

# ST MARGARETS PAGE

1st Sunday of Lent (A)

1st March 2020



## *In Peter writes:*

Now that the season of Lent is underway many of us can reflect how our Lenten intentions are faring in real life. Are we remaining faithful to our original intentions to give up some craving whether food or drink, or to read some scripture every day, spend some time in prayer, of becoming more involved in the spiritual dynamics of Mass? Maybe the first few days have been a jolt and one has the overwhelming impression of lacking any willpower whether in prayer, fasting or almsgiving. This is not the end of the world because it is Jesus' fidelity to His Father that remains fundamental. The Cross and Resurrection are His achievements not ours. The believer participates in His victory over sin, death and entry into new life. Therefore, failure to even maintain a week's discipline is not the cue to give up but to reassemble one's spiritual forces.

The best response to failure is to reflect on where is the Holy Spirit alive in me today? We might ask, how am I an ambassador of Jesus, to use St Paul's expression, today? This means discovering where grace is making me a better person than I would be otherwise. Everyone has experienced the red mist of anger and annoyance cloud their judgements and words, so maybe in all the cases where we forbear despite provocation, His grace is at work and He does make us more patient, more tolerant and equitable. The same dynamic applies to other aspects of our lives too. Once the source of the gift is recognised then His spiritual power becomes gradually absorbed into our souls, and becomes almost second nature. This action of absorption is simultaneously both a divine initiative and an act of conscious human appropriation. Holiness is being imitative of Jesus within our own lives.

The experience of failure in front of our Lenten exercises is therefore not fatal and demonstrates that being tempted is not always sinful. The beginning any spiritual journey involving moral change gives the impression that the experience of temptation is always sinful simply though engaging in such thoughts. Failure to fulfil our Lenten exercise reinforces this image. Perhaps another strategy is advisory and instead start from strength. Where is the Holy Spirit already at work? This tells a different story and now temptation becomes a challenge. To seek where the Holy Spirit has been at work is also to discover where temptation was indeed successfully resisted.

This Sunday's Gospel describes the Temptations of Jesus in the desert that immediately precede His public life. Jesus does not ignore the temptations, shutting His eyes and closing His ears, pretending they are not there. He sees through their shallow pretensions. This should be true for us, that we see through the pretence of the temptations that assail us, not claiming that sanctity involves no temptation. Instead we recognise that resistance to all temptation however tough is always possible through grace. The confidence that the power of grace brings should help us

### Mass Times & Liturgy Services

<b>Vigil</b>	Saturday 6.30pm
	Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.30pm
	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 10.00am
	<b>Thursday Communion Service 10.00 am</b>
<b>Rosary</b>	<b>Monday &amp; Friday 9.30am</b>
<b>Adoration</b>	<b>Wednesdays</b> 8-9.15pm
	<b>Fri</b> 10.30-11 am, <b>Sat</b> 10.30-11.00am
<b>Confessions</b>	<b>Saturdays</b> 10.30-11.00am
	<b>Sundays</b> 10.00-10.20am

once again take up our Lenten observances as we prepare for the life of the Spirit that marks the conclusion to the Easter season, the Feast of Pentecost.

The Temptations that Jesus faced touched the very heart of His mission, to replace the Word of God with social control, doubts about the goodness of God and the possibilities of worldly power. The three temptations are highly plausible responses to the different crises facing the world today. No one would be against feeding the world, nor replacing God's commands with another morality as the situation demands, nor that world power could be exercised for the good of all people. Any brief review of recent history would demonstrate how far humanity is from realising these goals. Every attempt at a communist style society has led to mass murder and starvation; the implosion of the 1960s-1970s sexual revolution is there for all to see in the Me Too movement which raises the question as to whether accepting the morality of what most people think appropriate; and any attempts at world government through the UN has been fitful at best.

The reasons for this are that the temptations offered by the devil bypass the mission of Jesus, that is the conversion of humanity through lifting off of the weight of sin and giving the gift of grace. Only a converted humanity can feed the world, can embrace the goodness of God, and can use power for its proper ends. The temptations presented to Jesus touched the heart of his mission and so by example we may ask ourselves what are the specific temptations that touch the heart of my own mission as a husband, wife, mother, father, son or daughter. These temptations always attack the roots of relationships through superficially attractive means. We may stumble through our Lenten practices but if we can identify some of these temptations for ourselves, this will have been a worthy spiritual exercise.

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for Web: <https://www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk>

**Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby.** Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 am –11.30 am

### 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

Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we have sinned.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### The Sick:

Janet Mc Allister, Ben, Mark Titmus, Mary Ibbett, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Peter Coughlan, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Ethan Knott, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Francesca Bianchin, Sydney and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Donal Dwyer (brother of Mary Ibbett), Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

Anniversaries Thomas CH Yong, Kathleen Balmer, Pat Brazier, Moira McDonnell, Harold Livermore, David Chow, Neville Stracey, Rosie Noaks, Rita Kabat, Ellen Bailey,

Deanery Intentions: For Fr Dominic Byrne and parishioners at Hampton-On-Thames

### **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March after 10:30am**

This will be an opportunity to ask members of the Pastoral Council questions about what has been happening over the last six months, what you would like to happen in our community in the future. Fr Peter will also explain the practicalities of the summer building campaign for Project 2020 (the refurbishment of the Hall, lavatories and basement).

Fr Peter

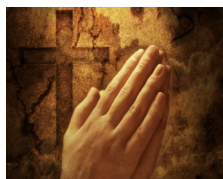
### **World Day of Prayer**

Praying with Zimbabwe

Friday 6th March 10.30 am

All Hallows Church

Everyone is Welcome!! Refreshments will be served afterwards.



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday 29th February - Sunday 8th March**

<b>Sat 29th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b> <b>10.30-11.00am Adoration</b>  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	For you the people  For the homeless
<b>Sun 1st</b>	<b>8.30am Mass</b>  <b>10.30am Mass</b>  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	Nowell & Monica Anderson (Int)  Stanislawa Wozniak RIP (Sue Rolph & Peter Sweetman)  Carmen Bourne RIP (Erica Walker)
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	9.30am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass</b>	Mary Bridget Dunford (Annv)
<b>Tue 3rd</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Private Intentions (Private)
<b>Wed 4th</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Fr Christopher Gawecki RIP (Gawecki Family)
<b>Thurs 5th</b>	<b>10.00 am Communion Service</b>	
<b>Fri 6th</b>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b>	For the sick of our Parish
<b>Sat 7th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b> 10.30am-11.00am Adoration  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	For you the people  For the homeless
<b>Sun 8th</b>	<b>8.30am Mass</b>  <b>10.30am Mass</b>  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	For you the people   Sally O'Shaunessy RIP (Walker)

**Fr Tim Redmond**, Missionary of St Patrick, writer, veteran of the Camino and Via Francigena, and biblical scholar will give two talks with discussion as we continue on our Lenten Pilgrimage. Fr Tim says Mass at St Margaret's on Friday mornings.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**  
**(Tea and Coffee available from 7:00pm)**

***WALKING TO JERUSALEM WITH  
ST MATTHEW'***

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**  
**(Tea and Coffee available from 7:00pm)**

***'THE LAST WEEK IN JERUSALEM WITH ST  
MATTHEW'***

These talks will help us deepen our spiritual pilgrimage towards Easter.



1st March—1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Psalm 50

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

8th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 32

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

## Project 2020

May I update the Parish on the status of the appeal with regard to the refurbishment of the Hall, facilities and basement. Thank to everyone who has contributed so far and I am very pleased to say that the total donated or pledged is now

**£80,600**

The appeal total is £100,000, of which we have now raised just over 80% which is a great achievement in the time. If you would like to contribute to the appeal and help the Parish to achieve this target please do so. The Church has always been a mass donor society, and every parish relies on the contributions of parishioners for its continued existence. The cost of refurbishing the hall and facilities is being mitigated by the future rents from the Hall which have been bundled together to create a Diocesan loan to the Parish. Therefore it is very desirable for the good financial order of the Parish that the £100,000 target is met.

Everyone will benefit from the refurbishment and so may I ask those who wish to contribute and have not done so please make this task a priority. Thank you to all those who have already contributed. It is marvellous that the Parish has got so far already.

**Fr Peter**



**CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day** on Friday 6 March is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for sixty years, is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family.

Please collect your Family Fast Day envelope this week and give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe - continue their vital work.



## Welcoming newcomers to St Margaret's parish

This Lent, St Margarets will have a special focus on welcoming newcomers to the parish.

**For those attending Sunday 10.30 Mass:** At coffee after 10.30 am Mass, there will be two tables where we encourage newcomers to the parish and also those who would like to get to know others in the parish community to sit together. Each table will have a "welcoming host" allocated so there should be someone to chat to always. There is a rota of hosts for the six weeks of Lent.

**For those attending Sunday 6.30 pm Mass :** After the evening Mass on Sundays 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Ellie and John McCoy are hoping newcomers will join them for a drink at the St Margaret's pub (3 mins walk from the church).

**For those attending Sunday 8.30 am Mass:** One Sunday, Su and Peter Slattery will welcome newcomers to join them for coffee and croissants in the hall. Date to be confirmed.

We do hope that if you are new to the parish or if you've been here a while and don't know many people yet, you will join one of these occasions.

For more information or to offer to act as a host, please contact Lily McCaw or email Cynthia in the parish office. [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

Thank you

**Fr Peter**

## Head Teacher vacancy from Sept 2020



St James's  
Catholic Primary School

The Governors of St James's RC Primary School, Twickenham are looking to appoint an inspiring and energetic Headteacher who is a practising Catholic and will lead, guide and develop our pupils and staff in the development of living out their faith, build on the school's outstanding reputation and guide the school into the next chapter of its history with a strategic focus on our faith and teaching and learning. St James's is a three-form entry primary school with its own nursery and a unit provision for children on the autism spectrum.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed; please contact Mrs. O Mahoney by email

[oonagh.omahoney@st-james.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:oonagh.omahoney@st-james.richmond.sch.uk)

An application pack and more details can be found on ETeach, vacancy no. 1090980.

Closing date for applications is March 9th

# Lenten Project 2020

Save the Dates

Events in aid of the Lenten Project

## LEAN ON ME

Exploring friendship through Dance  
(Children age 5—11 years)

Friday 6th March 5.15 pm - 6.15 pm

## MOVEMENT, WORKSHOP

### EXPLORING HOPE

Teenagers & Adults

Friday 6th March 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

## BIG BAND NIGHT

Wednesday 25th March 7.30 pm—9.30 pm

## MURDER MYSTERY PLAY

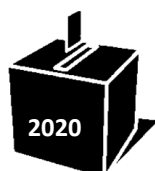
Saturday 21st March  
3.30 pm (Matinee) & 8.00 pm

## QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Further info:

[cjpsmith@outlook.com](mailto:cjpsmith@outlook.com) or 07951959054



### Our Big Black Box For your Lenten alms

You may not be in a position to support our social events, but please remember the Black Box for your alms. Envelopes are provided at the back of the church.

### lean on me

exploring friendship  
through dance

6th of march at 5.15pm-6.15pm  
for children aged 5-11 years  
£5 per child  
siblings discount available

Watercolour Logo

join us for a  
movement workshop  
exploring

### HOPE

6th of march  
6.30pm-7.30pm £5  
Teenagers and adults

cinema and popcorn  
for children  
£2.50

Watercolour Logo

### The Joy of HOPE



An inspirational four session course for Lent  
from CaFE

Monday's 10:45 – 12.00 noon (Library)

16<sup>th</sup> March – Do Not Be Afraid

23<sup>rd</sup> March – The Best is Yet to Come

30<sup>th</sup> March – Heaven on Earth

6<sup>th</sup> April – The River of Life

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church  
to secure a place.

Contact – Gavin Evenhuis

Gavin.evenhuis@gmail.com

### Used stamps for Medical Missionaries of Mary

Since 1940 the retired Sisters at the Medical Missionaries of Mary have sorted and sold used postage stamps. During Lent there will be a box in the porch to collect used stamps (**not** everyday "Queen's Heads" please). Stamp albums also welcome!

*These will not be used directly for the Lenten project in Malawi, but will raise funds for the MMM's work in areas of greatest need throughout the world.*