

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19th November 2023 - Year A

In Peter writes: This Sunday the Parish celebrates our Patronal Saint, St Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093). She is one of a large number of remarkable women that occupied positions of power both within and without the Church. She is accompanied by St Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231), St Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373), St Frances of Rome (1384-1440). Each in their own way found the path of discipleship within the strict confines of medieval hierarchical and patriarchal culture very different to our own. What could they teach us today in very different social conditions?

Firstly, there is never a propitious time to become a disciple, this path will always be a struggle, and secondly that the path of Christian life is never simply given but must be established. St Margaret grew up in the thick of Anglo-Saxon court politics being the grand-daughter of Edmund Ironside (King of England in 1016. His death created political uncertainty and Edmund's family, including St Margaret's future father, Edward Atheling, were sent to Hungary. There he met the pious German princess, Agatha, whom he married and who bore three children, Margaret, the eldest, Christina and Edgar. meanwhile back in England, Edward the Confessor was crowned king in 1042 but being childless invited Edward Atheling to return to England as a potential successor in 1057. Shortly after returning he died after Edward's own death, Harold Godwinson usurped the throne in January 1066 but a few months later William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at Hastings, and the rest as they say is history.

By then Margaret had fled England landing in Scotland when aged 20, and stepping ashore was greeted by King Malcolm III who proposed to her. It was a number of years before she assented owing to his ruthless nature which was in strong contrast to her own devout demeanour. King Malcolm persuaded her to change her mind, by suggesting what good she could achieve as Queen. So for 23 years their marriage flourished and she did indeed establish abbeys and schools, bringing the rich catholic faith to bear on Scottish society. One of their daughters married King Henry I of England, known later as Good Queen Maud on account of her holiness. After her death, Abbot Turbot, her spiritual adviser wrote an account of

her life describing her as 'a virtuous woman, and in the sight of God she showed herself to be a pearl, precious in faith and in all her good works.'

So, what could St Margaret offer our parish today, as patron saint of Christian mothers, in in a very different social situation. Her contribution brought a new richness and depth to existing Scottish society. The same sort of contribution is as necessary to day as in the Early Middle Ages. Every society requires depth, of seeing beyond the immediate concerns of markets and employment, and the distractions of contemporary life. This might be described as the rich soil, commended in the Parable of the Sower where the reality of love, forgiveness and reconciliation becomes the context within which all life, family life too, is lead.

Love, forgiveness and reconciliation are equally demanded of men, husbands and partners too, yet there is a unique female domestic contribution to these realities. St Margaret was King Malcolm's personal evangelist through her piety and charity. She changed him and over the years of their marriage, Scotland went through a Golden Age. If one were to speak of the vocation of motherhood, and without minimising the long hours of commitment, often unknown and unrecognised, it would lie here, of being an evangelist through fostering a family culture open to faith. Through this life for others, the potentially rich hummus of love, forgiveness and reconciliation, and service contributes to enriching the soil out of which our family cultures grow. By extension that culture extends into our parishes and our communities.

St Margaret's life might be seen as that of a victim, being pushed and pulled one way or another, a pawn in the machinations of political both in the dying years of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom and warring clans of Scotland. Yet through her faith and piety she created something remarkable with her life despite the circumstances. She becomes for us an inspiration, personally and collectively in this Parish. There is never a time, where with good grace and common sense, live and preach the love, forgiveness and reconciliation of Jesus Christ made possible through the Church.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk • Phone - 020 8892 3902
Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby; Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

Mass Intentions: 18/11 — 26/11

18/11	Sat	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
19/11	Patronal Feast of St Margaret of Scotland			
	Sun	8.30am	For all deceased in Hobbs, Jalcakova and Hrinova family	Elizabeth Hobbs
		10.30am	Erich Fuchs RIP	Roswitha Fuchs
		6.30pm	For the Holy souls	
20/11	Mon	10.00am	For you the people	
21/11	Tue	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
22/11	Wed	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
23/11	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
24/11	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
25/11	Sat	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
26/11	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Tom & Terry Martin RIP	Mary Martin
		6.30pm	For the Holy souls	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Girda Kerrigan, 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 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 - Carmel Murray, Bernard Cunningham, Gerald McDonnell, Mary Bridget Maguire, Angela De Souza, Annie Swan, Irene Stanley, Keith Anthony Mathewson, Myles Murray, Vyvien Leyel, Nina Gumbleton

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~

November Prayer Intention

For the Pope : We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (20/11-26/11)

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

Advent Giving Tree

This Advent we will be giving to the homeless of our diocese working in partnership with the Passage, the charity of the archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



Children will also be involved this year. While adults can select a label with an essential item (clothing/toiletries) requested by the Passage, children can select labels with a task for them to perform to help others together with a prayer intention.

Items should be returned to church, not earlier than the third Sunday of Advent when they will be collected for distribution to those in need.

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.



The Year of the Council: Sharing Faith Course

The Wednesday evening, Year of Council, Faith Sharing course for 22nd and 29th November has unfortunately been cancelled. It will run again in Lent.



"The Mustard Seed on Saturday 25 November 2023 at 8:00 in the Church Hall, Tea and coffee at 7:45



We are delighted to have Tim Stevens from CAFE speaking and encouraging."

On Saturday 16 December the Mustard Seed prayer group will present, "Shine your Light." An initiative of the National day of Prayer and Worship which is all denominations joining together for praise and worship and to spread the Gospel.

Please see www.shineyourlight.org.uk

We will have an evening of praise and worship music suitable for Advent with readings and reflections. We will offer hospitality and, an opportunity for prayer ministry. A great opportunity to get in the right Spiritual place for the birth of our Saviour Jesus!

Parish Bingo night - Thank you

What a great night we had last Saturday at our family bingo night. A huge thank you to our amazing



"bingo maestro" Dan (son-in-law of Mary McHugh) for making it such a fun evening full of laughter and entertainment. Thank you to Mary for being the inspiration behind the event, Kathryn for all her hard work in organising, preparation and kitchen management on the night, to Kathryn's team of helpers (Marian, Cynthia, Leon and Ann) and to the very many parishioners who donated the lovely prizes.

The evening raised **£712/-** which will go to help pay off the loan (£80k) that is outstanding for the refurbishment works to the hall and basement.

Does anyone else have any good ideas for a parish fundraising evening? Could you pull together a team of friends to make it happen? Please contact Cynthia in the parish office if you would like to organise an event.

Join us in London on Saturday 9 December to call for leaders at COP28 to act on Pope Francis' call.



Thanks to you and thousands of other Catholics, hundreds of MPs have heard Pope Francis is demanding urgent action from leaders to tackle the climate crisis.

The Pope is so determined to call for action at COP28 that he's going to attend the talks himself. So we're inviting you to share his message more widely and join us as we march in solidarity with those on the frontlines of the climate emergency.

To Sign up - <https://click.email.cafod.org.uk/?qs=f8f55fb8f667f5e0886777ebde4446c061ce65a07f5ad1dc26eac3d86f3d3d4060d3cf584d91f0d127ec3535d4c2b47fb4aa456cee05cc0085d1f1c796b84646>

The march will be one of countless protests taking place around the world demanding action from governments as they meet at the summit.

Like the Holy Father, we'll be calling for leaders to push for an end to the fossil fuel era, and so we'll be carrying placards reminding leaders we have 'No faith in fossil fuels'.

The plans for the route and timings for the march are being finalised, but we expect to start gathering for the protest around 11:45am. Sign up to let us know you're coming and we'll keep you updated when plans are confirmed.

We need helpers to clean the Church

Could you help?

Saturday 25th November

10.30 am—1.30 pm



Could you spare one hour or so to help spruce up the Church.

Lots of small jobs need undertaking. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning. Refreshments provided.

Please sign up at the back of the Church or drop a note to the parish office, or even just turn up on the day. More information, email stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk

Or reach the parish office: 020 8892 3902

"Duke of Edinburgh" medal candidates are welcome to participate as part of their volunteering credits."



Recommissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve the parish community in important ways, not only assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, but also taking Communion at home to our sick and housebound parishioners and leading weekday Eucharistic Services when Fr Peter is away. We thank them for their service.

There will be a recommissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist on the 1st Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2023 at all Masses.

If any minister is unable to attend Mass on 3rd Dec, would you please let Cynthia in the parish office know so that an alternative date can be arranged for you.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, especially if you might be able to occasionally visit one of our sick and housebound parishioners, please speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Joseph.

The Parish Pastoral Council



Embracing Age Classical Music Concert Friday 1st December

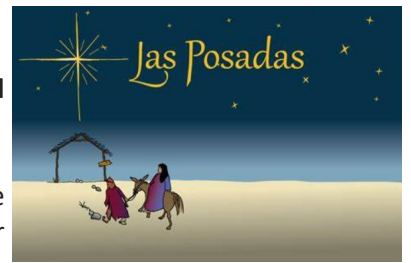
Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start. Bar and light refreshments available.

Free entry, but booking is essential. There will be a collection at the concert and donations made on the night will be match funded through The Big Give.

To book visit embracingage.org.uk/concert or phone 07735 332584

LAS POSADAS 2023

Posada "innkeepers and pilgrims"



Thank you to all who have agreed to be part of our Posada this Advent, where Mary & Joseph will be journeying through Twickenham and environs, staying each night with a different family.

There are about 5 nights left on the signup sheet, so this is a holding message that lets you know that I will be in touch again in a week or so with the specific details about who will be bringing Mary & Joseph to you, and who you will need to take them on to the following day. If you know of other families who are thinking about signing up but have not done so yet, please encourage them to do so. The link is volunteersignup.org/QAETJ

In the meantime, in case you have not participated in previous years, please contact the parish office and we can share further details with you.

Hoping this Advent will bring you many blessings.

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

Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the

Assumption Sisters on Sunday 3rd December 2023 in Kensington.

Young people are invited for a day retreat to prepare spiritually for Christmas, with reflections, prayer, adoration, and confessions. Venue:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock, London W8 4BB. Timings: Mass at 12.15pm, Lunch at 1pm, Retreat from 2pm-5.30pm. Donations only. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

With thanks and best wishes,
The **Assumption Sisters'** youth ministry team

Religious of the Assumption

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www.assumptionreligious.org | www.assumptionvolunteers.org.uk