

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25 June 2023 - Year A



Fr Peter writes:

Modern communication methods make it easy for pressure groups to cause mayhem and inconvenience while at the same time denouncing the general public 'en-masse' whose views on the issues at stake are wildly different. Not everyone inconvenienced is a committed polluter or personal ecological disaster zone. Pressure groups, focusing on one issue, fail to grasp the complexity of life. Stopping the traffic might give a buzz to the 'Just stop oil' warriors but to those going about their daily business, it is profoundly frustrating. No nuance is offered about those effected whether they only make an occasional journey by car, or heading to work with van full of tools, or fulfilling some family commitment. Single-minded causes helps every pressure group to quash their own internal voice of conscience. Failing to account for conscience quickly leads to financial corruption or inappropriate activity as has been seen time and time again in the charity sector. People doing 'good' operating beyond the voice of their own conscience and public scrutiny.

Christianity has been subject to the same criticisms as those of today's activists, of being judgemental and lacking empathy with the real situation of people's lives. Pope Francis' demeanour and way of speaking demonstrates that the opposite is true for the Church. This message is nothing new because mercy has been a constant thread and source of comfort for billions of believers. Sadly, too many believers have been unconsciously influenced by antagonistic secular attitudes that needs to label Catholicism a judgmental religion in order to hide its own questionable judgements. The central message from Pope Francis that 'I am sinner touched by God', is one of reassurance and reiterates the content of this Sunday's Gospel.

Social activists have cast a spell of fear so that it seems impossible to address such issues when they arise. The recent uproar about a school child identifying herself as cat and the reaction of two classmates just shows how the collapse of perspective leads to needless antagonism. The issue should never have reached the national press.

Everyone has to be so careful not to say something that might be judged as offensive, and those shouting the loudest are always those who most easily find offence. Such fear permeates everywhere and thus the ability to speak and dia-

logue is being lost, preference now made for the solipsistic enjoyments of the mobile telephone or, if necessary, the company of the like-minded.

This Sunday's Gospel defends plain speaking because all those weaselly words and spurious concern for those who hypothetically might be offended, will be revealed for what they are at heart. These are the people who wish to kill the soul, of making us comfortably numb. Demanding more tolerance with an undercurrent of menace might be the modern way of effecting desired social change but this methodology has not real place. Standing up for the Gospel is never an exercise in antagonism, of being needlessly rude, becoming angry, nor seeking out imaginary secular enemies within public life. This is difficult when confronted by the brazen arrogance of self-satisfied. Everything will be uncovered, the Gospel tells us, but our task is to stand firm.

Recognising the simple tenets of Christian anthropology offers the foundation for our answers to these issues. Firstly, everyone is made in the image and likeness of God, and this is not an impersonal relationship but one of care; 'every hair on your head has been counted'. The image between God and humanity is not passive, some thing, but active, the power of the soul. Becoming the likeness is only possible through the life of faith, whether explicit or implicit. Explicit faith, identifying Jesus Christ as the fullness of humanity and accepting His gift of grace, is the motorway, while an implicit faith, made known in the natural law, and with weakness of will included is the B road. Such was the explanation offered by Fr Gerry O'Collins, the Professor of Fundamental Theology in Rome. His account might not give sufficient account on the reality of sin, and the impermeable quality of secular culture but it is a good place to start.

Being a missionary disciple in today's society is not about joining demonstrations, shouting loudly, self-identifying but reassuring others that God does care for them, and their identity is precious at the deepest level, that of the immortal soul, deeper than chosen pronouns, deeper than racial identity, wealth and social position. Through the Church we live in communion, 'the communion of saints' both in eternity and now. This communion cannot be destroyed by any human authority, it is the ultimate source of quite strength for life.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: 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 Sat 24 June – Sun 2 July

24/06	Sat	10.00 am	Work of missionaries throughout the world	
25/06	Sun	8.30 am	Judith Thomas RIP	Bernard and Maz
		10.30 am	Eileen Weeks recently deceased	Maria Sharratt
		6.30 pm	For you the people	
26/06	Mon	10.00 am	For Ukraine and all suffering - parishioner	
27/06	Tue	10.00 am	Maureen Tanner RIP	Maz & Bernard
28/06	Wed	10.00 am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
29/06	Thu	The Feast of Ss Peter & Paul		
		10.00 am	Brian Lucey RIP 1st anniversary	
		7.00 pm	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
30/06	Fri	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
01/07	Sat	10.00 am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
02/07	Sun	8.30 am	For you the people	
		10.30 am	Carmen Bourne & Aldo Bianchin RIP anniv	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	Special Intentions of a parishioner	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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, Eleanor Drew, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

Anniversaries - David Hughes, Carmen Bou, rne, Beatrice Gavican, Alphonsus Pinto, Tadeusz Wozniak, Alistair Frazer, Kieran Brady, John Ashton, Bee Gould, Jeff Lawlor, David Ryan, Frederick Balmer, Joe Foley, Ralph Thoms, Sheila Walsh, John McCullogh, Ida Kosciesza

Recently deceased - Judith Thomas RIP.
Maura Jane Evenhuis (Gavin Evenhuis' sister)

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

June Prayer Intentions—For the abolition of torture: We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord is the strength of his people,
A saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them forever.

Response to the Psalm:

In your great love, answer me, O God.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (26/06—2/07)

Weekend Mass	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Mass	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	10.00 am
	Thursday – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul	10.00 am & 7.00 pm
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00–10.20am

School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus, Madagascar - Message

from Sister Josefina—I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your generosity in assisting the poor children of Antsenavolo and Ampitakely, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Your contribution will have a tremendous impact on those we are helping. Your kindness will enable us to provide meals for the approximately 200 children who we provide meals for during the school day. Thank you for your great commitment in providing for them. With warmest regards, God bless you all. Sister Josefina de Jesus, Religious of the Assumption in Madagascar.

New Readers Rota - July, August & September

Please look out for an email with the rota for the summer months. This is always a tricky one, as many are on holiday. So if you know you will be away, please do try and swop with a fellow reader in advance and mark it up on the rota in the church porch.

Other news: after two years of excellent rota organisation and delightful emails, Emily Nestor is stepping down from the role of coordinating the readers rota, having taken on extra responsibilities at work and further training as a podiatrist. Thank you Emily / we wish you every success.

We welcome Lucy Ayliffe who will take on the task of organising the rotas - Lucy's daughter Cecily received her 1st Holy Communion this year. Thanks also to Lucy for stepping into the role.



12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25 JUNE 2023	Jeremiah 20:10-13	Psalm 68	Romans 5:12-15	Matthew 10:26-33
13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 2 JULY 2023	2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16	Psalm 88	Romans 6:3-4, 8-11	Matthew 10:37-42

Parish Quiz - Thank you



A special thank you to Mary McHugh who was the driving force behind the Parish Quiz night last week. A hugely successful and fun evening, raising £1575/- for parish funds, which will be put towards the loan repayment. Nearly 70 people attended and submitted their "grey cells" to a challenging work-out by Sinead, the master quiz lead. (Mary's daughter). Congratulations to the winning team - Claudine, Tim & Charlie Richardson, Caroline & Joe Estorninho and David & Kiki Nicolson.

Thank you also to the team of helpers - Kathryn, Marion, Cynthia, Gilly & Ann without whom the event could not have happened.



Wintershall Life of Christ—The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. Watch as hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside.

Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from **10am to 3.30pm**. 27th June - 1st July.

[Book your tickets](https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-6) <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-6>

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on **Saturday 5th August 2023** from 11am-5pm in the church by **Leicester Square**. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. **To register** a group or individually, fill in the form: bit.ly/wydlondon If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us! Anne Marie Salgo, **Religious of the Assumption**. 20 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH www.assumptionreligious.org | www.assumptionvolunteers.org.uk

Community Movie Screening of The Letter at St Margarets

on Tuesday, 27th June 2023 at 7.00 pm

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote Laudate Si, his encyclical on climate change and climate justice, subtitled "On Care for our Common Home". In the film "the Letter" Pope Francis brings together those on the frontline of climate change, from indigenous leaders in the Amazon to those studying the effects on our oceans, for a discussion on the growing crisis and our responsibilities for the care of our common home.

The film is a call to action, and so after the screening we will have some time to agree what next steps we can take as individuals, as a parish, and as part of the wider community. Contact the Parish office to reserve your seats.

ST. MARGARET'S FAIR Saturday 8th July

The church has booked a stall at the above event. The main aim of the stall is to advertise our presence in the community.



We shall be selling religious items and bric-a-brac. If you can donate any unused religious items or bric-a-brac for sale at the stall, please contact the parish office or Jimmy Green.

We will need volunteers to erect and operate the stall.

If you can volunteer please give your name to the parish office or Jimmy Green on 07400 475 950.

It is also a day full of fun for the entire family, so join in for a fun day. Please find more details on the website of St Margarets Fair — www.stmargaretsfair.org Thankyou.

St Margarets Youth Group - Volunteer leaders sought!

From September the Parish will launch a monthly group for Years 7,8,9 here at St Margarets, meeting on the second Sunday of each month from 5:00pm to 6:15pm followed by Mass at 6:30pm after the first meeting.



The evenings would include sport, games, discussion and pizza.

If you are between 18 and late 30s, and have an interest in this ministry, please contact Fr Peter or the Parish Office. If possible, I would like to find two leaders before the summer so that all the necessary procedures may be undertaken before the first meeting on Sunday 17th September. Future dates would revert to the second Sunday of the month, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th.



Stewardship Sunday

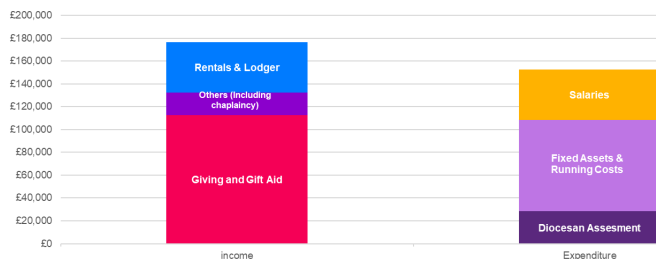


Last Sunday, a member of the Finance Committee presented a brief overview of parish finances and asked for your support in sustaining the parish community.

A more detailed view of St. Margaret's 2022 income and expenditure is available on the notice board and there are some handouts at the back of church. Please get in touch with any member of the Finance Committee if you have any questions or would like more information.

The Committee is also piloting the introduction of a new "Welcome to the Parish" pack. It contains a number of inserts that can be easily adapted and evolved and would appreciate any feedback of other information that could be provided. Please speak to Fr Peter or email any comments to Cynthia in the parish office on stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk Thank you.

2022 Accounts showed a small net surplus of £23,572*, however this masks the fact that the parish relies on outside income to cover day to day expenses



- Offertory remains by far the biggest contributor to parish income, amounting to [56%] of the total (including Gift Aid). This Parish cannot function without your help!
- However, it is not enough to cover the running costs/repairs of the Church, and we are reliant on "business" income; hall and car park rentals, lodgers in the Presbytery.
- 2022 Excludes income and expenditure from building fund (included from 2023)
- Net profit is overstated by roughly £8000 due to timing of utility bills.

2023 Budget forecasting a shortfall of nearly £2000



- For the 2023 budget, we are now including donations to the building fund as part of the operating income (in previous years donations were ring fenced in separate fund so that we could unlock the loan for the building fund. We are thus showing a notional increase in income, but in reality it is largely unchanged year on year
- Our costs, on the other hand, are going up considerably, driven primarily by increased utility costs and needed repairs to the Church and Presbytery
- The parish has on outstanding loan of £89k which are are repaying at about £17,000 per year

23% of offertory giving is based on loose plate and contactless donations; moving towards standing orders or payroll giving allows more certainty of income and allows us to reclaim a higher percentage of gift aid

Works included:

- New kitchen and bar area with 3 minute dishwashers, new countertops, and illuminated etching of St. Margaret
- Refurbished floor
- Refurbished lavatory facilities
- Remodelled basement area to provide better meeting space
- Wheelchair lift to ensure basement meeting space is accessible to all
- Loan will need to be repaid at an estimated rate of £17k year (based on current BoE base rate over the next seven years)

Building Fund

