 2022**. Please contact the parish office to register.



Courses at The Brompton Oratory - **Sat 5th March and Saturday 21st May 2022**. Kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk) for further details.



Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve Mass especially for families **4.00 pm & 6.00 pm**. Advance booking required; bookings open on Sunday 12th December. May we request everyone attending to exercise caution and wear face masks when in the Church.

Mass of the Night—Carols & Readings at **9.30 pm**.
Mass at 10.00 pm

Christmas Day—Feast of the Nativity **8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass**

Feast of The Holy Family (Sunday 26th December) 10.30 am ONLY.

Weekday Mass from 21st December and in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 27 Dec will be at **12.00 noon**.

Advent activities for children

Christmas card making session - to make cards for our elderly and housebound parishioners—Sunday 12th December 11.30—12.00 noon and also a second opportunity to make an Advent wreath if you missed it the previous week. Kindly sign up for a parishioner via the link - volunteersignup.org/BAKYF



Children & Young People's Christmas Party (Fun and games evening) - Friday 17th December

Years 1 to 6 from 6.00 pm—8.00 pm

Years 7 to 11 from 7.00 pm—9.00 pm



Pictures of our afternoon tea party and the Advent Wreath making that took place last week.



Tea
and
Coffee

Glassdoor update:

Glass Door's Statement on Night Shelters for winter 2021-2022

It is with a heavy heart that Glass Door has taken the decision to **not open communal night shelters this winter**. Unfortunately, despite all our best efforts over many months to provide a COVID-safe environment, staff and trustees felt the risks are too great. The transmissibility of the Omicron variant and the related changes to self-isolation rules were important factors in our decision.



This winter, Glass Door will focus efforts on developing our existing open-access services, which include our single-room accommodation project in central London and our busy casework advice service, which operates in partnerships with six day centres in West and Southwest London.

All the work we've done in advocating for the need for night shelters **has led to change**. While we appreciate this may not be the outcome many had hoped for, we are continuing to push statutory bodies to recognise their responsibility to provide rooms to all in need. This is the goal: shelters should only exist for those who slip through the net. Now, due to our collective voice, government is making additional funding available for individual room accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

Whilst this means shelter volunteering won't be happening this winter, there are opportunities to volunteer in our office, at our re-started women's group, our casework drop-in at Chelsea Methodist Church, and at various Christmas events.

For information please see our website: [How Glass Door can help | Glass Door Homeless Charity](#).

Corin Heney on behalf of the Glassdoor team

Fr Peter would like to thank all of you who came forward so willingly to volunteer your time to help St Margaret's parish be part of this service. We know that this will be disappointing news for many, and hope to be able to offer this service in the future.

Winter Soup and Sandwich Service:

We will be running a Soup and Sandwich take away service two days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.00 -6.00 pm starting on Wednesday 17th November.

They are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve guests from 4.30-6.30.

Please contact Isabelle Swann if you would like to be involved: (swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk)

WAYSIDE NATIVITY CAMBRIDGE PARK -5 YEARS OF TRADITION-

Escape the commercial hoo-ha, enjoy a peaceful stroll along the Thames and discover an unusual nativity scene.



Follow the pathway linking the towpath with Cambridge Park and look for a niche in the wall where you will find a little reminder of what Christmas is all about, lovingly created each year for the last 5 years by two local women, Ana and Gill.

Can you help Afghan refugee families get out and about to play outside?



Scooters and buggies needed. Afghan refugee families living in hotel rooms need scooters, pushchairs, buggies, so they can get out for a walk. Double buggies doubly welcome! Also suitcases or holdalls, and men's outdoor warm coats.

If you have something to donate but have not been able to bring it on Sunday 5th, please do not turn up with it on another day, but get in touch with Mary first.

Any queries, ring or text Mary Ibbett 07758 625669

Westminster Cathedral's Annual Christmas Celebration



I am delighted to let you know that Westminster Cathedral's annual Christmas Celebration, a wonderful evening of music and readings for all the family in the magnificent Mother Church of the Diocese, is taking place this year on **Wednesday 15th December and Thursday 16th December at 7:30pm.**

Doors will open at 6:30pm, with organ music being played from 7pm. The programme includes some of the finest Advent and Christmas choral music from across the centuries, sung by the world-famous Cathedral Choir, as well as favourite congregational carols.

Westminster Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will be conducted by Simon Johnson, the Cathedral's new Master of Music.

Tickets are now available at Ticketmaster:

<https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582>

We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral as we celebrate the start of the Christmas Season.