

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 22nd October 2023 - Year A

*In Peter writes:*

Last week I went to watch, 'A Voyage around my father', a play by John

Mortimer about his father. Mortimer senior displayed a combination of robustness, rudeness and vulnerability. He was one of big figures in the legal profession during the inter-war years being a barrister occupied mainly with divorce cases. At that time divorce cases required positive sightings of wrongdoing for them to be successful. Descriptions, print and verbal, of the antics used by individuals to obtain divorce became the staple diet of redtop newspapers and the raw material for his court appearances. John Mortimer's father was a master at timing, delivery, innuendo and incredulity. Yet this professional success was not matched at home where his behaviour became ever more eccentric as his mania for catching earwigs became ever more obsessive along with trenchant criticisms of virtually everyone else.

Intertwined with the father's eccentricities were his son's adolescent growing pains, especially at boarding Prep school, a British institution now in the last throws of its existence, Empire departed and social changes making it largely now unacceptable to send children away at the age of 8 to school. At the time this was the natural order for the upper middle classes, a practice very few ever seriously questioned.

Such a play offers a reflection on the creative power of memory. Memory is often thought of being some sort of sponge, absorbing everything that went before. Though our memories are packed with incidents from the past, some containing heavy emotional charge, the memory is not just an unconscious sponge but an active conscious activity. Memory constructs the past, by choosing events, conversations and cries of conscience, but excluding others too, to form a narrative of our lives.

Since the ordering of our memories is an act of consciousness, undertaken at a particular time and place under differing emotional states, whether sadness, happiness, remorse, or gratitude, the memory's construction of our life changes too. There was a specific moment when John Mortimer wrote his play, revealing his father as he remembered him at that point in his career as a barrister then writer himself. If he had written the play towards the end of his life, the storyline would have been different.

John Mortimer's father was by his son's account, not a Christian though his one complaint about religious practice was the prevalence of boring sermons, a fact that I am sure resonates

## Mass Times & Liturgical Services (23/10-29/10)

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

with most churchgoers. To the Christian, another vision of memory is offered and that is its purification. Grace has the power to transform our personal stories from tragedy to grace, from bad conscience to liberation. I do not know how factual the film 'The two Popes' might be, but there is a scene when Cardinal Bergoglio is explaining his memories of his time as Jesuit Superior in Argentina during the period of the 1970s Dirty War. During that period, he was both battling the generals running the country and members of his order who were engaging in what were seen by the generals as overt political action. Cardinal Bergoglio speaks of his regret about that time and his censure of those Jesuits engaged in this work, and his relief at being able to reconcile with one of those young Jesuits.

Prayer, recollection and reconciliation are the instruments of grace to purify our memories, not by forgetting, but by allowing the forgiveness of God to enter our souls. So, Pope Benedict, the stern critic of liberation theology is subtle enough to make Cardinal Bergoglio recognise divine forgiveness for those lacunae. Here are two greats of the contemporary church speaking to each other about memory, conscience and forgiveness. This is life on a different plane to that of 'Voyage around my father', insightful though that play was in its portrayal of memory.

Pope Francis has said that 'he is a sinner touched by God.' Watching the film helped me see what he means by this statement. He never did give up or retire early. Part of the film is about Pope Benedict's refusal to accept his resignation because of ill health. Both the play and the film demonstrate that memory is not simply a passive sponge but an activity of consciousness involving selection and deletion. Much more powerful of the two accounts is that from the film 'The Two Popes.' Forgiveness and the purification of our memory is the unique gift offered through Jesus Christ. Through grace we can all build a future life because the past has been re-remembered and purified through divine forgiveness and healing found in the sacrament of reconciliation, so beautifully depicted in the film.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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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: 21 — 29 October

21/10	Sat	10.00am	Ian Swift RIP	David McKenzie
22/10	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Mary Ibbett & Stephen Orr- 10th wedding anniversary	
		6.30pm	Peter Dufour (1st Anniv RIP)	Barbara de Souza
23/10	Mon	10.00am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
24/10	Tues	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
25/10	Weds	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
26/10	Thurs	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
27/10	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
28/10	Sat	10.00am	Jane Gallagher RIP	Mary Gallagher
29/10	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Philip Crowe RIP	Margaret Crowe
		6.30pm	Antoinette (Toni) Phelan Recently deceased	Orla O'Sullivan

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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** - Patrick Morrison, Ben Watson, Len Marriage, Nora Daly, Brian Doherty, Patrick McQuaid, Peter Ollivier, Sue Trister, Brendan Lane, Maurice Allen, Kathleen Bowers, Annie Elizabeth Peel, Leonard Collins

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

### Prayer Intentions - October 2023

For the Synod—We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

### Entrance Antiphon:

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

### Response to the Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and power.

### Parish Pastoral Council Notices from Fr Peter

Every few years the Parish Pastoral Council undergoes a change of personnel as serving the parish should be a joy and not a life-sentence!

Currently I am looking for a new **Secretary/Convener of the Pastoral Council**, someone who co-ordinates the three yearly meetings and has oversight over the parish's different activities as a whole. I would like to thank for her work as secretary for the last three years. Kathryn James will be taking over the Community/Love your parish position.

I am also looking for two further parishioners who might consider overseeing the two posts of **Catechetical co-ordinator** and **Pastoral Outreach**. I am very grateful for the contributions made by Marta Baker (Catechetics) and Cath Brizzell (Pastoral Outreach). Both have ensured that the parish provides different catechetical and faith development courses and events, and that the parish has a sustained outreach into the community, especially with the Richmond Homeless lunches.

*Advent Calendars with religious theme on sale after Mass.*

*With chocolate - £8/-*

*Without chocolate - £5/-*



29TH SUNDAY IN OT - 22 OCT 2023

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Psalm 95

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Matthew 22:15-21

30TH SUNDAY IN OT - 29 OCT 2023

Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm 17

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

### Blessing of the Graves

Sunday 5th November  
2 pm Twickenham cemetery  
3.30 pm Teddington cemetery



### The Year of the Council: Sharing Faith Course

You are invited to join us in preparation for the Year of the Council with the Diocesan "Sharing Faith" course.

The course will run for 4 Wednesdays from 7.30-9pm in the Lower Sacristy, starting on **Wednesday 8th November** and finishing on **Wednesday 29th November**.

This new course, for faith-sharing communities across the Diocese, seeks to bring us into an act of love, as we journey through the 4 Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

All are welcome to join us—teas & coffees provided.



### Patronal Feast Weekend Celebrations **18th & 19th November**

#### **Saturday 18th November: 5pm in the Hall**

Talk by Melanie McDonagh: "The powerful women of the Mediaeval Church, St Margaret of Scotland included".

Melanie McDonagh writes for The Tablet and The Evening Standard, amongst other newspapers.

#### **Sunday 19th November: 12pm in the Hall**

The traditional St Margaret's BBQ will take place after the 10.30am Mass. Tickets at amazing value! £15 per family, £5 per person—please bring a salad or dessert to share.

*The memorial of St Margaret of Scotland is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, and may be transferred to the nearest Sunday in churches dedicated to her name.*



### **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

**Wednesday 1st November - All Saints day**

**Mass at 10.15 am & 7.00 pm**

### **Sunday lunches - October 29, 2023, 12:00 to 15:00**

St Margaret's will be hosting Sunday lunch next week for people who may or may not be homeless, but are in need of a healthy home cooked meal and some company.



We still need some volunteers to cook or to help on the day. To sign up use this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/R7HMJ>

### **St Margarets Sunday lunches- Volunteer Co-ordinator needed**



Following the success of our 4-6 weekly Sunday lunches, we now need someone to take over the management of our growing team of volunteers.

The role includes managing our volunteer sign up sheet, liaising with the organisers and parish office regarding Sunday lunches rota and upcoming dates, as well as email/ telephone management of volunteers and the team on the day. (Approx 2 - 3 hours every 4-6 weeks, working remotely). Training and support provided. Please contact Cath Brizzell [cathmcdee@yahoo.com](mailto:cathmcdee@yahoo.com) or contact Fr Peter via the Parish Office.

**V O L U N T E E R**



You are invited to join a new online Laudato Si' circle based in Hampton and Tooting. We will study a chapter of Laudato Si' each month and we begin on Friday October 27th at 7 p.m. on zoom. For the link please contact [johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com](mailto:johnwoodhousecat@gmail.com)

Have you read Laudate Deum a wake-up call from Pope Francis? ["Laudate Deum": Apostolic Exhortation to all people of good will on the climate crisis \(4 October 2023\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/apostolic_exhortations/laudate_deum/2023/10/04/la-20231004_1_en.html)

**Upper Room Leadership Programme- Aged 18-22 years old?** Westminster Youth Ministry is developing a training programme for Young Catholic Leaders. Prepare to begin a life changing journey of formation, training, and prayer with 20 other young Catholics in the Diocese. Starting in the *Upper Room* and accompanied by Mary, Mother of God, we will set out together to prepare for a life of professional and spiritual leadership, to carry out the Great Commission, and “make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28.19). Join us, and experience inspiring places and talks across several locations in the Diocese, build relationships with others in small groups, access unique resources to learn and grow in practical skills for leadership and mission, and discover your unique calling to build up the Church (Eph 4:12). Be quick! Applications close on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Visit <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/programmes/upper-room-leadership-programme/> to apply or email [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk) for enquiries.

Reporting back from our second wellbeing breakfast. Well, we had a cracking session from Carl today, covering: Stress, Mindfulness and Mindful Eating

We learnt about the two types of stress. Acute - small easy to deal with, Chronic - hard, try not to get to this stage.

"Its not selfish to look after your own body"

Build your own Stress management toolbox

If you want copies of the slides just ask at: [info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org](mailto:info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org)

**Hope to see you at the next, and final session, November 11th - Sleeping and creating your health blueprint.**



**FAMILY BINGO NIGHT - SAT 11TH NOV 7.00 PM**

Come along, join us on our BINGO night and have a great evening—for all the family.

Tickets - adult £5/- and children £3/- (Year 3 up)

Pre order for a pizza meal. (Tickets and pre order for meals will be on sale after Sunday Mass)

Donations for prizes - any unwanted gifts (adult or child)

**Mass Count**

Every year, across the country, Catholic Churches record a "Mass count" which counts the number of people attending Mass on Sunday, over 4 consecutive weekends.



Average numbers for St Margaret's this year were as below

<u>2023</u>					
			Child	Adult	Total
Weekend 1	24/09/2023	08:30	10	43	53
		10:30	69	118	187
		18:30	32	58	90
		<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>330</b>
Weekend 2	01/10/2023	08:30	17	51	68
		10:30	68	125	193
		18:30	35	60	95
		<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>356</b>
Weekend 3	08/10/2023	08:30	15	56	71
		10:30	68	137	205
		18:30	27	61	88
		<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>364</b>
Weekend 4	15/10/2023	08:30	11	58	69
		10:30	70	123	193
		18:30	23	56	79
		<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>341</b>
Avg per Mass		08:30	13	52	65
		10:30	69	126	195
		18:30	29	59	88
		<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>348</b>

Average of 2021, 2022 as below

	Child	Adult	Total
2021	72	200	272
2022	94	213	307
2023	111	237	348

This is a marvellous achievement and I am so grateful to all those who have helped to make this a vibrant parish. We must also remember all those families who have received First Holy Communion and Confirmations in the years gone by and encourage them to come back to Church.

This will be our Parish mission for the year going ahead.