

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - 18 February 2024 - Year B



In Peter writes: Jean Jacques Rousseau, the 18th century radical French thinker began his work, 'The Social Contract' with the famous statement that 'man is born free and everywhere is in chains.' What could be more appealing to many a teenager thinking that their parents are the proximate chains to which they are bound! Other later revolutionaries, such as Karl Marx have said much the same thing and given good reasons why this must be the case. Such sentiments used to feature in the Labour Party's central manifesto before the mid-1990s.

The above thoughts were a secular shrinking of an ancient idea about our shared condition, of being slaves not just to human forces but to divine forces too. Faith in such a situation was considered a form of liberation from oppression. Exodus, the second book of the Bible, begins the new history of the Israelites after their migration from Canaan, the account of which is found in the chapters about Joseph – known to every school-child of the last 50 years through the medium of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat. God called out from within the burning bush to Moses and vocalises his concern over their slavery, 'Yes I am well aware of their sufferings.' (Exodus 3:7). Moses is to take the people across the Red Sea into the Promised Land where they are to worship God. Thus, begins the intimate interwoven history of God and His chosen people. Grumbling by the Israelites in the desert indicates that not all were convinced of their future, nor that their past existence was in fact as slaves to the Egyptians.

So, as we begin Lent, it is good to ask ourselves if we too are submissive to the powers of the world, or have we found our own personal accommodation with our condition. Many revolutionaries wished to answer this question on behalf of others, and as history shows this led to much bloodshed against those not so enlightened. Christian faith recognises that Jesus Christ has already answered the question, humanity is both in thrall to the powers of the world, and humanity's eyes have yet to grasp that condition.

To the Christian questions of submission are not simply about the structures of society, as it would be for a political revolutionary, but of the need for personal conversion as well. At a key moment in the Gospel of St Mark, in one of my favourite passages, Jesus warns the disciples against the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod. They misunderstand and Jesus asks whether they have eyes that

do not see, or ears that do not hear. Are they without perception? Yet the good news is that Jesus did not give up on his disciples, He exhibited exquisite patience and remained faithful to them. Jesus remains patient with us. These same words are addressed to us in charity not condemnation, in the midst of our busy lives: 'Are we without perception?'

Pope Francis describes this metaphorical blindness and deafness as creating a culture where the 'deficit of hope' is primary. Lent, in his opinion, is the joyful antidote to this deficit because the focus is on what God saw first and what God did first. This the Pope says, explains Jesus' command 'Do not put on a gloomy look when you fast,' because fasting is an exercise of beginning to see with God's eyes and heart. It is thus a moment of hope.

Through fasting faith is no longer seen as nostalgia for a rose-tinted image of the past but as hope for the future. Fasting helps see the world as it exists. One can see, current events, as either the death throes of an old-world order, or the birth pangs for an emerging new world. Strangely both traditional and Catholics share the same lament for the lost past, one for the pre-Vatican II Church of moral and liturgical certainties, the other for the heady mixture of liturgical experimentation, personal certainties and social action. Both positions are now met with general bafflement – surely the contemporary catholic might say that the Church teaches something but surely the Church is

merciful in its application of moral norms. Like most, I imagine, I wish to choose from both sides of the debate, and feel uncomfortable fully immersed in either side.

Charles Peguy, the French intellectual of the early 20th century, presented an image of two elder children holding between them the hands of the younger third. Faith and Charity, the two older teach the third, Hope, how to walk, but Hope being the younger and more eager leads both Faith and Charity forward.

How does this matter for our Lenten journey? It matters because Hope can draw us forward out of our self-obsession, but to do so requires both faith and charity to be nurtured to see and act with God's eyes. Our Lenten practices aim to achieve just that, to see and act with the eyes, ears and heart of 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: 17/2 - 25/2

17/02	Sat	10.00am	Jamie Molyneux RIP	Catherine Sugrue
18/02	Sun	8.30am	Mick Carrick RIP	Gogarty
		10.30am	Michael Judge RIP	The Parishioners of St Margarets
		6.30 pm	Peter Coghlan RIP	Ann Edes
19/02	Mon	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
20/02	Tue	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
21/02	Wed	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
22/02	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
23/02	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
24/02	Sat	10.00am	Peter Smith RIP	Mary Gallagher
		6.00 pm	All the souls in purgatory	Adrian
25/02	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For you the people	

Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

Response to the Psalm:

Your ways, Lord are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (19/2 - 25/2)

Weekend Mass	Saturday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Mass	Mon, Tue & Wed	10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Thu & Fri	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am 10.00-10.20am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Albarosa Maccione, Natalie Shaw and Larry Fogg, Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, Cathy McKendry, Rachel Rose, Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Regan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, 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 Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter

Anniversaries - James McHugh, Marguerite Stone, Jean Brown, Eric Pinto, Dermot Morgan, Eileen Schmidt, Ellen Gallagher, Ivy Ollivier, Thomas CH Yong, Kathleen Balmer, Pat Brazier, Moira McDonnell

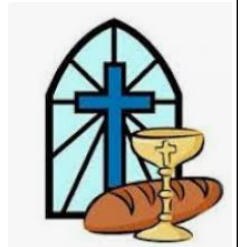
Recently deceased - Prayer requests for Joyce O'Connor RIP (Mo Walker's mum), who has died at the age of 101 years.

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~

February Prayer Intention - For the terminally ill- Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

6 pm Mass will take place when the First Holy Communion children meet. The dates are Feb - 3, 24, March - 2, 9, 16, April - 13, 20, 27, May 4.



Visits to the sick and housebound

If you are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact Deacon Joseph via the parish office.



SAVE THE DATE !

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH at 7:30 pm

Tickets £10 on sale after Mass

The **FULHAM BIG BAND** is coming to play.



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - 18 FEB 2024

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 24

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - 25 FEB 2024

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13, 15-18

Psalm 115

Romans 8:31-34

Mark 9:2-10

LENT AT ST MARGARETS

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

• Lenten Faith Formation - We

Dare To Say, will take place on

Monday's commencing March 4th, followed by 11th, 18th & 25th from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm.

• Lenten Devotions

⇒ Stations of Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour - On Fridays during Lent held at 7:30 pm followed by Holy Hour.



⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 13th March at 7.30 pm



⇒ Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10.30 am

⇒ Live Way of The Cross (A live enactment of the final hours of Jesus' journey until his crucifixion - date TBC)

• Lenten Alms Project- Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

The Cardinal, Archbishop Vincent Nichols has written with the following message:

CARDINAL'S
LENTEN
APPEAL

I have heard directly from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation

they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water



and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims.

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc. to many in the West Bank.

Our Finance Office is ready to facilitate the speedy transfer to the Patriarchate of any such donations.'

Our Lenten Alms project this year will be a response to the Cardinal's plea to help those innocent civilians caught up in the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. Thank you

The Synodal Process – Towards October 2024

May I explain a little further about Cardinal Vincent's request to all parishes to assist him in making a collective response to the first offering from the meeting of Bishops and lay-people that took place last October in Rome. What was it all about? The meeting began with listening with an open heart to what is happening now in the Church throughout the world, both good and bad. The delegates proposed a vista for the future direction of the Church, not in changing the teaching but updating the tone to suit contemporary conditions. Maintaining strongly held beliefs that cannot be communicated will not advance the Church's mission.



The Synod offered ways of communicating the same truths that recognised the fragmentary nature of most people's experience. This is definitely a challenge! This remains a challenge to me because I have always accepted the intellectual coherence of faith, the active relationship between faith and reason, and the richness of catholic culture. Pope Francis is asking us not to be nostalgic for the past, and by implication thinking that Christianity has run its course, but this crisis is the beginning of a new era.

In the spirit of the second rather than the first sentiment, and wishing to assist Cardinal Vincent and our parish, I am suggesting two encounters to discuss the four questions sent to each parish to discuss.

Question 1: How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to: those who have not heard of Christ; those who have ceased walking with Christ; those with whom we worship Christ (those who go to Church)?

Question 2: How do we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

Question 3: What concrete opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

Question 4: What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

For those who wish to be involved and offer any contribution, I will be hosting two meetings (both covering the same material), one on **Friday 23rd February at 6:00pm, and another on Sunday 3rd March at 11.30am.**

THE MUSTARD SEED

You are invited to join our Mustard Seed Prayer Group, whose next meeting is Saturday 24th February followed by 23rd Mar, 20th April, 25th May, and 22nd June 2024.

Mustard Seed is a Charismatic group open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The group begins with tea & coffee at 7.45pm, followed by a period of praise and worship, time for quiet reflection and input from a guest speaker. There is also opportunity for individual prayer ministry, provided by the team.

The evening ends at 10pm.

Everyone is very welcome to come along to group, whether it's your first time or your twentieth!



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Lent Collection at Masses this week



This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk. To find out about volunteering opportunities with CAFOD visit [Volunteer \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Volunteer (cafod.org.uk))



Scan the QR Code and find out more about James and the fishing project in Liberia.

Beata Rozycka
CAFOD Westminster
07789876913



Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony



Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please send the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Recollection for Women

21 February 10.00—12.30 at St Margarets Church Hall

10.00 – Holy Mass
10.40 – First Meditation
11.10 – Examination of Conscience
11.40 - Rosary
12.10 – Second Meditation
12.30 - Coffee & Social



The priest will be available for confessions from 11.00 – 12.00

Join us !

TWICKENHAM CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFASTS WE HAVE A WONDERFUL DOUBLE-HEADER FOR YOU

Our friend David will give us an update on the amazing journey GETA has been on supporting St Theresa's School in Uganda over the past 10 years.

geta
give education to all

TWAM
Tools with a Mission

And our new friend, Phil will be telling us about the work that TWAM does in helping African communities with the tools you have been donating.

Saturday 2nd March 8:15 – 10:00 AM

Enjoy a delicious healthy breakfast

Suggested donation. £10

Venue: St Margaret's Church

130 St Margaret's Road, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL

To buy tickets e.mail: info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org

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