

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 21 January 2024 - Year B



## *In Peter writes:*

The devastation of Gaza is slipping out of the newspapers, the acreage of newsprint dwindling to just two or three shorter articles compared to full pages coverage before Christmas. Weekly demonstrations still continue but are losing their focus and are now include praising the targeting of third-party shipping in the Red Sea. Many years ago, when I attended an ecumenical study course in Tantur, the rector of the Institute said that visitors who came for a week had all the answers, while those who stayed for three months found the issues more and more intractable. This required level of humility in front of the last hundred years of history need to be borne in mind when discussing these very emotive issues that cut deep into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century experience of Europe, the Holocaust and its aftermath.

To the western mind, conditioned to accept the distinction between secular power and religious faith, the level of violence coming from both sides is abhorrent. Yet both sides, whether the gunmen of Hamas utilising the method of rape and kidnap, or the bombing of civilians by the IDF, goes largely unremarked within those opposing peoples. There is much sense of victimhood on both sides but little sense of responsibility to what happens to opponents. Both faiths seek for peace, but the safety of their people comes first, and that makes war acceptable in order to establish peace. War is not justified in itself but is waged to preserve the peace of the faithful people to practice their faith.

Here in Western Europe faith has been largely privatised and when any politician or public figure discusses their faith it always strikes a strange note. As one recent politician explained, his faith was like Heart FM in the Chilterns, it faded in and out. Another spin-doctor announced that 'we do not do God.' Such sentiments make so much western involvement in the Middle east counter-productive. Democracy building in Iraq might be a laudable aspiration but counts for little when politics, religion and culture are a seamless whole governed by God's will. War is justified in Western European minds with democratic credentials rather than religious ones. The religious wars of the 17<sup>th</sup> century turned religion into a spent force as an inspiration for war by the thinkers of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. Along with the correct rejection of religion as the possible cause for war, also came the rejection of the explanatory power of religion for the ordering of society.

What should the Christian response be in such situations. Cer-

tainly, the care for the victims of violence, and Cardinal Vincent's request on behalf of the Latin Patriarch is testament to his concern. His invitation to share that concern should and will be taken up in this parish. Christians bring an alternative religious viewpoint: the donation of the land central to Judaism and physical conquest central to Islam have been spiritualised. To Christians there will always be something unique and special about Jerusalem and the lands that Jesus walked upon, and the Christian communities of the Holy Land will always hold a special place in the Church's heart. Pilgrims and crusaders brought back earth in which to be buried, along with the plans of the Church of the Resurrection, as seen in the shape of the Temple Church. The lands of Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and beyond were Christian places for hundreds of years, but that time has long departed and the attempts to recreate a Latin Kingdom, doomed to failure. Christian churches should be marked both as 'holy land' and 'holy conquest.' The 'zeal for souls,' should describe every parish mission, but that zeal leads to the transformation of society, one that need not take place directly in the political or civil realm.

Alongside the care for the victims of violence, the Holy See has always favoured the 'two state solution' with Jerusalem having special status. Thirty years ago, President Clinton had Yasser Arafat and Yitzak Rabin shake hands as a symbol of reconciliation, yet the hopes of Camp David and the Oslo Accords collapsed with the assassination of Rabin, the advancement of the settler movement, the weakness of the PLO and the takeover by Hamas in Gaza. Whether such a solution is now possible remains doubtful. It hangs by a thread and it would need a collaborative religious commitment to discern that God's peace cannot be achieved through human war. Despite the strictures of the Bible, Koran and their respective traditions, along with the civil derivatives from this religious thinking, war brings large civilian casualties. For these reasons I am wary about the prosecution of Israel for war crimes as it seems to be taking one small piece of a much larger issue, and deliberating obscuring the violence that took place elsewhere. Christians seek to change the narrative, and give succour to the victims but, in my opinion, should be cautious of engaging in political activity originated by others and laden with their objectives.

**St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church**

• E-mail: [stmargaretsrccchurch@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsrccchurch@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk) • Phone - 020 8892 3902  
**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: 20/1 - 28/1

20/01	Sat	10.00am	Harvey James Hemsley RIP Memorial Mass	Christina Hemsley
		6.00 pm	Regulo Bueno RIP	Nancy Morales
21/01	Sun	8.30am	Nita O'Brien RIP	Winter
		10.30am	Brendan Sugrue RIP anniversary	Catherine Sugrue
		6.30 pm	Int - Christopher & James Walker	Erica Walker
22/01	Mon	10.00am	Michael Judge recently deceased	Erica Walker
23/01	Tue	10.00am	For you the people	
24/01	Wed	10.00am	Praying for Maria Antonia Orta	
25/01	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
26/01	Fri	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
27/01	Sat	10.00am	For you the people	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
28/01	Sun	8.30am	Veronica McGill RIP	Winter
		10.30am	Intentions of Gerard Ban-Lavery	Gerard Ban-Lavery
		6.30 pm	Bryan de Souza RIP	Barbara de Souza

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard, 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** - Cyril Watkins, Mollie McLaughlin, Veronica McGill, Nancy Bennett, Douglas Henderson, Mary Richards, Tony de Lord, Michael Barnes, William Harris, Jonathan Dawes, Harold Taylor, Ron Webb, Fr. Peter Beazley, Dorothy Albrecht, Bridie Wallace, Ben Watson, Ron Jones, Adam Hallal, Bridget Walsh, Michael Kennedy

**Recently deceased** - Gerda Kerrigan RIP, Josephine (Jo)

McKenna RIP, Peter Coghlan RIP, Regulo Bueno RIP

*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~*

**January Prayer Intention—For the gift of diversity in the Church** : Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

## Entrance Antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

## Response to the Psalm:

Lord, make me know your ways.

### Mass Times & Liturgical Services (22/1-28/1)

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	10.00 am
<b>Eucharistic Service</b>	Thu	10.00 am
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00–10.20am

### Thinking of becoming a Catholic



The next course for those wishing to inquire about becoming a Catholic or who wishes an Adult be confirmed, begins in the middle of February, lasting till the middle of May. Meeting will take place on Monday evenings beginning on Monday, 12th February 2024.

### HOLY HOUR

Holy Hour will resume on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January from 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.



### Notice

If you or someone you know, has lost a sum of money, between Christmas and New Year's in the vicinity of St Margarets, please get in touch with the Parish Office.



Also, a set of keys have been found. Please contact the parish office.

3RD SUNDAY IN OT - 21 JAN 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 24

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

4TH SUNDAY IN OT - 28 JAN 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 94

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

### Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass will resume on 20th January 2024 and will take place when the First Holy Communion children meet. The dates are - Jan - 20, 27, Feb - 3, 24, March - 2, 9, 16, April - 13, 20, 27, May 4.



### Donations to Parish Funds

If you would like to set up a standing order, please complete a form available on the website or from the parish office or you can do this yourself through online banking. The parish bank account is:

**Bank: HSBC**

**Account Name: WRCDT St Margarets on Thames**

**Sort Code: 40 05 20 Account No: 01094823**

For offertory giving, please use the bank reference: XOF your surname and initials

For donations to the building fund and refurbishment project, please use the bank reference: XBF your surname and initials

If you are a UK tax payer, please gift aid your donation which increases the amount the parish receives by 25% at no additional cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available from the parish office or on the website.

Thank you.

Arch Publishing does My Day by Day Readings Lent and Easter 2024 for £1.15 each. If you would like to order some copies, please get in touch with the parish office.

### *"Tea & Chat"*

*every alternate Wednesday from  
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm*

*Enjoy warmth and good company here  
at St Margaret's at our teas.*



*Dates for your diary.*

*January 24*

*February 7 & 21st*

*March 6 & 20*

*All are welcome.*

*Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.*

### New parishioners meeting online

Are you new to the parish and would like to find out more about what is going on?

Would you like to find out about how to be more involved?

Meet Fr Peter and some of the parish team on Zoom.

**Monday 29th January 2024 at 8 pm**

Email the parish office for the invitation and link.

Stmargaretspmthames@rcdow.org.uk



St Margaret's - Next Sunday lunch (4th February 2024)  
- we need your help!

Please sign up to:

Make a simple main meal or dessert (off site) to serve 8-10.



OR, on the day help to welcome and chat with guests, or stay in the background and wash up!

If helping on the day, you'd need to be around between 1130 and 2.30pm. Signing up is easy- follow the link here <https://volunteersignup.org/3B9BH?>

Or call/message Shiny on 07771861638 or email [Furtado.shiny@gmail.com](mailto:Furtado.shiny@gmail.com). Your help really makes a huge difference. Thanks

### THE MUSTARD SEED

You are invited to join our Mustard Seed Prayer Group, whose next meeting is Saturday 27th Jan followed by 24th Feb, 23rd Mar, 20th April, 25th May, and 22nd June 2024.

Mustard Seed is a Charismatic group open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The group begins with tea & coffee at 7.45pm, followed by a period of praise and worship, time for quiet reflection and input from a guest speaker. There is also opportunity for individual prayer ministry, provided by the team.

The evening ends at 10pm.

Everyone is very welcome to come along to group, whether it's your first time or your twentieth!







**Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes,**  
**10th February 2024**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 2.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered.

**Tickets are in three categories:**

- Wheelchair users who require anointing
- Walking sick who require anointing
- Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

As per the request of the Diocese, the tickets can only be booked via the parish office. So kindly send in your requests considering the options above via email to the parish office.

Used stamps: Collection for the Medical Missionaries of Mary. The retired sisters sort and sell the stamps to support their missions overseas. Please put in the box in the porch.



**Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)**

**Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life**

**Dates: 16-18 February 2024**

**Location: Liverpool**

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

**Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.**

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

**For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)**

Sr Lynne fcj

**FCJ Young Adult Network**

[www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org) / Blog: <http://fcjsisters.wordpress.com/>

**Looking for a party venue?**



The light and airy church hall, kitchen and bar facilities, with access to the lovely outdoor space, are available for hire during the day and at weekends. £150 for a standard 4-hour booking for children's birthday parties. Some slots for regular weekday bookings are available - rates on application. Please contact the parish office: 020 8892 3902 or via email [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

**Pilgrimage to Fatiman**

Fri 7th – Fri 14th June 2024

Organised by: A DAY WITH MARY - REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1154888

COST £870 .00/ per person, twin room (T). £950 Single room (S). All rooms are en suite. DEPOSIT £300 to be sent with the booking application. Confirmation will be sent by post (or e-mail if preferred and indicated). Bank transfer also acceptable. BALANCE £570(T) / £650(S) to be paid by 10 April 2024. Sorry, no reductions for children.



Booking Form with full details available on request or at [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org)

Cheques must be payable to: "A DAY WITH MARY" -----

Please return this booking form together with a deposit of £300.00 to: A Day With Mary, PO Box 432, Sutton SM1 9LF – England E-mail contact: [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com) Web: [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org) For further information ring: +(0) 20 - 8.641.641.8 (Answerphone) All messages left on our answering machine will be returned. Sorry, no callers in person.

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate,  
London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection  
on**

**Saturday 10 February 2024 from**

**1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at**

**St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge  
Road London SE1 7HY**

The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call millie on 07957594646 for more information