

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 20th September 2020



In Peter writes:

Pope Benedict remembered as a young theology teacher in Germany a conversation taking place between two of his teaching colleagues about how one wished that he was not a Catholic. Life would be so much easier. Many of us might have had similar thoughts, no nagging qualms of conscience about Sunday, sexual morality or truth telling.

This might all look superficially attractive but there is much wrong with this analysis and much wishful thinking. The teacher would be a different person entirely, moral maybe, but without the background narrative of Jesus' life in his life, nor the subtle voice of conscience formed by the Gospel. Perhaps more destructive is that such an attitude betrays an understanding of Catholicism as being nothing less than a burden, a life-long sentence without joy. Pope Francis describes such Catholics as looking like they have come from a funeral when returning from Sunday Mass.

What was true in the staff room of that German University echoes in our Parishes today. Every September normally sees an influx of previously unseen families seeking for school forms to be signed and for sacramental courses to be undertaken. For me they remain a tragic sight, half knowing they should be there years before, an attitude derived from some long half-forgotten RE class, and half resenting the need to be there, having to obey some unwritten family command that this child should be educated in a Catholic school, or receive First Holy Communion. All the promises made at Baptism at the joy of new birth has been replaced by duty without joy, and life without grace. Unable to resist the pressure of family conformity, and unable to close down conscience they live in the nether world of catholic heritage untouched by the liberating power of the Holy Spirit and sacramental grace.

So, at the beginning of every academic year I always hope that maybe some such families might 'catch up what they have missed', and reconnect with 'grateful remembrance' the faith they once had years earlier. Such an exercise is a collective effort for the whole parish too, that it annually reconnects with the joy of their faith – we too need always to reconnect with 'grateful remembrance' to the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ. Pope Francis describes the believer as essentially 'one who remembers'. Delia Smith, the cookery and Catholic spiritual writer recalled

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Mon. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat		10.00 am
Thursday Communion Service		10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Adoration	Wednesdays	8.00 – 9.15 am
	Friday & Saturday	10.30 – 11.00 am
Confessions	Saturdays	10.30 – 11.00 am
	Sundays	10.00 – 10.20 am

that as a child, put to bed, in room with a picture of the Last Supper would hold conversations with Jesus. It was this early memory that kept her faith going in later life. Everyone of us can remember something too, that acts as ever fruitful source for faith. One of my earliest religious memories is of being taken to Church by my mother in the final years before the Liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council and being transfixed by the mystery of what was being conducted, the colour of the interior and smell of incense.

Everyone needs this 'grateful remembrance' of being touched by Jesus Christ in some way if they are to survive the long hours in the sun of life. Grateful remembrance helps get over the long hours and days of service but also gives the largeness of heart to accept others who have encountered Jesus Christ too. This Sunday's Gospel about the rewards of labouring in the Lord's vineyard only make sense if there is a joy in the act of labouring itself. Those that work all day and those that come an hour before the day's work is done receive the same reward. On economic grounds such practices would seem wrong but, on another plane, if the work makes the person and brings him or her joy then it does not matter that others who came late receive the same reward. The long hours labouring in the sun, a simile of family life, becomes bearable when we reconnect with that 'grateful remembrance' and suddenly once again the Gospel is a joy and not a burden. It will change simultaneously nothing and everything in our daily routine. The tragedy, knowing the joy of the Gospel, is that the theology professor and the resentful Catholic live in a prison of their own making. Yet Jesus came to set prisoners free.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

E-mail: stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk
Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 19th Sep - Sunday 27th Sep

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	DONOR
19th	Sat	10.00 a.m.	All young people	
		6.30 p.m.	No Mass	
20th	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Tim Billington	Su Slattery
		10.30 a.m.	For you the people	
		6.30 p.m.	Peter Dixon (RIP)	Sylvia Dixon
			Penelope Goretti Hoffman RIP	Barbara de Souza
21st	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Health care workers, doctors & nurses	
22nd	Tue	10.00 a.m.		
23rd	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Thanksgiving mass	Lily McCaw
24th	Thur	10.00 a.m.	Communion Service	
25th	Fri	10.00 a.m.	For unemployed seeking work	
26th	Sat	10.00 a.m.	All young people	
		6.30 p.m.	No Mass	
27th	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Len Tanner (RIP anniversary)	Maz & Bernard Winter
		10.30 a.m.	For you the people	
		6.30 p.m.	Key workers, doctors & nurses	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Maureen Costello, Helen Sweeny, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, Ben, Mark Titmus, 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 and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maureen Elliott

Contactless Giving is here!



Please look out for the donation device – simply and easy to give. Choose an amount for your donation and tap your debit/credit card. You can donate either on the way in or the way out of Mass.

We are very grateful to all our regular donors who support the parish financially by standing orders, payroll giving or weekly envelopes. However, in the past, we have also received about £25k per year in loose plate collections which have all but disappeared as fewer people carry cash now.

We are grateful for every donation, no matter how small. Thank you for your generosity.

Entrance Antiphon:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Response to the Psalm

The Lord is close to all who call him.

IMPORTANT

Advance booking needed to attend 10:30 MASS on Sundays

During the COVID-19 crisis, St Margaret's are doing everything possible to allow you to worship safely. However, the 10.30 Mass has become very busy and to ensure that parishioners can sit at a safe, social distance, numbers need to be limited to the maximum allowed inside the building.

From next week, anyone wishing to attend the Sunday 10.30 am Mass must book a place online in advance.

Bookings can be made through a link on the website. Bookings for the following Sunday will open each week on Monday and close on Saturday at 6:00pm.

If you or you know someone who has no access to the internet or has difficulty using technology, please phone the parish office 020 8892 3902 to reserve a place.

The 8.30 am or 6.30 pm Sunday Mass are less busy and there is no need to book a place – please just turn up. Or please consider coming in the week as the Sunday obligation to attend Mass is temporarily suspended.

For those parishioners still at home, we will continue to stream the weekday (Monday to Wednesday and Saturday) and Sunday Mass for you to watch and participate.

My hope is that these regulations and procedures will not have a long shelf life. Thank you for your co-operation in the meanwhile.

Fr Peter

20th September—25th Sunday in OT

Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalms 144

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Matthew 20:1-16

27th September—26th Sunday in OT

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalms 24

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

First Holy Communion May 2021

Introduction



Preparing your children for First Communion and First Reconciliation is a privileged period for every family and will help shape your child's faith for the years ahead. Participation as a family at Mass prior to the First Holy Communion course, and the memorising of the basic prayers will make participation in the classes much more fruitful and long-lasting.

The course at St Margarets is open for those who fulfil the following criteria:

- a) who live within the Parish boundaries
- b) or who live outside the Parish boundaries but have been coming to Mass here for a substantial period beforehand. The Parish is unable to prepare families living outside the Parish who have had no contact with the Parish prior to the course. Claims that other Parish courses are full will not be accepted.

Application involves the following:

- a) collect a Mass attendance card from Fr Peter after Sunday Mass
- b) at the end of October to collect an application form

The outline programme is shown below. These dates may be subject to change if the government offers alternative guidance about social distancing etc. All classes will be held observing all the requirements laid down by the government and the Church to ensure that both children and catechists are safe.

Please note the Parish is not liable if the government changes travel advice with regard to families travelling to attend the First Holy Communion.

Dates of classes

All classes start last from 5:15pm to 6:15pm, short break, followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

Classes are compulsory as is attendance at Mass afterwards.

Dates:

7/11, 14/11, 21/11, 28/11, 5/12;
16/01, 23/01, 30/01, 6/02,
27/02, 06/03, 13/03, 20/03, 27/03 (First Confession)
17/04, 24/04, 08/05, 14/05 (Friday rehearsal)

First Holy Communion: Saturday 15th May 2021 11:00am

Fr Peter Newby, Parish Priest





Volunteer Stewards required for First Holy Communion, Saturday 26th September

This year's First Holy Communion Mass will be taking place on Saturday, the first at 11:00am and the second at 2:00pm.

The tasks involved include:

1. Taking temperatures, ensuring track and trace before Mass, showing families to their pews and other guests to seats at the back or in the Hall.
2. Assisting at Communion guiding the families up and back to their seats after the children have received Communion
3. Clean the benches and lavatories after Mass.

If possible, I would like to have two teams, one for either Mass. If you would like to help please contact the Parish Office. Traditionally the parents of the previous year's First Communicants undertook this task, but these are not normal times.

Thank you

Fr Peter



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE
ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

"St Richard Reynolds Catholic College is offering two Virtual Open Evenings for entry to Year 7 in 2021, on Tuesday 13th October, 2020 at 6:30pm and 7:30pm respectively. Details to sign up are available on our college website <https://www.strichardreynolds.org.uk>.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our College."

St Richard Reynolds are recruiting for an RE teacher with a specialism in KS4 / KS5 from November 2020 (maternity cover). Part time will be considered. Please contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk for further details.



**THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN
MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

Please find information on Opens evenings for 2020

<https://www.cvms.co.uk/admissions/index.asp>

Extra helpers needed



All of you who have returned to Mass over the summer will have seen the team of stewards and ushers at each Mass, who greet you with the temperature "gun", record your name and contact phone number for track and trace purposes, usher you to a socially distanced seat and encourage an orderly queue at Communion. You probably don't see that they also stay behind after Mass and disinfect the pews ready for the next congregation.

Our team of volunteers have been very faithful over the last two months but now we need **SOME MORE HELPERS** to share the load.

Please contact us via email stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk if you are happy to help, mentioning which Mass you usually attend.