

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A **25th October 2020**



In Peter writes:

The novel 1984 by George Orwell was widely read at school. The dystopian future seemed very real in the 1970s, well at least to teenage schoolboys and university students like myself. Looking back now the surveillance state was nothing compared to now, but George Orwell did capture the insidious cult of mis-information look before 'fake news' ever came a public issue in the last few years.

The hero of the novel, Winston Smith is finally broken by the questioning of O'Brien, whom he had thought to have been one of the doubters with regard to the all-knowing Party that run the country. Betrayed by his girlfriend Smith reflects that despite everything one must be prepared to be defeated and broken by life which is the inevitable price of fastening one's love upon other human individuals. However, it was, to him, a price worth paying to hold onto the truth. Maybe this statement said as much about George Orwell's life as it did about Winston Smith. The love of neighbour always carries a danger.

Yet what is missing from this melancholy description is that the human condition, our lives, do not have to take place either alone or in constant fear of the other. Sentiments of brokenness, strange to say, imply a previous experience of wholeness, of being at one with God, the world and others. If we had no sentiment of the possibilities of wholeness, of living in peace then brokenness would just be how we exist and no source of comment.

Human life can be grounded on something much firmer than brokenness, that is God who gives existence to everyone and everything. God's love for us and our reciprocal love for Him guarantees that wholeness, of being at one in ourselves, is indeed a real possibility even if not at this moment. This divine guarantee gives us the strength to love others, despite their and our limitations. Since God is the foundation of life, the believer does not have to seek the infinite from a finite individual, something that Winston Smith intimated in 1984. Our post-Christian age emphasises the power of human love, indeed the right to be in love and stay in love, but remains strangely silent on the foundations that sustain our own fragile efforts to love each other. No one can provide for our infinite needs but that does not mean we cannot provide something to each other.

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Mon. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat		10.00 am
Thursday Communion Service		10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Adoration	Wednesdays	8.00 – 9.15 am
	Friday & Saturday	10.30 – 11.00 am
Confessions	Saturdays	10.30 – 11.00 am
	Sundays	10.00 – 10.20 am

The unrealisable expectations of infinite love, such as the visions promoted in advertising, the tenor of wedding shows and displayed in assertive forms of psychology, can easily make our own efforts of love and friendship look paltry in comparison. The Christian takes the command to love seriously, and builds friendships and relationships moving forward into the future, rather than perpetually falling from perfection. The unacknowledged consequence of imbibing the subliminal messages of the pagan wedding industry, aspirational dating websites, and cohorts of smiling young people eating fast food together, all conspire to show that friendship and commitment require no effort, just the wave of a credit card and like on a mobile device. Everyone knows that this is just a mirage, and so the opposite viewpoint takes hold, that no sustained enterprise involving friendship or relationship is possible. Hope and vision are absent so second best becomes the only option.

Yet no human situation is without hope. The dynamic of love and friendship is sustained not through our own efforts alone, but through the gift of grace given not because we deserve the gift but out of gratuitous love on God's part. The historic life and death of Jesus testifies to this reality of God's love for us. This love is infinite and powerful and forms the spiritual bedrock on which we can build with confidence a shared life with others. Our relationships are never going to be perfect but they will not remain second-best because the dynamic of love and friendship is built on God and not on our own efforts alone.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: 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 24th Oct - Sunday 1st Nov

DATE	DAY	TIME	INTENTION	DONOR
24-Oct	Sat	10.00 a.m.	For unemployed seeking work	
		6.30 p.m.	No Mass	
25-Oct	Sun	08.30 a.m.	For all young people	
		10.30 a.m.	For you the people	
		6.30 p.m.	Cathy McKendry (Intentions)	Sarah McKendry
26-Oct	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Kieran Reilly RIP	Kathleen Walker
27-Oct	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Doreen Rooney RIP	Gallagher
28-Oct	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Irene Starzecki (Thanksgiving for 98th Birthday)	Jean & Desmond McGinley
29-Oct	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Communion service	
30-Oct	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Jane Gallagher RIP	Mary Gallagher
31-Oct	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Intentions of Danielle Miles on her birthday	Margaret Ocieпка
		6.30 p.m.	No Mass	
01-Nov	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Z. Jan Konczak	Margaret Ocieпка
		10.30 a.m.	For you the people	
		6.30 p.m.	Tom Phelan (RIP Anniversary)	Orla O'Sullivan

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

Contactless Giving is here!

Please look out for the donation device – simple and easy to give. Choose an amount for your donation and tap your debit/credit card. You can donate either on the way in or the way out of Mass.



We are very grateful to all our regular donors who support the parish financially by standing orders, payroll giving or weekly envelopes. However, in the past, we have also received about £25k per year in loose plate collections which have all but disappeared as fewer people carry cash now.

We are grateful for every donation, no matter how small. Thank you for your generosity.

Entrance Antiphon:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
Constantly seek his face.

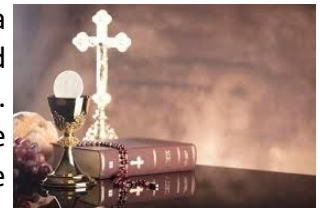
Response to the Psalm

I Love you, Lord, my strength.

IMPORTANT

Advance booking needed to attend 10:30 MASS on Sundays

Please remember to book a place if you wish to attend 1030am Mass on Sunday. Bookings can be made through a link on the home page of the church website.



No need to book for 8.30 am or 6.30 pm Sunday Mass as these are less busy.

Thank you
Fr Peter



The Passage – Cook book

To commemorate 40 years of their charitable work and the homeless people they have supported during this time, The Passage will be launching a very special cookbook, **A Taste of Home** with a Foreword from HRH The Duke of Cambridge, and exclusive recipes from over 100 household names including: Nigella Lawson, Sir Paul McCartney, Stephen Fry, Yotam Ottolenghi, Diana Henry and many more. The book will also include stories and recipes from people who have been helped by the charity's services over the years, shining a light on the challenges that they have been able to overcome with the right guidance, opportunities and resources.

A Taste of Home is priced at £25 and can be pre-ordered at Waterstones, or purchased online and from other book stores from 15 October, to coincide with The Passage's anniversary month. All profits will go directly towards supporting people who are street homeless and in housing crisis during a particularly testing financial time for so many.

Visit www.passage.org.uk/tasteofhome for more information

25th October—30th Sunday in OT

Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm 17

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

1st November - All Saints

Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 8-10

Psalm 130

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13

Matthew 23:1-12

Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die

St Margaret's features as one of Elena Curti's *Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die*.

This beautiful, lavishly illustrated book explores fifty of the most memorable Catholic churches in England and Wales to reveal not only their artistic and architectural splendours but also the fascinating stories behind each one. Together, it offers a fascinating history of Catholicism as expressed in the buildings themselves.

As well as the individual churches featured, the book also lists *Many More Worth a Detour* – providing details of other churches or sites of special Catholic interest nearby.

At over 300 pages with 190 full colour photographs, it is published at the very reasonable price of £14.99. However, it is offered to those churches featured at a special rate of £12 each for orders of 10 or more copies. If we have enough interest, the church office will put together a group order. Please email Cynthia on stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk before Nov 13th if you would like to put an order in.

Extra helpers needed

All of you who have returned to Mass over the summer will have seen the team of stewards and ushers at each Mass, who greet you with the temperature "gun", record your name and contact phone number for track and trace purposes, usher you to a socially distanced seat and encourage an orderly queue at Communion. You probably don't see that they also stay behind after Mass and disinfect the pews ready for the next congregation. Our team of volunteers have been very faithful over the last two months but now we need SOME MORE HELPERS to share the load. Please contact us via email stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk if you are happy to help, mentioning which Mass you usually attend.



Congratulations to Irene Starzecki

on her 98th birthday

which occurs this week, Irene attends the 8.30 Mass and has done so for the last 40 years and is currently self-isolating. May she continue to enjoy good health and happiness. Well done Irene!

from Fr Peter and all at St Margaret's



Blessing of Graves Sunday November 8th

Fr Peter will bless the graves of those buried at Twickenham cemetery starting at 2:00pm.

If you would like a family grave blessed please contact the Parish Office giving an approximate location of the grave. As we are now in Tier 2 restrictions, further guidelines will be given out shortly.

BE A LIGHT INSTEAD! Calling all saints!



This All Saints eve (All Hallows eve) could you be a source of light for those families/individuals needing the support of foodbanks in our neighbouring borough?

St Paul's food bank has had a 300% increase in demand compared to September 2019 & it is increasing all the time.

The demand is continuing to grow hugely in Hounslow due to the pandemic and the consequences of families finding themselves in very difficult circumstances as redundancies increase & the situation worsens.

The foodbanks desperately need our support as referrals are rising steeply. As we are all aware half term will put even more pressure on already struggling family finances from some of the poorest in our communities. Can you help support our brothers & sisters at this time & keep families fed?

This weekend & next weekend there will be donation boxes at our church for non-perishable foods & supplies which will be taken by the Phelan family to St.Paul's church foodbank, Hounslow West. Please help us to support them with our actions, love & our prayers.

What items can we find at the back of our cupboards to help? How can we get our families involved in being a light for others?

Items needed:

Tinned fish/meat/veg/fruit -- Tins custard/desserts/steamed puddings / rice pudding etc
Tins of stew/mince/chicken in sauces / hotdogs etc -- Tinned pies
Packets/tins of soups (particularly flavours other than tomato) -- Jars of baby food/ tins baby milk-- Long life cartons of milk & fruit juice-- Red lentils-- Chick peas -- Tinned pulses -- Jars of pasta sauces-- Pasta & rice -- Mashed potato/ tins of potatoes & fresh potatoes -- Weetabix & cereals & porridge -- Small bottles of cooking oil -- Coffee/ tea/ hot chocolate/ squash/ sugar -- Jam & preserves -- Biscuits/cakes/treats -- Washing powder -- Nappies (particularly size 3) -- Soap & toiletries incl toothpaste, brushes, deodorant, sanitary towels, shower gels, shampoos, shaving gels , handwash etc -- Baby wipes -- Waterproof coats in good condition -- Packs Mens/womens/ children's new underwear & socks -- Mens hats -- Backpacks in good condition -- Hoodies & warm clothing in good condition -- Shoes/ trainers in good condition -- Old smart phones with chargers.

Thank you for reading & bless you for your kindness!

Vicky Phelan

First Holy Communion



Congratulations to our First Holy Communion Children

Thank you to Fr Peter and our Catechists for making our First Holy Communion such a memorable occasion.



May God Bless them and their families and keep them in His care

First Holy Communion May 2021

Introduction



Preparing your children for First Communion and First Reconciliation is a privileged period for every family and will help shape your child's faith for the years ahead. Participation as a family at Mass prior to the First Holy Communion course, and the memorising of the basic prayers will make participation in the classes much more fruitful and long-lasting.

The course at St Margarets is open for those who fulfil the following criteria:

- a) who live within the Parish boundaries
- b) or who live outside the Parish boundaries but have been coming to Mass here for a substantial period beforehand. The Parish is unable to prepare families living outside the Parish who have had no contact with the Parish prior to the course. Claims that other Parish courses are full will not be accepted.

Application involves the following:

- a) collect a Mass attendance card from Fr Peter after Sunday Mass
- b) at the end of October to collect an application form

The outline programme is shown below. These dates may be subject to change if the government offers alternative guidance about social distancing etc. All classes will be held observing all the requirements laid down by the government and the Church to ensure that both children and catechists are safe.

Please note the Parish is not liable if the government changes travel advice with regard to families travelling to attend the First Holy Communion.

Dates of classes

All classes start last from 5:15pm to 6:15pm, short break, followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

Classes are compulsory as is attendance at Mass afterwards.

Dates:

7/11, 14/11, 21/11, 28/11, 5/12;

16/01, 23/01, 30/01, 6/02,

27/02, 06/03, 13/03, 20/03, 27/03 (First Confession)

17/04, 24/04, 08/05, 14/05 (Friday rehearsal)

First Holy Communion: Saturday 15th May 2021 11:00am

Fr Peter Newby, Parish Priest