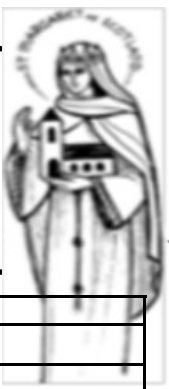


# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Christ the King - Thirty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020



*In Peter writes:*

Two and half thousand years ago an ancient Chinese writer, Lao Tzu, explained that 'heaven and earth are ruthless, and treat the myriad creatures as straw dogs'. This might be a good description of the lived consequences of atheism really, the consequence of life is to be burnt to death. Atheism demands, often in the name of human freedom, the utter disjunction between heaven and earth, and separation between God and mankind. This comes at a heavy price; all the meaning of life needs to be found within itself. If there is no heaven and there is no God, perhaps we will share in the angst of Pascal that, 'the eternal silence of the infinite spaces frightens me'. The contemplation of infinite time and extension would make anyone question who they are and what they are worth in this infinite void.

My abiding conviction is that the conviction of atheists and their weaker cousin, agnostics, are not tested sufficiently, and the consequences of their erroneous thinking are not pursued. There is an unremarked historical correlation between the expansion of interest in psychology and the collapse of faith. The issues of mental health have been with mankind since the beginning of time but now the psyche has to fill the infinite void of the soulless universe. This is an impossible task, no-one is perfect, even as a 'straw dog'. This search for perfection brings with it an existential loneliness because in a godless universe no-one's story really matters. I think mine does, and you might think yours does, but in a cold world who is listening to who even if every story is there to be told. The experience of not being listened to by anyone is painful, and goes to demonstrate that if my story matters, so does everyone else's.

Those who reject God still want their stories heard but with that understanding why should anyone bother listening? It is just a lonely universe and that is all. It is therefore no wonder that mental health issues have exploded into the foreground of our society. Not all mental health issues can be traced back to the lived-rejection of God, but ancient societies knew the social dangers of rejecting God. A community without the protection of God, however understood, and without the shared stories of its life is a community without hope. Lacking in hope, descending into meaningless and lacking any self-respect are common traits with mental health issues. These can

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday	10.30 am	
Mon. Tue, Wed, Sat	10.00 am	
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Confessions	By request	

sometimes be traced back to the lack of recognition by others of one's own story that is consequent of the collapse in the belief of God's existence.

Identifying the consequences of atheism and agnosticism does not prove the truthfulness of Christianity or any other religion. Not all mental health issues will be resolved by becoming a believer. However, the dynamic of story-telling and story-listening, do leave space for God to make Himself known, firstly as Redeemer and secondly as Creator. God has to create in order to redeem, but the journey of faith always begins with the conviction of Redemption. Someone is just listening to my story. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is listening, to centurion, to the man born blind, to the leper. Last week the final report appeared from the ICSA enquiry into the Catholic Church's handling of the child abuse scandal, and the report describes how those in authority failed to listen, thus compounding the trauma of the original abuse suffered by the victims. This lack of empathy is contrary to the mission of the Church in preaching that Jesus listens and opens the eyes and ears of her members to grasp the pain of the world. The Gospel does not exhaust itself with just listening, the kingdom is proclaimed too, the place of belonging, where you and I can find a home. This spiritual home demands conversion and love. As this Sunday's Gospel parable about the final judgement includes, 'As you did it to the least of these you did it to me'. All of us have someone to whom this applies, to whom we must listen and dialogue. Listening and dialogue are difficult but of these actions is divine judgement made.

Christ connects the individual, you and me, and the God who creates. His body, the visible part of which is the Church, connects us together within God as our origin and conclusion.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk](http://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 21st November – Sunday 29th November**

21-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Holy Souls	
22-Nov	Sun Feast of Christ the King	10.30 am	Holy Souls	
23-Nov	Mon	10.00 am	Christina Carter RIP	Will O'Rourke
24-Nov	Tue	10.00 am	Mary Murphy RIP (Recently deceased)	Rita Johnstone
25-Nov	Wed	10.00 am	Holy Souls	
28-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Eileen Winter RIP	Winter
29-Nov	Sun 1st Sunday of Advent	10.30 am	Holy Souls	

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, Patricia Mary Picton (Mary), Arthur Mathewson, Maureen Costello, Helen Sweeny, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, 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 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

**Anniversaries** - Angela de Souza, Annie Swan, Irene Stanley, Keith Anthony Mathewson, Myles Murray, Vyvien Leyel, Rev John Formby, Nina Gumbleton, Charles Grove, George Noonan, Gertrude Pugh, Michael Ryan, Kathleen Chidzey, Ben Merricks, Eileen Winter, William Dexter, Lucienne Tybershein, Cyril Roberts, Margaret Lydon, Maureen Joseph, Bernard O'Hara, Betty Cameron-Waller

### Entrance Antiphon:

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

### Response to the Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

In light of the new Government Guidelines, the Sunday 10.30 am Mass will now be celebrated online for the month of November.

**You can access Mass on**  
[www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk)



### **Private Individual Prayer**



The church will be open for individual prayer on **Saturday mornings from 10.00 am—1.00 pm or by request**. Please send your request either by email or phone.

### **Christmas Masses**

Places to attend Christmas Masses will need to be booked in advance to ensure we can respect safe distancing.



**Masses will be held on:**

**Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm**

**Christmas Day at 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

Booking can be made through the website and will open on Friday 11th Dec.

If you know anyone who does not have access to the internet and would like to reserve a place, please ask them to call the parish office who will do it for them.

22nd November - Christ the King 34th Sunday in OT	Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17	Psalm 22	1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28	Matthew 25:31-46
29th November - 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 121	Roman 13:11-14	Matthew 24:37-44

## LAS POSADA 2020

### Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent



Small figures of Mary & Joseph will be travelling through Twickenham this Advent. Innkeepers are needed to host them for a night as they continue their journey. Would you like to welcome them into your home? Innkeepers then become pilgrims as they take Mary and Joseph on the next leg of their journey to the next home they will be staying at.

The tradition of the travelling crib is hundreds of years old and originates from Spain and South America where each evening during Advent "Las Posadas" takes place ("posada" means inn or lodging). Pilgrims re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus, travelling on their journey looking for somewhere to stay for the night. This is a lovely way to do something spiritual in Advent and enhance your anticipation of Christmas and the excitement of receiving again the new life that comes to us with the birth of the baby Jesus. Young and not-so young; singles, couples and families can all take part.

We have made a few adaptations this year to be COVID safe. Mary and Joseph are now plastic figures that can be easily washed and disinfected. Doorstep handovers (without refreshments) will be needed whilst restrictions against gathering indoors are in force. The sign-up sheet will be online. If interested, please sign up for one date on the sign-up sheet at <https://volunteersignup.org/RPFRD> with your name, address and contact details. Ann will then be in touch with further details of Mary and Joseph's journey.

Any questions, please contact Ann Edes on 07837 095 837 or [annxedes@gmail.com](mailto:annxedes@gmail.com)

## Children's Liturgy provision

We would like to bring together a small group that can plan and organise some children's liturgy provision to be delivered on Zoom while current restrictions are in place.



Depending on how many people are happy to help, we could offer something every fortnight or once a month. Perhaps a simple activity based on the gospel story, with some singing and a prayer.

Please let the parish office know if you could help.

## First Sunday of Advent

### Advent Wreath making workshop for children



Inviting all children to take part in an Advent Wreath making workshop.

The wreath will be crafted with card and paper. Pre-assembled packs of all necessary materials can be collected from the church on Saturday 28th Nov 10:30 am – noon.

**Join the Zoom group on Sunday 29th Nov at 2.30 pm.**

Topic: Advent Wreath Making

Time: Nov 29, 2020 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337560228?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337560228?pwd=VUUh5SFpNZG8xUTloczNqMjV6UGg1UT09)

[pwd=VUUh5SFpNZG8xUTloczNqMjV6UGg1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83337560228?pwd=VUUh5SFpNZG8xUTloczNqMjV6UGg1UT09)

Meeting ID: 833 3756 0228

Passcode: Advent

## November Holy Souls



Every November, the church prays particularly for the Holy Souls and Masses will be offered twice a week for them in November. As Mass will be celebrated online now due to the lockdown, please send in the names by email if you would like the deceased members of your family to be included.

Email- [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) The sheets will then be placed in the basket in front of the weekday and Sunday altars for the duration of November.

If you have already picked up a Holy Souls envelope, please post it through the Presbytery Letter Box with a donation.

## Admission arrangement for Catholic Schools

If you wish to apply for a place at a Catholic Primary school for 2021, you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Fr Peter is happy to sign these forms for regular parishioners.

Please bring along your forms to the Church Hall on the dates below to have the documents signed and stamped.

**Saturday, 12th December 11.00 am—12.30 pm**

**Saturday, 9th January 2021 11.00 am—12.30 pm**

## ADVENT IN ST MARGARETS

### 'The Joy of Hope'

This Advent the Parish is running a four-week prayer, discussion and catechetical course entitled 'The Joy of Hope', something in short supply these days. This was originally written by David Payne of CaFe, a well-known catholic broadcaster.

The sessions (online via Zoom) will last an hour, and one series will run on Monday afternoons, led by Angie Keane, music by Gavin Evenhuis, on **Mondays at 2:00pm**, starting on Monday 23rd November, and continuing 30th November, 7th December and 14th December.

The same series will also be run on **Wednesdays at 8:00pm** on Wednesday 25th November, Wednesday 2nd December, 9th December, 16th December.

Please email the parish office if you would like to join, to register and receive the Zoom invitation code.

### Advent Service of Prayer, Praise and Readings

**Friday 4th December 7:30pm - 8:45pm**

The musicians of St Margaret's will be gathering at suitable distances to play music and accompany a series of Advent readings, read by parishioners in their homes. The evening will be broadcast through YouTube to allow many people to participate in our shared parish preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Many thanks  
Fr Peter



Diocese of Westminster

### Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum

An online gathering to share experience, provide a vision of hope, and offer some practical direction in the year ahead on Saturday 5th December from 11am to 1.30pm. Speakers include Anna Gavurin, Fr Richard Nesbitt, Dr Pat Jones, Fr Dominic Robinson and Fr Paschal Uche. Hosted by Bishops Nicholas Hudson and Paul McAleenan. Please register in advance to be sent the Zoom link at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/westminster-social-justice-and-peace-forum-learning-from-the-pandemic-tickets-127452079601>

### Justice and Peace Network Meetings

Times and dates for the online regional Justice and Peace activist meetings from January to March 2021 are now available at

<https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com/category/events/>

Please register in advance to receive the Zoom link.

### Facemasks for the Homeless

Each year the SVP provide Vinnie packs which go to the homeless during the winter months. This year, face masks will be included in the pack. Caritas Westminster are inviting volunteers to sew them at home and send them in by the 30th November to Caritas SEIDs Hub, Empire Way, Wembley, HA9 0RJ. For details and a suggested pattern visit <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/how-to-make-facemasks-for-the-homeless-1100.php>



### Jesuit Refugee Service Phone Support Volunteer (Emotional Support & Befriending)

JRS UK are looking for volunteers who can make regular phone calls to refugees providing emotional support and friendship during this time. Many of our refugee friends feel even more isolated and lonely as a result of the pandemic and their needs often become more urgent. In line with the JRS mission of accompaniment, this role offers the chance for encounter, mutual relationship, and companionship by lending a listening ear to those of our refugee friends who need somebody to talk to. **JRS will provide induction and support to all volunteers. Minimum commitment period for this role: 3 months**

For more information see: <https://www.jrsuk.net/volunteer>



Diocese of Westminster

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION

**THE MEANING AND VALUE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE CUTS THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD EVERY YEAR**

**Advent 2020: journeying to the crib with hope & faith; peace; love & joy**

*A light that shines in the darkness*

**ADVENT WREATH** – this can be a simple drawing to colour, or make something more elaborate. The wreath is a sign of God’s unending love for us and each candle represents stages on the journey to the light of Christmas: Christ. The lighting of candles (safely), recalls the journey of salvation, our journey to towards Christmas, and Christ’s return to us: offer a prayer, a song, reflect on the Gospel during this Advent.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOwLEzLxMHY/>  
<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/ignatian-insight/4-ways-celebrate-advent-home-your-family>

*Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger*

**PREPARING OUR NATIVITY SCENE** – ‘I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas’ – Pope Francis Admirabile Signum 2019.  
[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20191201\\_admirabile-signum.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html)

*What will we use & where will we place our nativity scene: in a prayer corner; by the tree; at the table; in our heart? What has our journey to the crib been like this year? Full of fears & worries? What do we need to bring for healing, or and thanks?*



**A BLESSING OF THE CRIB** (for all to say) – “God of all creation, in our need you sent your Son Jesus, born of Mary, to be our Saviour, who brings us peace and joy. Lord, bless all who gaze upon this crib. As we recall his humble birth may we always raise our thoughts to him, our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen”

*Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight*

**ADVENT PRAYER CORNER** – particularly at this time, a small space set aside at home can help the whole family prepare for Christmas; with a crib, an Advent candle, pictures and symbols, photographs of family, a couple of cushions. For a few minutes, perhaps just before bedtime, we can gather to light the candle and pray: “God bless.....”

**Immaculate Conception Novena** -  
<https://www.divinemercyapostolate.co.uk/copy-of-divine-mercy-sunday-2>

**Resources** - for more ideas, activities for Advent see: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/>

**HOW GREEN IS YOUR ADVENT?** – Inspired by *Laudato Si* here are a few ideas on how to care for our ‘Common Home’ this Advent.....

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/sites/default/files/Ecological%20Advent%20Calendar.pdf>

**CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING** (for all to say)  
 “Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation – sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel – Law, prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our everlasting light. As we light our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

**PRAYER: GRACE AT THE CHRISTMAS TABLE** –“Love brought Jesus to the stable and love brings us around this table. As we give thanks for the gift of this meal and each other, may this day be filled with joy, prayer & gratitude. Amen.”

‘When we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom’. – Pope Francis – *Laudato Si* 226.

*Why not place the Christ-child at the centre of the table as we give thanks for all we receive?*

## For Advent

**Jesse Tree** - a fun way for the whole family to learn about the Biblical characters, events and prophecies leading to the birth of Jesus. *ORDER FREE RESOURCE*  
<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/advent-jesse-tree/>

## CaFE course for Advent

THE JOY OF HOPE - Scripture, prayer, Church teaching, meditation and discussion. Free download or DVD for limited period, contact: 0845 050 9428/ [tim@faithcafe.org](mailto:tim@faithcafe.org)

Also: **BAPTISM** 'A modern, fresh and very enjoyable approach to Baptism preparation.' with free download with every parish course purchased to share with team& parents by email or Zoom. [tim@faithcafe.org](mailto:tim@faithcafe.org)

**Sycamore** - Advent Course 4 weeks Searching for God in life – a renewal of faith  
<https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/>

**Proclaim Westminster** - resourcing Missionary Parishes  
<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/proclaim-westminster/>

**'The House of Good'** - from foodbanks to credit unions: church as place of worship and essential centre of community, serving those in need.  
<https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

## 'The God Who Speaks'

**Year of Mark** Copies of **Mark's Gospel** can be ordered your [here](#). Buy in packs of 10 for £15, with discounts on bulk orders.

- **The Bible and Mental Health** - explore how the Scriptures can help us sustain our mental health. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/the-bible-and-mental-health/>
- **Journeying with the Bible** – online talks with Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona STL. Register with: [Catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)  
See: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-god-who-speaks/journeying-with-the-bible/> - 24th Nov – Deuterocanonical Books
- **Nativity** - Reflections by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on 'The Nativity at Night' by Geertgen tot Sint Jans <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/art-and-culture/nativity-at-night/>

## Wintershall Nativity Winter Walk 18 - 21 Dec 2020

Join Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem at Wintershall this Advent. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-winter-walk>

## Marriage and Family Life Information, News, Resources

Encounter | Marriage Enrichment | Relationship | Marriage Stress | Loss  
See website <https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/>

**Caritas St Joseph's** – for people with learning disabilities who need support with First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes, do please keep in touch:  
<https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/st-josephs.php>



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