

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## *In Peter writes:*

Stories of forgiveness can often pack a punch because they demonstrate incredible courage in front of evil, and because deep down we know that we too need to travel down the same path of forgiveness. After his release from prison Nelson Mandela reminisced that, 'as I walked out the gate (of prison) that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison'. After twenty-seven years in gaol this was a superhuman effort to forgive and essential step beyond the lost years.

This and other accounts of forgiveness such as that of Eva Moses Kor, one of the twins experimented upon in Auschwitz concentration camp demonstrate the power of forgiveness. Her public pronouncements caused consternation amongst other Holocaust survivors as did her appearance on television with the descendant of Dr Mengele in order to forgive those who perpetrated such barbarities against her. As she wrote, "I knew right away that he would find it an important and meaningful gift. But what I discovered for myself was life-changing. I discovered that I had the power to forgive. That no one could give me that power, and no one could take it away."

Forgiveness sits at the heart of the Christian faith pinned as it is to the Cross of Jesus Christ. He died because of sin, and died for sin, and being Son of God defeated the consequence of sin which is separation from God. Experiencing this separation is possible in life now and it is felt by those who for whatever reason are unable or too traumatised to forgive. They float helplessly in a sea of pain unable to reach the calm of anchorage within the port of God's safety.

The desolation of non-forgiveness and consequent descent into bitterness as the consequence is the reason Jesus addressed this so human of emotions. Non-forgiveness and bitterness crush the ability to love, and so dissolves the spiritual cement that binds us to God. So, when Matthew came to compose his Gospel under divine inspiration, he must have been prompted to remember everything Jesus had said on the need to forgive. Jesus' teaching was becoming true in front of his eyes, in his nascent Christian community. The Gospels, though

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Vigil	Saturday	6.30 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Mon. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat		10.00 am
Thursday Communion Service		10.00 am
Rosary	Mon & Fri	9.30 am
Adoration	Wednesdays	8.00 - 9.15 am
	Friday & Saturday	10.30 - 11.00 am
Confessions	Saturdays	10.30 - 11.00 am
	Sundays	10.00 - 10.20 am

divinely inspired and true, were composed within the life of the earliest years of the Church and so what was remembered about Jesus' life, death and resurrection was remembered through the filter of those early years. For this reason, the Gospel addresses us in our lives as lived rather than as some intellectual abstraction.

Peter speaks for many of us when he thinks that seven times is an act of generosity compared to what others might have done or what he might have done himself before meeting Jesus. Jesus corrects him through the parable of two debtor servants and demonstrates how easy it is to forget the forgiveness offered by others, selfish concerns have deep roots. Seen from beyond the drama we think to ourselves, 'it is so obvious, of course the first servant should forgive the second'. Yet how difficult it is in my own life, to prise open long forgotten sleights, unhappy incidents and moments of victimhood, and to make me aware of how I have affected others.

The liberating power of forgiveness, so effectively shown by Nelson Mandela and Eva Moses Kor, is offered to every catholic through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a now sadly dormant sacrament in the life of the Church. When we seek forgiveness from God the heart is opened both to help in the small moral steps to holiness and to become more effective instrument of forgiveness to others. There is no direct entry to heaven without forgiveness because all of us are carrying the heavy burden of unfinished business. The Gospel invites us to start attending to this unfinished business now because it must be resolved before we could possibly see God face to face and rest in his company, let alone rest in communion with others.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Sep - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Sep

14-Sep	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Sheila Keighery (Praying for peace on her)	Paddy Walsh
15-Sep	Tue	10.00 a.m.	For unemployed seeking work	
16-Sep	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Stephen Fox (Thanksgiving)	Barbara de Souza
17-Sep	Thur	10.00 a.m.		
18-Sep	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Key workers, doctors & nurses	
19-Sep	Sat	10.00 a.m.	All young people	
		6.30 p.m.	No Mass	
20-Sep	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Tim Billington	Su Slattery
		10.30 a.m.	<b>For you the people</b>	
		6.30 p.m.	Peter Dixon (RIP)	Sylvia Dixon

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Maureen Costello, Helen Sweeny, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, Ben, Mark Titmus, 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 and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Donal Dwyer (brother of Mary Ibbett), Rose Mitchell, Ann Noble, Juliane Ditsche, Antonio Lopes, Muriel Kelly, Juliet Grafton, Karina Kinnear

## Bible Alive books available

We have the September edition of Bible alive books at the office. Please visit if you would like to have them or send in a request via email if you want future copies.



## Entrance Antiphon:

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.

## Response to the Psalm

I will leave this place and go to my father.

## Extra helpers needed



All of you who have returned to Mass over the summer will have seen the team of stewards and ushers at each Mass, who greet you with the temperature "gun", record your name and contact phone number for track and trace purposes, usher you to a socially distanced seat and encourage an orderly queue at Communion. You probably don't see that they also stay behind after Mass and disinfect the pews ready for the next congregation.

Our team of volunteers have been very faithful over the last two months but now we need **SOME MORE HELPERS** to share the load.

Please contact us via email [stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk) if you are happy to help, mentioning which Mass you usually attend.

## Contactless Giving is coming to St Margaret's

We are very grateful to all our regular donors who support the parish financially by standing orders, payroll giving or weekly envelopes. For those of you who contribute via the loose plate collection, we will soon have a contactless device that you can use to donate via a debit or credit card. Please look out for this in the coming weeks.



13th September - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiasticus 27:30—28:7

Psalm 102

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

20th September—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:609

Psalm 144

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Matthew 20:1-16

# First Holy Communion May 2021

## Introduction



Preparing your children for First Communion and First Reconciliation is a privileged period for every family and will help shape your child's faith for the years ahead. Participation as a family at Mass prior to the First Holy Communion course, and the memorising of the basic prayers will make participation in the classes much more fruitful and long-lasting.

The course at St Margarets is open for those who fulfil the following criteria:

- a) who live within the Parish boundaries
- b) or who live outside the Parish boundaries but have been coming to Mass here for a substantial period beforehand. The Parish is unable to prepare families living outside the Parish who have had no contact with the Parish prior to the course. Claims that other Parish courses are full will not be accepted.

Application involves the following:

- a) collect a Mass attendance card from Fr Peter after Sunday Mass
- b) at the end of October to collect an application form

The outline programme is shown below. These dates may be subject to change if the government offers alternative guidance about social distancing etc. All classes will be held observing all the requirements laid down by the government and the Church to ensure that both children and catechists are safe.

Please note the Parish is not liable if the government changes travel advice with regard to families travelling to attend the First Holy Communion.

### Dates of classes

All classes start last from 5:15pm to 6:15pm, short break, followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

Classes are compulsory as is attendance at Mass afterwards.

Dates:

7/11, 14/11, 21/11, 28/11, 5/12;  
16/01, 23/01, 30/01, 6/02,  
27/02, 06/03, 13/03, 20/03, 27/03 (First Confession)  
17/04, 24/04, 08/05, 14/05 (Friday rehearsal)

**First Holy Communion: Saturday 15th May 2021 11:00am**

**Fr Peter Newby, Parish Priest**





## Volunteer Stewards required for First Holy Communion, Saturday 26th September

This year's First Holy Communion Mass will be taking place on Saturday, the first at 11:00am and the second at 2:00pm.

The tasks involved include:

1. Taking temperatures, ensuring track and trace before Mass, showing families to their pews and other guests to seats at the back or in the Hall.
2. Assisting at Communion guiding the families up and back to their seats after the children have received Communion
3. Clean the benches and lavatories after Mass.

If possible, I would like to have two teams, one for either Mass. If you would like to help please contact the Parish Office. Traditionally the parents of the previous year's First Communicants undertook this task, but these are not normal times.

Thank you

**Fr Peter**

**VOLUNTEER**



**THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN  
MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

Please find information on Open evenings for 2020

<https://www.cvms.co.uk/admissions/index.asp>

## Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Retrouvaille is for couples with marriages that are struggling, maybe not communicating well, and for those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. It is also for those who have already separated or divorced who want marriage help. Some couples come to Retrouvaille during the initial signs of a marriage problem. Other couples are in a state of despair and hopelessness when they attend the programme. Some couples have been married for many years, while others have been married only a short time. For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing on 12th -15th Nov 2020 Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443.

email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) –  
or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### CAFOD online meeting

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10am**

All are welcome to join CAFOD online next Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept from 1030 to 12. During the meeting you will hear from Maria Gonzales, head of international development. Maria will update you on how your support of CAFOD is helping poor communities overseas tackle even more challenges in light of the Coronavirus Crisis.

Email Tony Sheen [tsheen@cafod.org.uk](mailto:tsheen@cafod.org.uk) for details of how to register. Please continue to pray for the communities we are working alongside overseas.

Tony

**100 Club winners**

**Our Winners for the month of August**

**1st Prize £100/- Chris Smith**

**2nd Prize £50/- Sally Cefai**

Cheques will be posted shortly

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating site)