

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Thirty Third in Ordinary Time - Year A 15th November 2020



In Peter writes:

It was only last week that I began to appreciate what 'echo chamber' and 'virtue signalling' really meant when my Facebook and Instagram threads were deluged with cries of delight at the demise of Donald Trump. This may be just how contemporary politics works but it shows little evidence of independent thought and is just the thought-free expression of universal wokedom. Donald Trump wears his multiple failings on his sleeves while most others hide them away. Behind the surface chaos and shrill arguments lie two very different conceptions of civil society and how much government should intervene in the thought processes and lives of individuals and groups in society. The answer to these questions is the stuff of politics. The Church looks elsewhere.

If salvation rested on the answer to this question, then 'the woke' will claim to have inherited the earth, but as St Augustine pointed out 1500 years ago the City of God is not coterminous with the City of Man. Concluding His public ministry Jesus did not offer comment on Tiberias, Roman imperialism nor much on the qualities of the Herodian dynasty. Jesus concludes His public ministry with two parables on the Christian's interaction with civic society. Both demonstrate an ambivalent attitude. Donating one unit of currency to each servant to engage with the world in the first parable brings differing results, seeing the other with the eyes of Christ changes the fundamental aspirations for life. Neither parable demands neither rejection of the world nor embracing the world on its own terms.

This Sunday's Gospel about the donation of the talent to the servants is often mistaken, especially in Catholic schools, as an additional special gift, an ability to excel at a sport or a profession. Yet the talent is given to the master's servants, those who have engaged in running his household. They know his ways and customs. Therefore, the talent is better seen as the gift of the Holy Spirit that animates them for some definitive service. The servant, who has already benefited from his master's largesse, buries the talent, and does not want to engage with the spiritual drama of life, wishing to reject the gift of life and conscience. The other two servants do

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday		10.30 am
Mon. Tue, Wed, Sat		10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Confessions	By request	

engage and they are rewarded.

If the world could have been saved by slogans, its salvation would have long been secured but slogans possess little staying power, born off as they are by the winds of time. To build the kingdom is patient work owing both to our own limitations and the small circumstances of our own lives. This is where Jesus chooses to conclude His public life, placing responsibility with us to build His kingdom. The drama of the Cross, the Resurrection, Ascension and descent of the Holy Spirit comes afterwards but His final public discourses seem more prosaic than revolutionary. There must be a reason for this methodology and that was to identify the purpose for human action and a new way of looking at the world which might be described as togetherness. 'Fraternity' was the elusive third catchword of the French Revolution, never discovered in the violence and destruction of the Commune. Yet the community of believers established through Baptism, and sustained through the exercise of conscience are the driving force that animates every parish that constitutes the visible Church on earth, and which spills over into the wider world.

The last two Gospel parables in St Matthew's Gospel ensure that there is potentially a place for each of us in the kingdom but this requires our engagement, taking that talent of Holy Spirit and conscience, and using these divine helps to create something beautiful with our lives. This is always human in scale, because, in the words of next week's Gospel, to have seen the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, is to have seen me. The final parables encourage us because their commands are set at our level, and here we must focus. The ease with which one can emote on the internet is a temptation best avoided because it is no substitute for the hard graft of using the talent given to us through Baptism and conscience, to participating in the building of the City of God.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@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: Monday - Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday 14th November – Sunday 22nd November

14-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Hazel Green (RIP 18th Anniversary)	Jimmy Green
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
15-Nov	Sun	08.30 am	No Mass	
		10.30 am	Jim Ehmann (RIP)	Katie Pettinato
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
16-Nov	Mon	10.00 am	Win Winter RIP Anniversary	Winter
17-Nov	Tue	10.00 am	Helen Douglas	Rita Johnstone
18-Nov	Wed	10.00 am	Denis McCarthy RIP	Maggie Thomson
19-Nov	Thu	10.00 am	No Mass	
20-Nov	Fri	10.00 am	No Mass	
21-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Holy Souls	
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
22-Nov	Sun	08.30 am	No Mass	
		10.30 am	Holy Souls	
		6.30 pm	No Mass	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, Patricia Mary Picton (Mary), Arthur Mathewson, Maureen Costello, Helen Sweeny, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, 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 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

Admission arrangement for Catholic Schools

If you wish to apply for a place at a Catholic Primary school for 2021, you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Fr Peter is happy to sign these forms for regular parishioners.

Please bring along your forms to the Church Hall on the dates below to have the documents signed and stamped.

Saturday, 12th December 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Saturday, 9th January 2021 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Response to the Psalm

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

In light of the new Government Guidelines, the Sunday 10.30 am Mass will now be celebrated online for the month of November.



**You can access Mass on
www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk**

Private Individual Prayer



The church will be open for individual prayer on **Saturday mornings from 10.00 am—1.00 pm or by request**. Please send your request either by email or phone.

GETA – Give Education to All



May I, on behalf of GETA and St Theresa's School, thank you all for your recent donations. Your generosity has enabled us to send £2,000 to St Theresa's School to allow them to re-open covid-safe so that students can re-engage with their learning. The academic year in Uganda is from January to December, so their leaving class will be able to take their exams, hopefully with good results, before moving on to secondary education. As the situation continues to improve, other students will return to full-time education in January, so your continued support to provide PPE equipment and teaching materials remains a priority.

To donate please visit our website: www.geta.org.uk and click the 'donate' button, or send cash / cheque / CAF Bank Vouchers, etc. to GETA, c/o 57 Court Way Twickenham, TW2 7SA. If you would prefer to donate by direct transfer (FPI) email david.rose@geta.org.uk for our bank details. Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are an eligible taxpayer.

Many thanks for your continuing support. David Rose, Trustee and Chairman, GETA. Registered charity no. 1167092.

15th November - 33rd Sunday in OT Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-

31

Psalm 127

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

22nd November - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Psalm 22

1 Corinthians 15:20-

Matthew 25:31-46

34th Sunday in OT

LAS POSADA 2020

Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent



Small figures of Mary & Joseph will be travelling through Twickenham this Advent. Innkeepers are needed to host them for a night as they continue their journey. Would you like to welcome them into your home? Innkeepers then become pilgrims as they take Mary and Joseph on the next leg of their journey to the next home they will be staying at.

The tradition of the travelling crib is hundreds of years old and originates from Spain and South America where each evening during Advent "Las Posadas" takes place ("posada" means inn or lodging). Pilgrims re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus, travelling on their journey looking for somewhere to stay for the night. This is a lovely way to do something spiritual in Advent and enhance your anticipation of Christmas and the excitement of receiving again the new life that comes to us with the birth of the baby Jesus. Young and not-so young; singles, couples and families can all take part.

We have made a few adaptations this year to be COVID safe. Mary and Joseph are now plastic figures that can be easily washed and disinfected. Doorstep handovers (without refreshments) will be needed whilst restrictions against gathering indoors are in force. The sign-up sheet will be online. If interested, please sign up for one date on the sign-up sheet at <https://volunteersignup.org/RPFRD> with your name, address and contact details. Ann will then be in touch with further details of Mary and Joseph's journey.

Any questions, please contact Ann Edes on 07837 095 837 or annxedes@gmail.com

November Holy Souls



Every November, the church prays particularly for the Holy Souls and Masses will be offered twice a week for them in November. As Mass will be celebrated online now due to the lockdown, please send in the names by email if you would like the deceased members of your family to be included.

Email- stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk The sheets will then be placed in the basket in front of the weekday and Sunday altars for the duration of November.

If you have already picked up a Holy Souls envelope, please post it through the Presbytery Letter Box with a donation.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 21st November 8:30am Look who we have as our next guest!



Dear Friends,

Well, would you believe it, due to the huge success of our Breakfasts we can now report that our head man, Fr Peter, has agreed to take the stage for our next Zoom breakfast.

So please save the date as this is your chance to blow away those lock-down blues. He has a great story to tell about his early life, what led him into the church and his prodigious taste in rock and blues music.

We will be sending the Zoom joining instructions and more details a few days before.

Best wishes,

Colin Messenger - 07831 246 111



The **Jesuit Refugee Service** are in urgent need of **volunteer drivers** based in London to deliver food and toiletry parcels to our refugee friends as part of our Emergency Response Team. Whilst our current volunteers are doing an amazing job of getting deliveries to each of our friends, we expect that more assistance will be needed as a rise in COVID cases means further lockdown restrictions are likely to be imposed. More information can be found: www.jrsuk.net/volunteer/ or from St Margaret's parishioner Teresa Smith 07726722614

Jesuit refugee service Christmas card appeal

For the last two years JRS UK supporters have sent Christmas Cards to people we support in immigration detention. Christmas and New Year can be a very difficult time for refugees and asylum seekers accompanied by JRS UK. The holiday period can remind people of a time of celebration with their families and the feelings of isolation and loneliness that many experience tend to increase around Christmas time.

We would like to give Christmas cards to as many of our friends in detention and our friends in the community as possible and we would like you, our supporters, to help us write them.

Cards should be sent to the JRS UK offices and we will distribute them in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Please leave your card envelopes unsealed.

In order for us to distribute your card we will need to receive it by Friday 27th November. Please send your cards to: **JRS Christmas Cards 2020, JRS UK, The Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler Street, London, E1W 2QT.** More information and instructions can be found here

<https://www.jrsuk.net/news/christmas-card-appeal-2020/>

ADVENT IN ST MARGARETS

'The Joy of Hope'

This Advent the Parish is running a four-week prayer, discussion and catechetical course entitled 'The Joy of Hope', something in short supply these days. This was originally written by David Payne of CaFe, a well-known catholic broadcaster.

The sessions (online via Zoom) will last an hour, and one series will run on Monday afternoons, led by Angie Keane, music by Gavin Evenhuis, on **Mondays at 2:00pm**, starting on Monday 23rd November, and continuing 30th November, 7th December and 14th December. The same series will also be run on **Wednesdays at 8:00pm** on Wednesday 25th November, Wednesday 2nd December, 9th December, 16th December.

Please email the parish office if you would like to join, to register and receive the Zoom invitation code.

Advent Service of Prayer, Praise and Readings Friday 4th December 7:30pm - 8:45pm

The musicians of St Margaret's will be gathering at suitable distances to play music and accompany a series of Advent readings, read by parishioners in their homes. The evening will be broadcast through Youtube to allow many people to participate in our shared parish preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Christmas Masses – Advance Notice

Christmas might seem a long way off and who knows what the situation will be about the opening of Churches in that period. Please note that all Mass places will have to be booked in advance owing to the numbers wishing to attend (I hope!).

There will be three Masses on
Christmas Eve, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm,
and on
Christmas Day 8:30am and 10:30am.

Many thanks
Fr Peter



Sunday Reflections for **November** kindly produced by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, for **'The God Who Speaks'** initiative,

For more information on the 'The God Who Speaks' in Westminster see <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/> - see newly updated website Also, see the updated website for further resources and ideas <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Message from Olga McLoughlin - Kidney Urgently Needed for my son Christopher McLoughlin. Sole parent to Libby McLoughlin, without it he has less than a year to live. Please contact ladyofleisure6@gmail.com

Mobile—07960 333 461

Everybody's prayers for this situation will be really appreciated.

Message from Head Teacher, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Reception Admissions for 2021

We are proud of our wonderful school and how we celebrate each child's individual uniqueness, talents and abilities and ensure they aspire to reach their full potential.

We are working on enhancing our reputation and raising our profile within the local community, ensuring that our strengths, successes and achievements are well known and understood externally, as well as internally.

On Monday 23rd November 2020 at 9:30am and repeated on Tuesday 24th November at 5pm, we will be holding live virtual events for prospective parents wishing to join St Mary's in September 2021.

To register for the event, email: reply@smi.hounslow.sch.uk with 'Virtual Welcome' in the subject line. Please include any questions you would like answered too. Please pass this information on to anyone who may be interested.

A key message that we want to get across is that although we are a Catholic school, we do not simply offer an education to Catholic children, but a Catholic education welcoming ALL children who are ready to embrace our ethos and values. We place great value on the faith you show in us to educate your child (ren), and we would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support.

Message from the Archbishop Cardinal Vincent Nichols

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

5 November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As we enter this second 'lockdown' and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add these few words.

This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action.

The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer.

Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis.

The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn. Let's do it.

These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world.

May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly,

Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Thank you letter from St Paul's Foodbank

The **Foodbank** team greatly appreciates this encouraging support for the work we do with local people and families experiencing financial hardship - it would not be possible for us to continue doing this without donations from churches, schools, businesses and individuals within our local communities.

This has been particularly true during 2020, when we have seen a huge increase in the number of people needing food parcels and have opened a second **Foodbank** at the Church of the Good Shepherd so we can provide further access to food parcels for vulnerable people at this very difficult time.

If anyone at St Margaret of Scotland would like any further information on our work, please do let me know.

With our thanks and very best wishes,

Foodbank Gearing

Foodbank Gearing

Foodbank Coordinator

E: foodbank@stpauls.org.uk

T: 07763 083049