

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



1st Sunday of Lent - 26 February 2023- Year A

## *In Peter writes:*

Over the last week one of the frontrunners to replace Nicola Sturgeon as First Minister of Scotland, Kate Forbes, has been in the spotlight over her religious views, all of which would have been considered mainstream 30 years ago. Critics have been keen to highlight that she allows God to dictate her choices. Packed in this critical statement is the unquestioned assurance that those without faith are guided by nothing other than reason as well as the prejudice that every religious person takes their directions from God without any mediation, reason or conscience. Reason though was in obvious short supply when the previous incumbent was discussing the question of male trans prisoners being allowed into women's prisons. Reason too was in short supply in all those self-appointed detectives and publicists engaged in looking after the missing mother in Lancashire who disappeared while walking her dog and for some unknown tragic reason was found drowned in the river. Reason was missing in those journalists who broadcast their conspiracy theories.

When Alistair Campbell declared that 'we don't do God' it might have helped in discerning the morality and likely consequences of the Iraq War if they. Applying the long-developed Catholic theory of the just war in this instance would have highlighted serious lacunae in the aspirations of the invading forces with regard to statecraft. In the case of the missing mother, a basic care for her family might have figured more highly if conscience had been developed. Not to interrogate the voice of conscience demonstrates a weakness of character, for if that had been the considered course of action in both cases could have been pursued and if appropriate objectives could be made public. Events demonstrated the western armies easily beating Saddam Hussein's troops but were left clueless as to how to run a country in all but name, composed of different factions, religions and tribal loyalties. Looking back over 20 years the enterprise looks naïve and 'not doing God' was not a cost free enterprise. Believing in God allows questions to emerge because the starting point is neither the certainties of current intellectual fashion nor the absolute certainty of my own opinion. Religious belief allows for the development of what Pope Francis calls 'the grammar of dialogue'. Another Pope, Pope St John Paul II wrote an extended document on the relationship between faith and reason demonstrating that faith gives space for reason to flourish because faith allows the biggest questions to be asked.

This week I am accompanying a group of St Marys students to Rome to show them around the city. Here I hope to show that faith allowed reason and a specific culture to flourish through the artists and architects who created the urban fabric. Most of the undergraduates are not Catholics and are studying history, so visiting St Peters will be matched by vis-

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Weekend Mass	Saturday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm
	Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Mass	There will be no weekday Mass, week commencing 27 <sup>th</sup> February till 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	
Eucharistic Service	Monday to Friday	10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 – 10.20 am

iting the Capitoline Hill, (where the city began with Romulus and Remus, descendants of the Trojans who had sailed with Aeneas after the Fall of Troy by tradition), and the Roman Senate, (the place of Cicero's oratory). The City of Man is meshed into the City of God. There is something about the city of Rome, its long history of peace and conflict, of religious beauty and depravity, holy nuns and venial clergy, baroque churches and concrete tenements that demonstrate that the certainties of the agnostic make for thin gruel.

This Sunday's Gospel, the account of the Temptations of Jesus, identify the negative side of the positive attempt to live the Christian life. Temptation is forever present and this Sunday's Gospel recognises that the same was true for Jesus, of allowing the exercise of reason to be distorted by sin. What would it mean for Jesus to be tempted, one without sin or experience of wrong doing? These temptations are not those from which we suffer, but the life-long temptation of falling away from His mission to offer salvation through the Cross.

Temptation covers the obvious sins but there is something subtler in these temptations about abandoning the destination to which we are all being called, supernatural life within the Trinity, heaven. Jesus' temptations were about abandoning His vocation as the life-saving Messiah, our temptation is to abandon our vocation to become human. No-one becomes human in the abstract or as a good idea, but through life as lived, through our families, our friends, those with whom we share our lives and our communities. Temptation pulls us away from this vocation to become human, to focus on ourselves to the detriment of others, through pride and selfishness.

This Sunday's Gospel of the Temptations of Jesus identifies the strange paradox that makes, 'not doing God' irresponsible. If we never experience temptation in whatever form, then we are making no attempt to live the Christian vocation. Better to stumble than to think there is nothing personally wrong or that I am absolutely certain in myself. Never to stumble and to be always certain necessitates blaming others when something goes wrong or to self-diagnose an illness that absolves me of responsibility. Neither of them is the Christian way. The Christian takes responsibility whilst recognising one's own fallibility.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk](http://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 25 Feb – Sun 5 Mar

25/02	Sat	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
26/02	Sun	8.30 am	Margaret Tobback RIP	Winter
		10.30 am	Hernando Lopez RIP	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	Joseph de Souza RIP	Barbara de Souza
27/02	Mon	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
28/02	Tue	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
01/03	Wed	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
02/03	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
03/03	Fri	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
04/03	Sat	10.00 am	For you the people	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
05/03	Sun	8.30 am	Eileen & Patrick Coughlan RIP Anni- versary	Davis
		10.30 am	Peter Cassidy RIP	Margaret Roberts
		6.30 pm	Gerard Crowley RIP	Kathleen Barry

## 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 Master-son, Carmen Ruibal, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew & Jim Polland.

**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 Den-ny

**Recently deceased** - Patricia "Mary" Picton RIP (Vicky Phelan's mum), Clare Gillis RIP, Michael Roper RIP, Michael Barnes RIP & Gordon McCaw (Lily McCaw's Father in Law)

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,

I will grant him length of days.

### **Response to the Psalm:**

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

### **Mass Schedule**

- ◆ Week commencing 27th February, Fr Peter will be away and there will be only Eucharistic Services held during the week at 10.00 am till Friday, 3rd March.
- ◆ Saturday Mass 10.00 am & 6.00 pm will resume on 4th March 2023 onwards with an exception on 11th March.

### **Sacramental Programmes**

Sacramental preparations are open for parishioners and those who attend Mass regularly at St Margaret's.

#### **Baptism**

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at our Pre Baptism course is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office.



#### **Marriage Preparation**



St Margarets will hold a marriage preparation course on Saturday 1st April 2023. Kindly contact the parish office for more information.

### **Holy Hour**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm -9:00 pm and all are welcome to attend. For those not able to attend we will be starting a book of intentions in which you are welcome to write your intentions. Those attending Adoration will present your intentions before the Blessed Sacrament.



### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacra-ment of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 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 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - 26 FEB 2023

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7

Psalm 50

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - 5 MAR 2023

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 32

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

## LENT AT ST MARGARETS

### • Lenten Faith Formation

- Lenten Companions course, Monday's commencing 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7:30 pm

### • Lenten Devotions

- ⇒ Stations of The Cross - Fridays 7:30 pm
- ⇒ Holy Hour - Fridays 8:00 pm
- ⇒ Penance & Reconciliation service – Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm
- ⇒ Live Way of The Cross (A live enactment of the final hours of Jesus' journey until his crucifixion - Saturday April 1st 6:00 pm (save the date, more details to follow))

### • Almsgiving

- ⇒ SPEAR (Local charity, helping the homeless)
- ⇒ School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus, Madagascar (International charity, funds to provide lunch to the very poor children at school)

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

Lent is an important season in the Church's liturgical year, the time when we take stock of where we are in our faith and prepare for the death and Resurrection

of our Saviour. Often we lose sight of the point of this season because we get caught up in ourselves—how hard it is to fast, how bad we are at fasting—and we end up just waiting for the season to be over at Easter. Because of this, we sometimes arrive at Easter with our lives no different than they were on Ash Wednesday.

As a parish, we are seeking to prepare for Jesus' death and Resurrection and experience true transformation in our lives during this powerful season.

To help us in this journey we will be running a series of sessions through Lent on Monday evenings starting 27<sup>th</sup> of Feb, consisting of a short video presentation followed by time for group discussion and reflection. The sessions will begin at 7:30 pm and run for about one hour.



All are warmly invited to join us.

## Lenten Project 2023

This year, the process of selecting charities for our parish has been slightly different from previous years.

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

The Parish Pastoral Council have decided to choose the Charities for this year.

The 2 charities chosen as our Lenten Project 2023 are

- ◆ SPEAR (Local charity) Homelessness to Independence and
- ◆ School Santa Teresa Del Nino Jesus (Primary & Secondary), Madagascar (International charity)

**SPEAR**  
homelessness to independence

### THERE WILL BE A SHORT VIDEO DISPLAYED ON BOTH THE CHARITIES ON SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY.

You may remember Sr Josephine, the Mexican Sister of the Assumption who came to the 10.30 am Mass while studying English here in London.

Sr Josephine works in one of the poorest forgotten countries of the world, Madagascar. She is working in a country who is on the verge of economic collapse. The Sisters have a school and our project will be to provide lunch to very poor children to enable their families to send them to school. The project would provide the lunch to more than 80 very poor children who attend the school and/or live far away from the school and cannot go home to eat.

Education is one of the great enablers to bring people out of poverty.

As Lent begins, we should be aware that our church has TWO sets of Stations of the Cross. Most of us are familiar with the Friday evening, 7.30 pm communal and quasi-liturgical procession to each station with appropriate

set pauses and set prayers. Few of us, however, know about

the Scriptural Stations in our small chapel, though they have been staring us in our faces for many years. I finally realised their power some years ago, and they have become very dear to me.



In season and out they draw on the chapel's intimacy to lead us at our own pace to meditate and pray Jesus's Way of the Cross, starting from the Last Supper and then Gethsemane and ending with the Resurrection, constantly referring to the four gospel accounts of his Passion – you might sometimes bring a New Testament with you to assist your memory. You will be greatly helped by the pictorial artistry of these stations.

## Soup Lunch

You are cordially invited to join our next soup lunch event on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 12.15 to 1.30p.m.**



in the Parish Hall where you can enjoy not only delicious soups, cake and hot refreshments provided by the team of volunteers, but also the convivial company of other members of St Margaret's Parish Community.

Donations are for the benefit of Fr Paul Bigirwa's educational initiatives in Uganda, which have been supported by GETA (Give Education to All) since 2015.

charity no. 1167092

David Rose

Be part of a  
winning team

Twickenham  
**REPAIR CAFE**

Our Twickenham Repair Cafe is

really taking off with over 60 repairs each session. So we are looking for more support volunteers for jobs such as: help with set up, welcoming visitors, serving coffee, tea and cakes and allocating repair jobs.

Somebody needs to bake those lovely cakes for us as well! If you have a few spare hours once a month just contact one of us at [info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org](mailto:info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org)

Thanks. Pat, Gavin, David, Cliff, Colin

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023 A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE—FRIDAY 3 MARCH

**What is it?** The World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement informed worship and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of worship.



**Who is the service for?** All ages are welcome.

**WHEN & WHERE WILL IT BE HELD?** Join in for the Service & refreshments at St Michael & St Martin Church, Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EW at 11.00 am

**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal** - This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

Give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

**New to the parish...  
or new-ish?**



**Would you like to meet other parishioners?**

**OR find out more about what goes on in our parish community? You are warmly invited to our new parishioners evening. Join us online from the warmth & comfort of your own home.**

**Please contact the parish office for more information [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Come and join our lively Zoom meet hosted by Kathryn James (parish pastoral council) & Fr Peter**

**on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm**

**The Passion - Trafalgar Square  
7th April 2023 Wintershall performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm**

**WINTERSHALL**  
Experience the story



<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london> YouTube:  
<https://youtu.be/m6rv7de6T4c>

For those who unable to get to Trafalgar Square the performances will be livestreamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wintershallplay>

Please could anyone provide rooms or a flat to rent to a Ukrainian Refugee Catholic family? A married couple and their two daughters (10 and 13) are looking for long-term accommodation in the area. The daughters attend school in Twickenham. They currently rent privately, but the landlord is returning to the property in April. The family work, have references, are trustworthy and can pay reasonable rent for a 2 bedroom apartment. If you think you could help, please email Ali at [portscatho2010@gmail.com](mailto:portscatho2010@gmail.com). Thank you.