

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 18th DECEMBER 2022 - Year A

In Peter writes:

Of the two angelic salutations, to the Virgin Mary and St Joseph, the first is far better known than the second. This Sunday's Gospel gives the opportunity to reflect on the second, and how the quiet man of Christmas, St Joseph, played a key role. A few years ago, Pope Francis issued his apostolic letter on St Joseph, *Patris Corde* (from the heart of the father) to mark the 150th anniversary of Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Church. Pope Francis presents a vision, positive in tone, and grounds the contemporary vocation of fatherhood on the qualities of St Joseph who 'turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman offering of himself, his heart and all his abilities'. St Joseph's fatherhood allowed the child, Jesus, to grow within a loving family, to learn as every child does the rituals of family life, the prayers of the domestic church and what it means to participate in the shared vision of family life.

The details of our family will be different from those of the Holy Family but there is much to reflect upon with St Joseph about the vocation of fatherhood that complements the Church's understanding of motherhood. This vocation to fatherhood in the broadest context, is the sustained duty of care towards the family, wife and children. Such a vocation needs its imaginative leaps, its renewal and gift of energy from a higher power. Every father's vocation is to respond to the situation at hand within the family. Often this can be a thankless task, living in the shadows, of steering a course between competing demands, of keeping teenager's behaviour within the limits of acceptability, of signposting obvious dangers and consequences deriving from the internet, of resisting the commodification of the body through oversharing and inappropriate content.

St Joseph's life was lived in the shadows too, un-noticed to the world. God purposes will be fulfilled, and will be fulfilled through human weakness not just because of it. St Joseph demonstrates that the vocation to fatherhood 'can work through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses'. What are these weaknesses that Pope Francis speaks of, not simply the obvious but the one of not needing to be in complete control in order to care. The Gospel account of the birth and early years of Jesus, makes known of an angel speaking to St Joseph, of taking the mother and child into his home, of fleeing to Egypt to protect the child, and returning back to Judaea so that Jesus may grow up amongst his people. Each time he follows the divine summons.

Despite the obvious discomfort of travelling to Bethlehem, of fleeing to Egypt, and later not returning back to

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Weekend	Saturday	10.00 am No Sat 6 pm Mass from 16 Dec – 14 th Jan '23
	Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekdays	Mon, Tue, Wed & Friday	10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Thur	10.00 am
Rosary	Monday to Saturday	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

his home town, but to some obscure village in Northern Galilee, Nazareth, St Joseph was obedient to God, who always sees the biggest picture. This fidelity will be communicated to Jesus, so that in the fullness of time, Jesus may say, 'Your will, not mine be done' in the Garden of Gethsemane.

St Joseph's demonstrates that the vocation to fatherhood is to always confront reality with open eyes and accept personal responsibility, even at times when there are no angelic messages. The dynamic of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus demonstrate that God trusted St Joseph to fulfil his mandate, and exhibit what Pope Francis calls, St Joseph's 'creative courage'. God's trust shows that, though powerful forces are buffeting the Holy Family, it is through St Joseph's role in the Infancy Narratives that God's purposes have been fulfilled through weakness and not through wielding earthly power.

The same sense is found in the other participants involved in the events surrounding the birth of Jesus; the grace-filled response of the Virgin Mary to the Archangel Gabriel; the lifelong fidelity of Zechariah and Elizabeth; the creative response to the angelic summons by Joseph; the simplistic wonder of the shepherds; the desire to know and worship exhibited by the three wise men. God's purposes, the greatest of which is to become human and dwell amongst us, in flesh and blood, was not achieved against our will but through the fallibility and weakness of human beings touched by grace. Every Christmas we are invited to participate not just from the outside as bystanders but to take the Christ child into our homes and allow the child to draw out the vocation of spiritual motherhood and fatherhood from each of us.

May I wish you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas and New Year.

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 Sat 17 Dec – Sun 25 Dec

17/12	Sat	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
18/12	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP Anniversary	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	Robert Patrick Bailey RIP	Margaret Crowe
		6.30 pm	John Winter RIP 1st anniversary	Bernard
19/12	Mon	10.00 am	Eileen Thornton Rip	Margaret Crowe
20/12	Tues	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
21/12	Wed	10.00 am	O'Connor family intentions	Jan Harris
22/12	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
23/12	Fri	10.00 am	Quitty Menezes recently deceased	Barbara de Souza
24/12	Sat	10.00 am	For you the people	
		5.00 pm	Christmas Eve (Children's Mass)	
		10.00 pm	Mass of the Night, preceded by carols and Readings at 9.30 pm	
25/12	Sun	8.30 am	Irene Starzecki RIP	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	John & Rita Lavery and Lynda Ban-Lavery	Gerard Ban-Lavery

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cathy McKendry, Sue Rolph, 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 Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Master-son, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew, Theresa Bulpitt (sister of Margaret Crowe) & Michael Barnes

Anniversaries - Janina Jascia, Stanislaus Leszczynski, Patricia Margaret O'Callahan, Desmond McGinley, David Mathewson, Helen Colsey, Charles Bendy, Marje Kensit, Alice Bendy, Thomas Goulds, Timothy Exley, Mary Sharratt, Ida Verbruggen, Catherine Noonan, Mortimer O'Sullivan, John O'Callaghan, Winifred Gosling, Audrey Paul, Kathleen Oliver, William Douglas, Pegg Fleming, Lea Lodi-Bruni, Dennis Leillott, Petra Ledingham, Patricia Parkes

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

Baptism - God's blessings to Conor Gerard Patrick Murphy who was Baptised last week. May the light of Christ burn brightly within him and guide and protect him always. Congratulations to the family.

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.

Response to the Psalm:

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Christmas Mass



Christmas Eve Mass - especially for families 5.00 pm.
Refreshments provided in the hall afterwards.

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 &
10.30am

Weekday Mass in the Christmas Octave, week com-
mencing 26th December will be at 12.00 noon.

Feast of the Epiphany, Friday 6th January 2023 -
10.00 am & 6.00 pm

Tuesday 20th December
Advent Service of Music & Reflection
7:30 - 8:30 pm



Come and stay for a little while; no
need to remain until the end.

Opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconcilia-
tion with visiting confessor.

Calling out all young children
(3+ years) to be part of our
Christmas Tableau taking
place during Mass on Christ-
mas Eve at 5.00 pm. **We**
need shepherds & angels
to join us for the Nativity story.



If your child would like to take part, please contact the par-
ish office.

Adult helpers also needed to serve hot chocolate and re-
freshments after the Mass. Thank you.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A - 18 DEC 2022 Isaiah 7:10-14
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 25 DEC 2022 Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 23 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24
Psalm 88 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Matthew 1:1-25

THERE WILL BE **NO SATURDAY EVENING 6.00 PM MASS** DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK. 6.00 PM MASS WILL RESUME IN THE NEW YEARS ON JANUARY 21ST 2023.

Foodbank Collection that took place on Sunday 11th December



Thank you for all your generous donations.

A group of FHC parents took a mountain of foodstuffs and toiletries to the St Paul's Foodbank in Hounslow on Monday.



"The Mustard Seed Prayer group—an evening of Praise and Worship

Due to unavoidable circumstances, our meet on Saturday, 10th December had to be cancelled.



Our first Mustard Seed will, therefore meet on 28th January 2023.

Flower arranging

May we invite anyone in the parish who might be interested in helping with the flower arrangement from time to time at Church. You will be given basic training. Please get in touch with the parish office.



Friday 6th January 2023
Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council
invite you to a shared Epiphany supper
after the 6.00 pm Mass



Please sign up in advance to allow us to cater accordingly. If you don't sign up, we might not have enough food to serve you. Signup sheet at the back of church or send your names into the parish office.

Bring a salad, side dish or pudding to share. Cash donations on the night also gratefully received.

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

Helpers needed for setting up/serving food/clearing away –

Please find the signup sheet at

volunteersignup.org/W9CAY

Mother's Prayers group – twice a month on Wednesday mornings – 10.30 am -11.30 am

One of the most important things that we can do as a Parish is to support each other in prayer. St Pio of Pietrelcina ('Padre Pio')

says, "prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart."

Did you know that we have a small group of mothers who meet twice

a month to pray for each other's children? If you would like to join this group, please email the parish office. They also pray for other intentions and if you have a specific prayer intention that you would like to be included in their prayers, please email the parish office and they will pass it on.



New members to the group are also welcome.

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GIFT a life in the Spirit course

As we gradually begin to turn our attention to Advent and Christmas, come join us as we start to explore "The Gift," a course that will help us develop a much closer personal relationship with God: The Catechism reminds us that we can actually come to know the Father's love like Jesus did while on earth.

'This is the most beautiful moment of any creature's life: to know that one is loved, personally, by God, to feel oneself lifted to the bosom of the Trinity and to find oneself in the flood of love that flows between Father and Son, enfolded in their love, sharing their passionate love for the world.' Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Come, Creator Spirit.

The first three sessions of the course have taken place before Christmas. In 2023, we will have the sessions on 12th, 19th & 26th January.

The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evangelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis. Sessions are comprised of a 30 minute video followed by small group discussion over tea and biscuits. Please do join us!

**Come and join us for Our
much loved
"Tea & Chat"
Our last one before Christmas**



**December 21st
Wednesday from 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm**

*All are welcome.
Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.*

A Room is available in a St Margaret's 3 bed-roomed flat-share in the New Year.

It will suit a female professional who is a Non Smoker.

Please contact 07913 201 474 for more details.



**St Paul's Catholic College,
Sunbury - Job Opportunities**

St Paul's Catholic College in Sunbury is currently seeking to appoint a highly motivated and enthusiastic Premises Team Leader to join our Premises Team and a Teaching Assistant to work in our SEND Department.



For further information, please go to our school website: <https://www.st-pauls.surrey.sch.uk/information/employment-opportunities>

COME AND EXPLORE
www.sonsofdivineprovidence.org
www.donorione.org

For more information:

Phone or write to Fr Stephen Beale
Tel: 00 44 208 977 2986

E-mail: sbeale@orionecare.org

Tel: 00 44 208 977 5130

E-mail: info@orionecare.org

Don Orione World updates:

Phone or write to Fr John Perrotta
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Registered Charity No. 1088675
Company No. 4249759
ISSN 1475-8393



The Sons of Divine Providence regular magazine called The Bridge is now available on-line (all UL) and in printed version. Please contact The Editor for a printed copy.

Contact detail: The Bridge magazine, 13 Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 4EU.

There are articles from Shepperton and St. Mary's hosting the relics of St. Bernadette and an article about the donation to Ukraine raised by St. Paul's College, Sunbury.

You can order the magazine from the below link.

[The Bridge Magazine \(donorionecare.org\)](http://The Bridge Magazine (donorionecare.org))

The parish office will be closed for a week for the Christmas break from 26th December and will re open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Fr Peter, Cynthia and The Parish Pastoral Council wish you a holy Season of Advent, a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

