

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19 February 2023- Year A

## *In Peter writes:*

Last week at the Upper Thames Deanery, for which I am currently the Dean, one of our number gave a short address about what he was planning for Lent. What surprised me about his proposals was one to reread *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis' first full Apostolic Exhortation. This, he commented was published ten years ago which made me wonder where have all the years disappeared in the meantime! A good proposal I thought and his inspiration made me look once again at the document.

Pope Francis emphasises the joyful quality of the Gospel and quoting Pope Paul VIth, says that 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'. Yet how to understand joy in today's world where cynicism and the race to spurious victimhood seem the paramount public emotions? Lost in this welter of false consciousness are the real victims and the ability to distinguish between human fallibility and deliberate wrong doing. Secular culture is promoted as being a liberation from hidebound rules of conduct, personal and public, mostly represented in the public mind by religion and conservative politics. However, this has left a void of understanding about ourselves and our relationship with each other. Lamentable failures of conscience within private companies and public institutions can only increase because secularism provides thin gruel when it comes to understanding our interconnections within society. Richard Dawkins famously coined the expression, 'the selfish gene' to describe the process of evolution, and even in a subtler form of 'altruistic selfishness' does not offer much hope for the social cement between people.

Joy is really only possible in a culture that sees God, in some mysterious way, at the depth of our culture whether personal or societal. Joy accepts good news as good news, not as some subterfuge. Joy accepts the other person with dignity, failures and all. Joy does not dispense with conscience but sees the full picture of God's creation, and for the Christian, redemption in Jesus Christ. The Oxford English Dictionary defines joy as 'pleasurable emotion due to well-being or satisfaction; exultation of spirit, gladness and delight'. Well-being for the Christian is intimately connected with the other person, normally in family, sometimes community but always for the Christian with God through Jesus Christ. Joy extends beyond the confines of the church but finds its proper source in faith. Joy requires the purification of selfishness and personal openness to grace. Thus, joy in its essence is utterly simple, selfless exuberance.

This selfless exuberance lies at the heart for Pope Fran-

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Tue & Fri	10.00 am
	Ash Wednesday	10.15 am & 7.00 pm
<b>Eucharistic Service</b>	Mon, Thur & Sat	10.00 am
<b>Rosary</b>	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	9.30 am
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

cis for evangelisation and we start with ourselves. Too many Christians, he believes live 'Lent without Easter', forgetting the flicker of light born of personal certainty that when everything said and done, we are infinitely loved. Christianity is an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ that blossoms into an enriching friendship that allows God to bring us beyond ourselves. Strangely we become fully human when we become more than human. This happens only when we have discovered the love that restores meaning to our lives. Having made this discovery how can we fail to share that with others. Perhaps this Lent could be the time to rediscover the joy of the Gospel, the inner certainty of God's love that encourages us to see the world as the place to communicate this joy. Where do we start? We could start both within the Church, coming to Mass during the week, saying the Rosary, attending Stations of the Cross, reading through a Gospel, attending the Parish Lenten course. Beyond the confines of the Church perhaps we might refrain from propagating the constant stream of bad news that negates any possible good actions, and distinguish between personal responsibility and the overbearing weight of sinful structures.

Pope Francis writes about the Church's missionary work to 'those who do not know him or who have rejected him.' The Church, he suggests, invites through attraction through the horizon of beauty, typically seen in the Bible to an 'invitation to delicious banquet'. Questioning the dead weight of bad news, resisting the desire to catastrophise every problem, interrogating every so-called social advance, is the Christian's response to the secular world's agenda. Thinking and speaking in this missionary way is always a learning experience and we do not always get it right, but speaking with joy in our heart, will always lead to an improvement our way of communicating the Gospel and will touch people in ways we might never know.

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 to Friday (9.30 am - 12.30 pm) Emails are not checked out of office hours.

## Mass Intentions Sat 18 Feb – Sun 26 Feb

18/02	Sat	10.00 am	For You the People	
19/02	Sun	8.30 am	Margaret Bigwood recently deceased	Su Slattery
		10.30 am	Gordon McCaw RIP recently de- ceased	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	Gerard Crowley RIP	Joseph Henry
20/02	Mon	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
21/02	Tue	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
<b>LENT 22<sup>ND</sup> FEB – 6<sup>TH</sup> APR</b>				
22/02	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>			
	Wed	10.15 am	Works of charity in the neigh- bourhood	
		7.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
23/02	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
24/02	Fri	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
25/02	Sat	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
26/02	Sun	8.30 am	Margaret Tobback RIP	Winter
		10.30 am	Hernando Lopez RIP	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	Joseph de Souza	Barbara de

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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 Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney Parkes, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew & Jim Polland.

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

**Recently deceased** - Patricia "Mary" Picton RIP (Vicky Phelan's mum), Clare Gillis RIP, Michael Roper RIP, Michael Barnes RIP & Gordon McCaw (Lily McCaw's Father in Law)

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love, My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful to me.

### **Response to the Psalm:**

The Lord is compassion and love.

### **Mass Schedule**

- ◆ There will be no Saturday 6.00 pm Mass on 18th & 25th February. Saturday Mass will resume on 4th March 2023 onwards with an exception on 11th March.
- ◆ Week commencing 27th February, Fr Peter will be away and there will be only Eucharistic Services held for the week.

### **Ash Wednesday**

- ◆ Mass on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February will take place at 10.15 am **(PLEASE NOTE SLIGHT CHANGE OF TIME)** & 7.00 pm.

If you are unable to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday and would like to have the blessed ashes and Liturgy sheet sent to your home, please contact the parish office via email or phone.



### **Holy Hour**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm -9:00 pm and all are welcome to attend. For those not able to attend we will be starting a book of intentions in which you are welcome to write your intentions. Those attending Adoration will present your intentions before the Blessed Sacrament.



### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 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 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details:

husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



7TH SUNDAY IN OT - 19 FEB 2023

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm 102

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

8TH SUNDAY IN OT - 26 FEB 2023

Isaiah 49:14-15

Psalm 61

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 6:24-34

## LENT AT ST MARGARETS

• **ASH WEDNESDAY** –  
22nd Feb Mass at  
10.15 am & 7.00 pm.

• **Lenten Faith Formation** - Lenten Companions course,  
Monday's commencing 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7:30 pm

### • Lenten Devotions

- ⇒ Stations of The Cross - Fridays 7:30 pm
- ⇒ Holy Hour - Fridays 8:00 pm
- ⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 29<sup>th</sup>  
March at 7.00 pm
- ⇒ Live Way of The Cross (A live enactment of the final hours of Jesus' journey until his crucifixion -  
Saturday April 1st 6:00 pm (save the date, more details to follow)

• **Almsgiving** – SPEAR (Local charity, helping the homeless) + School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus, Madagascar (International charity, funds to provide lunch to the very poor children at school)



Lent is an important season in the Church's liturgical year, the time when we take stock of where we are in our faith and prepare for the death and Resurrection of our Saviour. Often we lose sight of the point of this season because we get caught up in ourselves—how hard it is to fast, how bad we are at fasting—and we end up just waiting for the season to be over at Easter. Because of this, we sometimes arrive at Easter with our lives no different than they were on Ash Wednesday.



As a parish, we are seeking to prepare for Jesus' death and Resurrection and experience true transformation in our lives during this powerful season.

To help us in this journey we will be running a series of sessions through Lent on Monday evenings starting 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb, consisting of a short video presentation followed by time for group discussion and reflection. The sessions will begin at 7:30 pm and run for about one hour.



All are warmly invited to join us.


### Lenten Project 2023

This year, the process of selecting charities for our parish has been slightly different from previous years.



The Parish Pastoral Council have decided to choose the Charities for this year.

The 2 charities chosen as our Lenten Project 2023 are

- ◆ SPEAR (Local charity) Homelessness to Independence and 
- ◆ School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus (Primary & Secondary), Madagascar (International charity)

### THERE WILL BE A SHORT VIDEO DISPLAYED ON BOTH THE CHARITIES ON SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY.

You may remember Sr Josephine, the Mexican Sister of the Assumption who came to the 10.30 am Mass while studying English here in London.

Sr Josephine works in one of the poorest forgotten countries of the world, Madagascar. She is working in a country who is on the verge of economic collapse. The Sisters have a school and our project will be to provide lunch to very poor children to enable their families to send them to school. The project would provide the lunch to more than 80 very poor children who attend the school and/or live far away from the school and cannot go home to eat.

Education is one of the great enablers to bring people out of poverty.

## CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



### CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible.

Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather.

Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike.

For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency

Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

## Did you know... ?

Every year, the parish sends a report to the Diocese. This includes information about how people in the parish volunteer in different ministries and parish activities.



We at St Margaret's are blessed with **nearly 150 adults and young people** who support our parish mission—embodying the love of God in the Church and the world—and nurture our parish community in a myriad of beautiful ways. We would like to thank all of you ...

Readers • altar servers • welcomers • hospitality team at 10:30 Mass • ministers of Holy Communion, leading Eucharistic services and visiting the sick and housebound • musicians and singers • church “spring-cleaners” for special occasions • sacramental catechists (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) • children’s liturgy catechists • adult formation catechists • weekly collection counters • those who organize social outreach projects such as the “Angel Tree” and food-bank collections • flower-arrangers • bereavement café volunteers • the “Sunday lunch scheme” team • Wednesday tea n’ chat team • monthly soup lunches • Mass live-streaming • “Easy Worship” tech helpers • safeguarding officers • those keeping us on track with health and safety matters • gardeners • parish website support • parish pastoral council members • finance committee members • men’s breakfast group •

Most people help on a rota basis, often once a month, but sometimes less frequently. However often they volunteer, what stands out is their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to enriching our faith community and to sharing the love of God with others in practical ways.

Are you new to the parish and wanting to get to know more people? Are you not so new, but haven't yet taken that extra step to become more involved? Would you like to? Please email Cynthia in the parish office ([stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)), introduce yourself, and let her know what you'd like to find out more about. We can't wait to hear from you.

The Parish Pastoral Council

## New to the parish... or new-ish?

Would you like to meet other parishioners?



OR find out more about what goes on in our parish community? You are warmly invited to our new parishioners evening. Join us online from the warmth & comfort of your own home.

Please contact the parish office for more information [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

Come and join our lively Zoom meet hosted by Kathryn James (parish pastoral council) & Fr Peter

**on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm**

**The Passion - Trafalgar Square**  
**7th April 2023 Wintershall performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm**

**WINTERSHALL**  
*Experience the story*



<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london> YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/m6rv7de6T4c>

For those who unable to get to Trafalgar Square the performances will be livestreamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>

Please could anyone provide rooms or a flat to rent to a Ukrainian Refugee Catholic family? A married couple and their two daughters (10 and 13) are looking for long-term accommodation in the area. The daughters attend school in Twickenham. They currently rent privately, but the landlord is returning to the property in April. The family work, have references, are trustworthy and can pay reasonable rent for a 2 bedroom apartment. If you think you could help, please email Ali at [portscatho2010@gmail.com](mailto:portscatho2010@gmail.com). Thank you.