

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT - 25 February 2024 - Year B



*In Peter writes:*

“Are we there yet”, is the immemorial cry of every child sitting in the back seat of the family car. Jesus forestalled any such sentiments amongst His Apostles. The three Apostles, Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus where His face shone and His clothes became brilliant white. Jesus is engaged in conversation with Moses and Elijah and the subject, by implication, was His passing, His personal Exodus, His forthcoming death on the Cross. The Transfiguration becomes a moment of contradiction, a moment of glory orientated to suffering. Commanding the three to silence on the way down the mountain only adds to the sense of mystery, of why combine suffering and glory.

For many years in my youth I thought the Transfiguration was about the final destiny alone, and indeed His destiny could be experienced now in this life through building a just society. Looking back, I can see this as being naïvely optimistic, of believing in the possibility of living in utopia. Such a view, I can now see, lacks any real Christian imagination, and leads inevitably either into violence or to accommodation with prevailing moral norms.

Without the Cross this accommodation to contemporary mores solidifies and believers quickly become Christian in name alone. The Cross raises a question mark on our imagination, on our unconscious accommodation with the prevailing culture, and our participation in the contemporary structures of sin. When the Cross is removed the paramount principle becomes the demand, not to be judgmental. Nothing is therefore seen as wrong, except child-abuse. Catholic institutions are particularly susceptible to this style of accommodation, and thus lay themselves open to institutional capture by agenda-driven partisans who know how difficult it is for the modern catholic institutions challenge in a non-judgmental environment. An immediate response to any questioning about non-gendered uniform policy, the flying of LGBTQ+ flags, the importation of gender fluidity is now seen as the worst possible of all modern sins, of being judgmental. This process is happening to many of our Catholic institutions, aided and abetted by those who administer but not lead these institutions, to the dismay of parents and university students alike.

Accepting the Cross as the only means of salvation would raise necessarily a question mark on all our conduct, our imagination as to what constitutes the good, on how to understand suffering and what constitutes religious courage. It would also

raise legitimate questions about those cloaking their agendas with the mantra of social advance. A question mark is placed not just on others' actions but on our own too. No-one can claim to be completely detached from contemporary culture.

The Cross raises the question about myself first, others and the world too but questions that are answered by the events on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus invites us to share His destiny. Our witness and our own sufferings, our personal Cross are the places where divine glory will emerge. I have always been struck by the considered dignity exhibited by many holocaust survivors who became public speakers, and other victims of appalling violence who were able to give their story without rancour, a living example of Cross and Resurrection.

St Paul reassures us that God is on our side and wants to share His care through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus wishes to share our suffering, an action consistent with His Baptism at the hands of John the Baptist undertaken in solidarity with sinners. Coupled with His baptism was His successful resistance to temptation in the desert on our behalf, the subject of last Sunday's Gospel. Jesus' humanity is the same as ours in every respect except sin, and His humanity radiates divinity as Son of God. The Transfiguration marks a moment when this ever-present divinity is clearly seen. Mostly Jesus' divinity is hidden to antagonistic eyes and it requires the eyes of faith to discern. So, His miracles are works of deceit to antagonists and works of God to protagonists; apostle, disciple and crowd.

Every Christian carries the Holy Spirit through virtue of their baptism, having undergone a ritualistic death and resurrection. Carrying the Cross and glimpsing the light of the Resurrection, every believer may have his or her imagination shaped by these two historical but supernatural events. To do so is to radiate holiness through their humanity. Christians have a positive proposal to offer the world, of closeness to Jesus Christ and through Christ, to each other, of authentic community, one not based on an imagined utopia but on the real-life journeys of her participants. Pope Francis in his emphasis on the synodal pathway might seem to be promoting unending chaos, but the ability to listen, dialogue without losing hold of the truth is essential for the future of the church in a post-Christian society. Rather than hide in a holy huddle, active engagement and questioning of the ideological capture of catholic institutions helps promote the Catholic alternative by placing it in the public square.

**St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church**

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrcchurch.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: 24/2 - 03/3

24/02	Sat	10.00am	Peter Smith RIP	Mary Gal- lagher
		6.00 pm	All the souls in purgatory	Adrian
25/02	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For you the people	
26/02	Mon	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
27/02	Tue	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
28/02	Wed	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
29/02	Thu	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
01/03	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
02/03	Sat	10.00am	Intentions of James Smith	Mary Gal- lagher
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
03/03	Sun	8.30am	Dan Heffernan RIP & Josephine Heffernan RIP	Su Slattery
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For you the people	

### Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

### Response to the Psalm:

I will walk in the presence of  
the Lord in the land of the  
living.



### Mass Times & Liturgical Services (26/2 - 03/3)

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

### Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

6 pm Mass will take place when  
the First Holy Communion chil-  
dren meet. The dates are **Feb** - 3,  
24, **March** - 2, 9, 16, **April** - 13,  
20, 27, May 4.



## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Natalie Shaw and Larry Fogg, Maria Antonia Orta, Cathy Howard,  
John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, Cathy  
McKendry, Rachel Rose, Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Re-  
gan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry  
McEntee, Rose Williams, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William  
Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Ar-  
nolda, 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** - Thomas CH Yong, Kathleen Balmer, Pat Brazier,  
Moira McDonnell, David Chow, Neville Stracey, Rosie Noaks, Rita  
Kabat, Ellen Bailey, Moira McDonnell, Winnie Craig, Eileen  
Ethridge, Nora Denny

#### Kindly keep the recently deceased in your prayers -

Joyce O'Connor RIP (Mo Walker's mother), who has died at the  
age of 101 years and Albarosa Maccione 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~*

**February Prayer Intention** - For the terminally ill- Let us pray  
that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families,  
receive the necessary medical and human care and accompani-  
ment.

### Visits to the sick and housebound

If you are unable to  
attend Mass and would  
like to receive Holy Com-  
munion, please contact  
Deacon Joseph via the  
parish office.



### SAVE THE DATE !

**WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH at 7:30 pm**

*Tickets £10 on  
sale after Mass*

*The FULHAM BIG  
BAND is coming to  
play.*



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - 25 FEB 2024

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13, 15-18

Psalm 115

Romans 8:31-34

Mark 9:2-10

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - 3 MAR 2024

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 18

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-15

## LENT AT ST MARGARETS

### • Lenten Faith Formation -

We Dare To Say, will take place on Monday's commencing March 4th, followed by 11th, 18th & 25th from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm.

### • Lenten Devotions

⇒ Stations of Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour - On Fridays during Lent held at 7:30 pm followed by Holy Hour.



⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 13th March at 7.30 pm

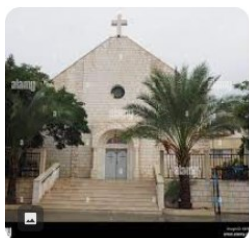


⇒ Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10.30 am

### • Lenten Alms Project- Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

The Cardinal, Archbishop Vincent Nichols has written with the following message:

'I have heard directly from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.



The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims.

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc. to many in the West Bank.

Our Finance Office is ready to facilitate the speedy transfer to the Patriarchate of any such donations.'

Our Lenten Alms project this year will be a response to the Cardinal's plea to help those innocent civilians caught up in the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. Thank you

# LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

CARDINAL'S  
LENTEN  
APPEAL

## The Synodal Process – Towards October 2024

May I explain a little further about Cardinal Vincent's request to all parishes to assist him in making a collective response to the first offering from the meeting of Bishops and lay-people that took place last October in Rome. What was it all about? The meeting began with listening with an open heart to what is happening now in the Church throughout the world, both good and bad. The delegates proposed a vista for the future direction of the Church, not in changing the teaching but updating the tone to suit contemporary conditions. Maintaining strongly held beliefs that cannot be communicated will not advance the Church's mission.



The Synod offered ways of communicating the same truths that recognised the fragmentary nature of most people's experience. This is definitely a challenge! This remains a challenge to me because I have always accepted the intellectual coherence of faith, the active relationship between faith and reason, and the richness of catholic culture. Pope Francis is asking us not to be nostalgic for the past, and by implication thinking that Christianity has run its course, but this crisis is the beginning of a new era.

In the spirit of the second rather than the first sentiment, and wishing to assist Cardinal Vincent and our parish, I am suggesting two encounters to discuss the four questions sent to each parish to discuss.

Question 1: How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to: those who have not heard of Christ; those who have ceased walking with Christ; those with whom we worship Christ (those who go to Church)?

Question 2: How do we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

Question 3: What concrete opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

Question 4: What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

For those who wish to be involved and offer any contribution, I will be hosting two meetings (both covering the same material), one on **Friday 23rd February at 6:00pm, and another on Sunday 3rd March at 11.30am.**

## Day of Prayer for the Holy Land - Friday March 8th



Cardinal Vincent has asked the Diocese to hold a Day of Prayer for the Holy Land on Friday March 8th. This would coincide with the Lenten Alms project being supported by the this Parish, of raising money for the Latin Patriarchate to assist in Gaza and the West Bank.

The 10.00am Mass will be offered for peace in the Holy Land, and the Holy Hour in the evening will be focused on the call for conversion and progress towards a lasting peace.

## Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony



Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please send the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

## Pizza & Prayer

Come along to an evening for youth (12+) at St Margaret's Church on **FRIDAY 15th MARCH**

### Adoration: 6.30-7.30pm

Stay before Jesus for a few minutes, or a little longer

### Reconciliation: 6.30-7.30pm

Opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr Gregory

### Pizza: from 7.30pm

Join your friends for pizza in the Hall



## CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Lent Collection at Masses this week



*This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk).*



To find out about volunteering opportunities with CAFOD visit [Volunteer \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Volunteer.cafod.org.uk)  
Scan the QR Code and find out more about James and the fishing project in Liberia.

Beata Rozycka

CAFOD Westminster, 07789876913

## Volunteering Fair



Caritas Volunteer Service will hold a Volunteering Fair on Saturday 9 March, 3pm – 5pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall. If you are considering volunteering and want to explore possible roles within the diocese and/or with Catholic charities and those who work alongside us, do come along. More details here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/volunteering-fair-2/>

# Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

## Winners for the month of February 2024

1st Prize No.43 Maria Sharratt £100/-

2nd Prize No 4 Hazel Cardoza £50/-

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)

TWICKENHAM CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFASTS

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL DOUBLE-HEADER FOR YOU

Our friend David will give us an update on the amazing journey GETA has been on supporting St Theresa's School in Uganda over the past 10 years.

**geta**  
give education to all

And our new friend, Phil will be telling us about the work that TWAM does in helping African communities with the tools you have been donating.

**TWAM**  
Tools with a Mission

Saturday 2nd March 8:15 – 10:00 AM

Enjoy a delicious healthy breakfast  
Suggested donation. £10

Venue: St Margaret's Church  
130 St Margaret's Road, East Twickenham, TW1 1RL

To buy tickets e.mail: [info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org](mailto:info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org)

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