

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 17 December 2023 - Year B



In Peter writes:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Christian martyr from the Second World War wrote that, 'the celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come'. What an insightful description and message of hope coming from the darkest days of the Second World War. The message offers an answer to those without hope of fast losing hope in our own society.

Returning from lockdown is nothing like the daily conditions of the Second World War, but the process has not been straightforward as one might have legitimately assumed. Life has not resumed its previous course unaltered. Large numbers of people are unable to work because of long-term illness. Working from home, a convenience for some but a habit that has brought an inevitable sense of disadvantage to those who must travel for work and engage with a society that is becoming simultaneously more controlled and more aggressive society. The looting of shops is becoming the norm, undertaken mainly either by those well able to pay or by members of the criminal underclass. Homelessness, poverty, and social isolation have risen exponentially, not returning to levels not seen before lockdown, which were unacceptable even then.

Glancing at the headlines generated by the Covid Enquiry only demonstrated that hindsight is a great thing, and obviously many of those in the government have shown to have made wrong decisions, behaved with little care for those suffering from the disease, and shown to be reacting to special interest groups, doomsters and the over-optimistic. Fixating on past wrongs and failures of officials gives little illumination other than to journalists and political obsessives. Something much more intangible is happening, something much more damaging, the collective collapse of hope that has been the consequence of the lockdowns.

Answers will be found in different places, as hope is primarily religious. Political hope is largely religious hope shorn of its supernatural dimensions with its exclusive earthly concerns. Christian hope is anchored on God's promises that come from beyond the world, that Christians accept took place decisively with the birth of Jesus Christ. Such an incredible intervention was not unplanned, being foretold in the Old Testament, prepared for in a unique way through the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary and the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel. The public announcement of this intervention fell on John the Baptist. This single voice is woven into the Prologue of St John's Gospel. Placed between the magisterial start, 'In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God, and the conclusion; 'The word was flesh and dwelt among us and we saw His glory,' is the bare statement, 'John came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light.'

The birth of Jesus Christ was never obvious first time in Bethlehem, His coming at the end of time is to be like 'a thief in the night' and His coming now is always discreet. Each coming will engage us, and that is our hope, an active participation and ultimate enjoyment of His presence. This is peace. What it will look like, how it will be experienced is the stuff of imagination. The Gospels present John the Baptist as the key through which to grasp Jesus' coming. He wishes to open our minds and hearts to someone greater, someone who is life and who gives life because He comes from before time. Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh brings the eternity of God into historical time. The single voice of John the Baptist inspires us to break open our imaginations and see what can be and what should be. John the Baptist points beyond himself to a new future that can be ours too.

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

Mass Intentions: 18/12 - 24/12

16/12	Sat	10.00am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
17/12	Sun	8.30am	John Winter RIP anniversary	Winter
		10.30am	Tulia Vergara RIP & Edna McCaw RIP	Lily McCaw
		6.30pm	For you the people	
18/12	Mon	10.00am	Aleksandar Kalmar RIP	
19/12	Tue	10.00am	Josephine (Jo) McKenna RIP	William & Anne Bennett
20/12	Wed	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
21/12	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
22/12	Fri	10.00am	Andrea Dona dalle Rose RIP	
23/12	Sat	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	

Christmas Eve

24/12	Sun	8.30am	Alfredo Almirol Jr RIP	Claire & Paul Chapple
		10.30am	For you the people	
		5.00 pm	Edward Preston RIP	Una Byrne

Mass of the Night. Carols & Readings from 9.30 pm

		10.00 pm	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
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PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Catherine Howard, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, 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 Urruti-goity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Jim Poland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

Anniversaries - Janina Jascia, Stanislaus Leszczynski, John Winter, Patricia Margaret O'Callahan, Desmond McGinley, David Mathewson, Helen Colsey, Charles Bendy, Marje Kensit, Alice Bendy, Thomas Goulds, Timothy Exley, Mary Sharratt, Ida Verbruggen

Recently deceased - Gerda Kerrigan RIP, Josephine (Jo) McKenna RIP

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Amen~

December Prayer Intention

For persons with disabilities : We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Entrance Antiphon:

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

Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (18/12-23/12)

Weekend	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday (Christmas Eve)	8.30 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm & 10 pm
Weekday	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	10.00 am
Eucharistic Ser	Thu	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00-10.20am

Christmas Mass times

Christmas Eve Mass—especially for families—5 pm followed by refreshments and hot chocolate.



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 & 10.30 am

Weekday Mass in the Christmas Octave, will take place at 12.00 noon.

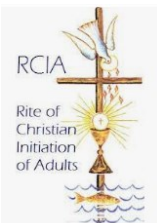
Feast of the Epiphany, Saturday 6th January 2024 12 noon and 6 pm

HOLY HOUR

Our final Holy Hour for the year will be on Friday 22nd December. We will resume again in the New Year on Friday 12th January.

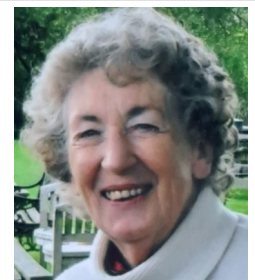


On Sunday, 17th December, at the 10.30 am Mass, Alex, Caroline, Kathryn and Marco will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



We wish them many blessings on their journey of faith.

Funeral notice: Gerda Kerrigan, a member of the parish since 1983, passed away recently. Her funeral will be held at St Margaret's on Thursday 28th December at 11.15 am.



May she rest in peace, Amen.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 17 DEC 2023

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Luke 1

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 24 DEC 2023

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12. 14. 16

Psalm 88

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38



**Feast of the Epiphany - Shared Supper
Saturday 6th January 2024**

Fr Peter and the Pastoral Council would like to invite you to an Epiphany Supper.

Please join us after 6 pm Mass for a culinary Indian themed treat to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

Main meal will be provided; please bring side dish (eg. Naan, poppadums, dahl) or salad or dessert to share.

Please let us know you can make it - sign up sheet is available at the back of the Church.

Cash donations are welcome.

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



Come join us!!!!

Sing at Christmas Eve Mass, 9.30 pm

Come and join us to sing and proclaim the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please contact Gavin for further information on rehearsals and other arrangements. Gavin can be reached by email on gavin.evenhuis@gmail.com.

New parishioners meeting online

Are you new to the parish and would like to find out more about what is going on? Would you like to find out about how to be more involved?



Meet Fr Peter and some of the parish team on Zoom.

Monday 29th January 2024 at 8 pm

Email the parish office for the invitation and link. Stmargaretspmthames@rcdow.org.uk

Anyone who would like to join the children's choir at 5 pm Mass are welcome.



Looking for volunteers to serve refreshments and hot chocolate after 5 pm, Christmas Eve Mass.

Please email the parish office .



Pizza & Prayer - For those aged 12 - 18

An evening to reconnect with friends, together with opportunity for quiet reflection or reconciliation.

Friday 22nd December

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Adoration available in the chapel 6:30 - 7:30 pm; come for just a few minutes or stay longer. Opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation in the library.



Pizza served in the hall from 7:30 pm.

Come and catch up with other teens, reconnect with those from your Confirmation group or make new friends.

The evening is free, but please sign up in advance so we can plan accordingly. [Link to join - <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stmargaretsonthames/events/984/>]

No Sunday evening Mass on December 31st.

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass will resume on 20th January 2024 and will take place when the First Holy Communion children meet.

Little Feet - Parent and toddler group now takes a break for Christmas and will resume on Thursday 18th January 2024. Everybody is welcome! If anyone is interested to volunteer, please contact the parish office.



Westminster Cathedral the mother Church of our diocese has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 November and before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5 December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23>



Note from Twickers Macknitters

On behalf of 'Twickers Macknitters' I am writing to thank Fr Peter for allowing us to come on Sunday to sell our hand crafted items. We were made so welcome by the whole Church Community, who were generous, both in their comments and their willingness to support the charity. It was lovely to see so many children and families coming together.

The total money taken from our sales for Macmillan Cancer Care was an amazing £443.00. An incredible amount which will allow Macmillan to continue its support for people and their families during their Cancer journey. Would you be kind enough to let people know the amount of money they helped raise. All we can say is THANK YOU to everyone. Best wishes,
Janet Walker (for Macmillan Cancer Support)

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES X 2

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Closing Date for applications: Fri. 12th January 2024



Foundation governors are appointed by the Archbishop to serve as his representatives on the governing body of diocesan schools to ensure the Church's mission is upheld.

Governing boards have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The governing body requires people with a mixture of skills and experience and the school would currently benefit from applicants that reflect the diverse cultures within the school and if possible, an interest or experience in sustainability. Training is provided to help governors fulfil their very important role.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications for Foundation Governors from anyone with a child attending St Edmund's School as our quota for this is currently full. If you would like to know more, please contact the Clerk on g.nicholl@st-edmunds.richmond.sch.uk or 020 8894 7898 or visit the diocesan website which can be found at www.rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/serving-as-a-governor

Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

Winners for the month of December 2023

1st Prize No.38 Mary McHugh £100/-

2nd Prize No 10 Ann Edes £50/-

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)



The parish office will be closed for a week for the Christmas break, from mid day Friday 23rd and will re open on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Fr Peter and the Pastoral Council wish one and all a

blessed, joyful and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024

