

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 19 DECEMBER 2021 Year C

Fr Peter writes: Last week I was invited but unable to participate in a discussion as to the real meaning of Christmas. There is no real meaning to Christmas in the sense commonly understood. There are only the Christmasses we celebrate amongst family and friends. These celebrations do possess meaning to their participants and they share many characteristics in common: a shared meal, giving of presents especially to children, a walk, a visit to extended family.

What does unite all these celebrations and might be called the true meaning of Christmas is the source of all such activity. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the breaking into the world, the Word made flesh, anticipated nine months earlier at the Annunciation. The birth of Jesus Christ begins the fragile public visibility of the God in human form. Twelve days later the arrival of the three kings demonstrates that this birth has the broadest significance and unites the world of faith, Jesus born of the line of David, and the world of reason: 'we saw the star rising in the East'. Every true meaning of Christmas stems from this gracious action of God and nothing else. Embracing both the religious and the secular, each celebration engages with either the religious, or the reasonable and or perhaps both. Thus, every celebration may be judged on its individual characteristics should that be necessary.

Those who talk about 'the real Christmas' often fail to grasp that the line between the religious and the secular is not hard and fast. Thus, there is no facile split between the religious Christmas and the commercial Christmas. Both the religious and the secular are connected through 'culture' which could be defined as all those practices, customs and rituals that make up society. Both faith and reason always have expression in our own lives and our own society. It is perfectly possible to have a religious Christmas that is overtly commercial and to have an enjoyable low-key secular Christmas. Too often journalists write as if every person is somehow completely passive in front of the customs of their

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (20/12 - 26/12)		
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday		12.00 pm
Eucharistic Service	Tuesday	12.00 pm
Friday - Christmas Eve	4.00 pm & 6.00 pm (By bookings Only) & 10.00 pm	
Saturday (Christmas Day)	8.30 am & 10.30 am	
Sunday (THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH)	10:30 am	
Rosary (In church)	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

society. There is no need to mindlessly conform, nor to be beguiled by journalists, bloggers or Facebook bores, writing about the perfect Christmas lunch, the cottage in the country, or of the party-season excess (not this year) followed by Dry January. Such writing simply demonstrates the lack of imagination to see that other forms of celebration are perfectly possible. Theirs does not have to be ours.

So, what might the real meaning of Christmas be to the Christian? God breaks into the world in the deepest way possible, by taking human flesh, and thus brings forward the end of history into my historical time. The public life of Jesus invites to benefit from His loving mercy, engage me in His mission, and actively participate in building His kingdom. This involves all those periodic celebrations that sustain family life and everything that makes shared life worth living. Christmas is a special moment then to sustain our families, to recharge our batteries and pass from darkness towards light, given solid foundation in the Gospel. We must judge for ourselves what is the appropriate form of celebration for our own families. However, we celebrate the true meaning of our Christmas derives from the one source, the birth of Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem.

May I wish you and your family every blessing this Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr Peter

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk

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 18/12 – Sun 26/12

18/12	Sat	10.00am	Alexander Kalmar RIP	
19/12	Sun	8.30 am	Desmond McGinley RIP	Ann Edes
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Ciaren Lynch RIP	
20/12	Mon	12.00pm	Desmond McGinley RIP anniversary	Jean McGinley
21/12	Tues	12.00 pm	Eucharistic Service	
22/12	Wed	12.00 pm	Eileen Kelly RIP	
23/12	Thu	12.00 pm	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
24/12	Fri	Christmas Eve	4.00 pm The families of St Margarets Parish	
			6.00 pm Edward Preston RIP	Una Byrne
			10.00 pm For you the people	
25/12	Sat	Christmas Day	8.30 am John & Rita Lavery and Lynda Ban-Lavery	Gerard Ban-Lavery
			10.30 am Manuel Alarcon RIP	Gerard Ban-Lavery
26/12	Sun	10.30 am	The deceased relatives and friends of the Winter family	
Feast of the Holy Family				

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rose Blackman, Georgina Lotitto, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Kevin Sweeney, Christopher Cousins, Irena Starzecki & Judith Thomas

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

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



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:

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Weekday Mass arrangement for

December—January 2022

Weekday Mass from Wednesday, 22nd December till Monday 3rd of January 2022 will take place at 12.00 noon.



Time and Talent

May I thank all those who completed the 'Time and Talent' section of the recent Planned Giving appeal. Despite the onset of the next wave of Covid, the parish can look forward to the next generation of helpers in St Margarets. My hope is that everyone who signed up will be contacted in the next week, and once life returns to normality, we all look forward to benefiting from your generosity in offering to serve the parish.

Fr Peter

Readers' Training Sessions (January & February)

Either **Sunday 16th January at 2.30 pm**

OR

Wednesday 19th January 4.00 pm



Guidelines to follow when at Mass



Please remember that facemasks are now mandatory for adults in places of worship, unless you have an exemption.

If you feel at all unwell, please do stay at home.

Please follow the usher's guidelines on seating arrangements, to be placed in accordance with the plan for social distancing.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 19 DECEMBER 2021

Micah 5:1-4

Psalm 79

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 25 DECEMBER 2021

Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalm 95

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Sacramental Programmes

Baptism

The next available Baptism courses are as below:

January 12th & 19th 2022

March 8th & 15th 2022

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at these courses is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office.



First Holy Communion 2022

Sessions are now underway. Please contact the parish office for more information. **Applications close on December 19th .**

Confirmation 2022

The course will start after Christmas. Please register through the parish office.



Marriage Preparation



The next course will run at St Margaret's on **Saturday 9th April 2022**. Please contact the parish office to register.

Courses at The Brompton Oratory - **Sat 5th March and Saturday 21st May 2022**. Kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk) for further details.



Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve Mass especially for families **4.00 pm & 6.00 pm**. Advance booking required; bookings open on Sunday 12th December. May we request everyone attending to exercise caution and wear face masks when in the Church.

Mass of the Night—Carols & Readings at **9.30 pm**.
Mass at 10.00 pm

Christmas Day—Feast of the Nativity **8.30 am & 10.30 am** Mass

Feast of The Holy Family (Sunday 26th December) **10.30 am ONLY**.

Weekday Mass from 21st December and in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 27 Dec will be at **12.00 noon**.

Children & Young People's Christmas Party



- It was a very difficult decision to take but sadly, we have to announce that the Christmas party had to be cancelled. We are deeply sorry to all the children who were looking forward to this.

REPAIR CAFE

Twickenham Repair Café

"Twickenham Repair Cafe" in St Margaret's Hall

Do you have a talent you would like to put to good use which would help avoid unnecessary waste and make our environment more sustainable? Then look no further.

Following our recent Men's Breakfast presentation by Peter Desmond focussing on local initiatives, we are looking to set up a "Twickenham Repair Cafe."

The idea is that items can be brought along for a volunteer repairer with the appropriate expertise to not only repair the item (hopefully!) but, at the same time, share their skills to give you the confidence to do your own repairs in the future.

We are seeking repairers with a range of skills to help us make the project a reality: mechanics (e.g. repair bikes), electronics (audio / video equipment), electrician (toasters / irons, hair dryers, etc.), fabrics and yarns (repair garments, zips, soft toys, etc), pottery & ceramics (vases, crockery), jewellery / clocks / watches, etc. Or do you have another skill you can offer?

So, over to you. If you want to volunteer your services, or just find out more before committing yourself, then contact Colin Messenger on colinmessenger1@gmail.com or talk with one of our team. Many thanks.

Twickenham Repair Cafe Team. Pat, Gavin, Joe, Cliff, David, Colin

Congratulations to our
100 Club Winners
Winners for the month of December

1st Prize No. 79 £100/- Deacon Joseph Estorninho

2nd Prize No 64 £50/- Carmel Hill

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)

Glassdoor update:

Glass Door's Statement on Night Shelters for winter 2021-2022

It is with a heavy heart that Glass Door has taken the decision to **not open communal night shelters this winter**. Unfortunately, despite all our best efforts over many months to provide a COVID-safe environment, staff and trustees felt the risks are too great. The transmissibility of the Omicron variant and the related changes to self-isolation rules were important factors in our decision.



This winter, Glass Door will focus efforts on developing our existing open-access services, which include our single-room accommodation project in central London and our busy casework advice service, which operates in partnerships with six day centres in West and Southwest London.

All the work we've done in advocating for the need for night shelters **has led to change**. While we appreciate this may not be the outcome many had hoped for, we are continuing to push statutory bodies to recognise their responsibility to provide rooms to all in need. This is the goal: shelters should only exist for those who slip through the net. Now, due to our collective voice, government is making additional funding available for individual room accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

Whilst this means shelter volunteering won't be happening this winter, there are opportunities to volunteer in our office, at our re-started women's group, our casework drop-in at Chelsea Methodist Church, and at various Christmas events.

For information please see our website: [How Glass Door can help | Glass Door Homeless Charity](#).

Corin Heney on behalf of the Glassdoor team

Fr Peter would like to thank all of you who came forward so willingly to volunteer your time to help St Margaret's parish be part of this service. We know that this will be disappointing news for many, and hope to be able to offer this service in the future.

Winter Soup and Sandwich Service:

We will be running a Soup and Sandwich take away service two days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.00 -6.00 pm starting on Wednesday 17th November.

They are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve guests from 4.30-6.30.

Please contact Isabelle Swann if you would like to be involved: (swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk)

WAYSIDE NATIVITY CAMBRIDGE PARK

-5 YEARS OF TRADITION-



Escape the commercial hoo-ha, enjoy a peaceful stroll along the Thames and discover an unusual nativity scene. Follow the pathway linking the towpath with Cambridge Park and look for a niche in the wall where you will find a little reminder of what Christmas is all about, lovingly created each year for the last 5 years by two local women, Ana and Gill.

Peace Sunday

Peace Sunday, the day when the Pope's message for World Peace Day is celebrated in our parishes,



will take place on 16th January 2022. The theme of the Pope's message for this year is 'Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace'. For resources to assist in this celebration, please visit Pax Christi's website at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022/>

Mass for World Day of the Sick – Provisional Arrangements. The annual Mass for the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th February 2022 at Westminster Cathedral. We are hopeful that the Mass will go ahead as planned and that we'll be able to welcome all those who wish to attend in person. However, at the time of writing, it is unclear whether this will be possible. Thus, plans are provisional at this stage.

Anyone who wishes to attend with wheelchairs may please contact their respective parish office so that adequate provision can be made in the Cathedral.

Further information will be circulated closer to the date.

Selecting the right care at home is a personal experience.



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JOIN OUR TEAM - looking for a part time role or caring? Contact us.