

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - 26 November 2023 - Year A



In Peter writes: This week I have been attending a worldwide conference of chaplains of Catholic Universities in Rome. One of the best reasons to attend, other than the obvious culinary delights of the city, is the chance to meet other Chaplains. So, this morning the Chaplain of the Catholic University of Ivory Coast explained that the University had a separate campus in each of the Francophone countries of West Africa, thus precipitating international travel every month. no longer can I complain of travelling to Strawberry Hill. Another African chaplain, on a much more serious note, spoke about how his staff were trying to keep their students safe from internecine violence. Speakers from all the parts of the world gave their testimony so it was encouraging that as a chaplain of a Catholic University I was part of something much greater.

Another speaker, a Jesuit priest, Antonio Spadaro, former editor of a leading Catholic newspaper, spoke of the nature of Christian hope as the antidote to the fragmentation of contemporary life. Taking the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, he distinguished between what is probable and what is possible. None of the bridesmaid knew quite what they were waiting for, ignorant of what lay beyond the door of the groom's house. This ignorance is the possible of faith, the probable is a matter of economics, as the endless acres of print dedicated to economic outlook indicate. Faith's emphasis on the possible opens the imagination to see an alterative future. At the very beginning of the Gospel, Jesus announces the coming of the kingdom of God without giving any details. Packing the proclamation of the kingdom of God with humanly-limited details would deaden the mission of preaching the Gospel. Abandoning detail would be not be a successful strategy for selling a house, a car, or making a lifestyle purchase but it allows the Holy Spirit to guide the content of the Gospel.

Chaplaincy is the precious location for the possible future to take place, whether it is the study of the Gospels, acts of worship and adoration, as well as charitable, communitarian or political endeavour. I can see this so clearly in St Mary's. Last week a student, off his own back, arranged an Ecumenical Vespers with a Greek Orthodox and Syrian Orthodox priests in attendance alongside myself. Hearing the Our Father sung in Syriac/Aramaic, the language of Jesus, by the priest and a student with his family was a precious moment, connecting us both to time of the Apostles and the suffering church in the Middle East. Recent wars and revolutions in Syria, Iraq, Gaza, and antagonism in Israel itself, has shrink the size of the Christian community in those nations.

Reviewing the conference in the light of the recent Synod and Pope Francis' first Encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The

joy of the Gospel) of 10 years ago, the focus in on the preparation for receiving the Gospel. Too often the answers have been given before the questions were asked. Like a teacher or parent who never lets thoughts to germinate, the Church has been adept at answering her questions rather than listening to the questions being asked. Such an attitude of listening is not the prelude to doctrinal or moral relativism, as if anything is OK. This method of allowing questions to emerge, and not giving pre-packaged details echoes the method adopted in the Gospels. The content of the Gospels is the biography of Jesus Christ, how the individual engages with that content remains unique, and it is that uniqueness that becomes the faith of the Church with growing engagement with the life and teaching of the Church.

Pope Francis talks about the polyhedric quality of Catholic truth, of the many fragments that together make the truth. Previously truth was seen as a monolith, and if given visual form, comprised a sphere, all parts equidistant from the centre forming a perfect shape. Both images are of solid shapes, their difference lies in their respective understanding of time, the first speaks of eternity, the second of history. Their respective images might be the contrast between the rural landscapes of southern Europe, the eternal pattern of the country life, while the second might be seen in the urban metropoli of the world. Daily struggle takes a different shape in the city compared to that of the countryside.

Why would any of this be of relevance to this or any parish. Its relevance lies in recognising the changed experience of students and young people today compared to an older generation's collective experience of their youth. Those who lament the demise of the 1968 flower power generation and the activism of the 1970s, I would suggest, also lament the decline of organisations of Cafod and Oxfam. Those who were young people in the 1980s 1990s and 2000s have seen the demise of communism and now capitalism and the respective decline of organisations such as Aid to the Church in Need. Collective charitable endeavours discern the lacunae in culture, thus as culture changes so does its charitable impulse change. Food banks, environmental charities and personal connection with missionaries are the newish responses to the underside of contemporary culture.

Every Chaplain at the Conference was asked to seek the possible and not settle for the probable in their ministry. Something similar could be said about every parish, by allowing the possible, to emphasise initiatives as the place to encounter the Holy Spirit, and not just resort to the probable content of timeless chaplaincy or parish diaries.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby; Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

Mass Intentions: 25/11 – 3/12

25/11	Sat	10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
26/11	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Tom & Terry Martin	Mary Martin
		6.30pm	For the Holy souls	
27/11	Mon	10.00am	For the Holy souls	
28/11	Tue	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
29/11	Wed	10.00am	Eileen Winter RIP	Winter
30/11	Thu	10.00am	Eileen Winter RIP	Winter
01/12	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
02/12	Sat	10.00am	John Heffernan RIP	Rita Johnston
03/12	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	For all suffering in Gaza, Israel and	A parishioner
		6.30pm	Ann Davies RIP	Barbara de Souza

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.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (27/11-03/12)

Weekend	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday	Mon, Wed & Thu	10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Tue & Fri	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00–10.20am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Girda Kerrigan, John Forsyth, Rose Blackman, Ursula van der Westhuizen, 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, Jim Polland, Theresa Bulpitt, Sue Rolph & Dick Cotter.

Anniversaries - Vyvien Leyer, Nina Gumbleton, 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, Veronica Flood, Gertrude Ulrich

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~

November Prayer Intention

For the Pope : We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Advent Giving Tree

This Advent we will be giving to the homeless of our diocese working in partnership with the Passage, the charity of the archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



Children will also be involved this year. While adults can select a label with an essential item (clothing/toiletries) requested by the Passage, children can select labels with a task for them to perform to help others together with a prayer intention.

Items should be returned to church, not earlier than the third Sunday of Advent when they will be collected for distribution to those in need.

Visits to the sick and housebound

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



Advent Penance Service



WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER
at 7pm in the Church

Join us at St Margaret's Church for a prayerful opportunity to prepare for Christmas. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, with guest Confessors, will be available.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN !!!

Advent Wreath Making Session

Come and decorate your own Advent Wreath on **Sunday 3rd December** after 10.30 am Mass.

Materials will be provided. Donations are welcome!



Christmas tree decorating

All children are invited to decorate the St Margarets Christmas tree on **Sunday 10th December** after 10.30 am Mass.



*Enjoy warmth and good company here at
St Margaret's at our much loved
"Tea & Chat"
every alternate
Wednesday from
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm*

*Dates for your diary.
29th November, 13th December*

*All are welcome.
Please feel free to bring along a friend or a neighbour.*



"The Mustard Seed Presenting "Shine your Light"

On
**Saturday
16th December 2023
at 8.00 pm
in the Church Hall,**



On Saturday 16 December the Mustard Seed prayer group will present, "Shine your Light." An initiative of the National day of Prayer and Worship which is all denominations joining together for praise and worship and to spread the Gospel.

Please see www.shineyourlight.org.uk

We will have an evening of praise and worship music suitable for Advent with readings and reflections. We will offer hospitality and, an opportunity for prayer ministry. A great opportunity to get in the right Spiritual place for the birth of our Saviour Jesus!

CAFOD Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Join us in London on Saturday 9 December to call for leaders at COP28 to act on Pope Francis' call.

Thanks to you and thousands of other Catholics, hundreds of MPs have heard Pope Francis is demanding urgent action from leaders to tackle the climate crisis.

The Pope is so determined to call for action at COP28 that he's going to attend the talks himself. So we're inviting you to share his message more widely and join us as we march in solidarity with those on the frontlines of the climate emergency. To Sign up - <https://click.email.cafod.org/?qs=f8f55fb8f667f5e0886777ebde4446c061ce65a07f5ad1dc26eac3d86f3d3d4060d3cf584d91f0d127ec3535d4c2b47fb4aa456cee05cc0085d1f1c796b84646>

The march will be one of countless protests taking place around the world demanding action from governments as they meet at the summit.

Like the Holy Father, we'll be calling for leaders to push for an end to the fossil fuel era, and so we'll be carrying placards reminding leaders we have 'No faith in fossil fuels'.

The plans for the route and timings for the march are being finalised, but we expect to start gathering for the protest around 11:45am. Sign up to let us know you're coming and we'll keep you updated when plans are confirmed.

Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

Winners for the month of November 2023

1st Prize No.13 Anne Faul £100/-

2nd Prize No 29 Mary Ibbett £50/-

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)



Recommissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve the parish community in important ways, not only assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, but also taking Communion at home to our sick and housebound parishioners and leading weekday Eucharistic Services when Fr Peter is away. We thank them for their service.

There will be a recommissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist on the 1st Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2023 at all Masses.

If any minister is unable to attend Mass on 3rd Dec, would you please let Cynthia in the parish office know so that an alternative date can be arranged for you.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, especially if you might be able to occasionally visit one of our sick and housebound parishioners, please speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Joseph.

The Parish Pastoral Council



Embracing Age Classical Music Concert Friday 1st December

Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start. Bar and light refreshments available.

Free entry, but booking is essential. There will be a collection at the concert and donations made on the night will be match funded through The Big Give.

To book visit embracingage.org.uk/concert or phone 07735 332584

Westminster Cathedral the mother Church of our diocese has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 November and before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5 December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23>



Pictures from the celebration of the Patronal Feast of St Margaret and children helping with the Bug hotel

— 19th Nov 2023

