

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 28 NOVEMBER 2021 Year C

In Peter writes: There is something sad seeing middle-aged men play violent video games on the underground and imagining that they have feasted on this diet since teenage years. Such extended use must by sheer osmosis influenced the neural pathways in the brain. The same, though less violent, can be said about the influencers of the fashion and diet world, mashing up the brains of teenage girls about what constitutes beauty and appropriate dress sense.

This is the world described in this Sunday's Gospel, a world determined by fate and not by redemption. Ancient Greek tragedy was played out within a world of fixed fate, the same fixed fate of violence and eating disorders that effect so many today, cut off from the redemptive power of grace. Rejecting faith has deeper consequences than simply not going to Mass. The abiding passivity in front of such nihilism marks modern culture and its own paradoxical apparatus of victim culture, trident assertion and mental health issues makes it impervious to the power of the Gospel. How easy it becomes in this context to let one's heart be coarsened and fail to grasp one's own entrapment in a cycle of self-destruction and the obvious pains of others. Now is the time for conversion

Advent is a season of penance but not in the same way as Lent. The forty days of Lent are a personal pilgrimage of penance to engage with the forgiveness of sins and bestowal of resurrected life that marks Holy Week. On the other hand, Advent is the season to appreciate the bigger picture, the cosmic struggle between good and evil, as fought out within the culture in which I live, namely early 21st century Great Britain. Grace broke into the world at Bethlehem, and through the preaching of St Paul to the then known world, now grace break into our pagan lands of St Margarets and Twickenham.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (29/11 - 5/12)		
Saturday	10.00 am	
Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	10.00 am	
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Rosary (In church)	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 - 10.20 am

Remembering the account of that first Christmas and the circumstances surrounding the birth of the Christ child gives the clue to discerning where grace is breaking through today for world. The weakness of the new-born infant points to how the world may be changed, through the same limitations of our own condition. The same power of grace will transform the world, and which is already transforming the world, will transform us too. Greek tragedy as a literary artform is replaced by redemption and self-transcendence over suffering that marks Christian literature.

Thus, Advent is firstly the season of hope, and the period for us to reflect on what we hope whether for ourselves, our families, our community, and our homes. These hopes are answered in outline by the birth of Jesus Christ. Quite how the love which God showed by sending His Son, the Word made flesh, depends on how it will be received by ourselves. Will we marvel and go away, returning to normal after the New Year, or will the searching for meaning, peace and love find their answers in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Everywhere Christmas is being celebrated in anticipation by secular society, so the richness of meaning is largely lost, and entrapment is guaranteed. Pagan society wants it this way. Nothing it seems is more dangerous than someone waking up to the call of grace to bring the Good News to others.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretonthames@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 to Friday (9.30 am - 12.30 pm) Emails will not be checked out of office hours

Mass Intentions Sat 27/11 – Sun 5/12

27/11	Sat	10.00am	Holy Souls	
28/11	Sun	8.30 am	Holy Souls	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Guido Jambini RIP	
29/11	Mon	10.00am	Eileen Winter RIP Anniversary	Winter
30/11	Tues	10.00am	Ann Bolton recently deceased	Davis family
1/12	Wed	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
2/12	Thu	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
3/12	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
4/12	Sat	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
5/12	Sun	8.30 am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Pupils and staff of St James School and St Richard Reynolds Catholic College	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rose Blackman, Georgina Lotitto, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Kevin Sweeney, Christopher Cousins, Irena Starzecki & Judith Thomas

Anniversaries - 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, Nan Cobbing, Monica Scriven, Collin Morgan

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed

through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen



Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Response to the Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Synodal pathway listening exercise

The session planned on 30th November has been cancelled. We are sorry for the inconvenience.



It's nearly the most wonderful time of the year...

The Angel Tree

Coming soon!

Richmond Social Services will be giving us a list of children, teenagers and families who probably will not receive a gift this Christmas.

You could make their Christmas special by selecting an angel and buying the suggested gift, or an alternative one if you wish.

What you have to do:

- Select an angel...or two!
- Sign it out on the lists provided by matching the number on your angel with the number on the sheet – don't forget to fill in your contact details!
- Buy your gift
- Return your unwrapped gift and angel together in a bag
- Come along and help wrap the gifts... the more the merrier!

Please look out for the Angel tree, further information and important dates from next week.

Thank you for your continued support for this project.

Sacramental Programmes

Baptism

The next available Baptism courses are as below:

January 12th & 19th 2022

March 8th & 15th 2022

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



First Holy Communion 2022

Sessions are now underway. Please contact the parish office for more information. **Applications close on December 19th .**



Confirmation 2022

The course will start after Christmas. Please register through the parish office.



Marriage Preparation



The next course will run at St Margaret's on **Saturday 9th April 2022**. Please contact the parish office to register.

Courses at The Brompton Oratory - **Sat 5th**

March and Saturday 21st May 2022. Kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk)

Advent activities for children

Advent wreath making - Sunday 5th Dec

11.30 am—12.00 noon



Christmas card making session - to make cards for our elderly and housebound parishioners—Sunday 12th December 11.30—12.00 noon and also a second opportunity to make an Advent wreath if you missed it the previous week.

Children & Young People's Christmas Party (Fun and games evening) - Friday 17th December

Years 1 to 6 from 6.00 pm—8.00 pm

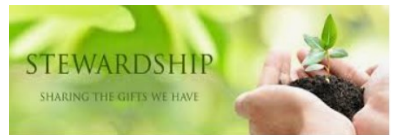
Years 7 to 11 from 7.00 pm—9.00 pm



Our Parish, Our Needs,

Our Responsibility

Stewardship



'Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Over the last couple of weeks you have heard about Stewardship and Planned Giving. We have asked that all parishioners prayerfully reflect on what they contribute to our parish, having taken into consideration the needs of our parish and having reflected on the message of stewardship.

This weekend we ask you to consider renewing your parish giving in a responsible way. Standing orders is the best way to give to the parish to enable our parish community to thrive in bringing God's Kingdom. Please provide your full contact details and select the method of offertory giving best suited to you. If you pay UK income tax, please sign the Gift Aid declaration (in one name only) so that the parish can claim 25p back from the government for every £1 that you donate, at no extra cost to yourself.

We also ask you to consider how to give of your time and talents to enable us to further the mission of the parish.

Finally, we thank you for all that you already do for our parish. Without your continued support, this wonderful, living church would not continue to be the spiritual center it is today.

If you have any questions, there shall be volunteers available after Mass.

Christmas Liturgies

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Mass—especially for families **4.00 pm & 6.00 pm**. Advance booking required; bookings will open on Sunday 12th December.

Mass of the Night—Carols & Readings at **9.30 pm**.

Mass at 10.00 pm

Christmas Day—Feast of the Nativity **8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass**

Feast of The Holy Family (Sunday 26th December) 10.30 am ONLY

Weekday Mass in the week commencing 20 Dec and in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 27 Dec will be at **12.00 noon**.



As part of the Westminster Synodal Pathway we are invited to join (*With Cardinal Vincent Nichols*) at an Area Listening Event on (Thursday 2nd December, 7.00pm – 9.00pm) at (Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, London W5 2DY). Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to a time of listening – of listening deeply to each other as we walk side by side, telling our stories of faith.



Here in our local Church, our Diocese, this is just what we are doing. This Area Listening Event is an opportunity to listen, to share, and to dream about the Church we are called to be. All are welcome, and places can be booked by emailing catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

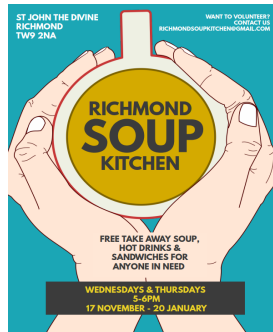
'London SW Catholic Social Group is looking for people to help lead and organise events for 18 to 35s and over 60s. Please let us know if you



are interested in participating or organising. Our main contact details are londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com and London SW Catholic Social Group on Facebook.' Brendan Baker

Glassdoor update:

We are still looking to finalise a start date for our Glassdoor shelter likely to be on Mondays from mid January 2022. If you would like to be involved and haven't got in touch with us yet, please email Cath Brizzell (cathmcdee@yahoo.com)



Winter Soup and Sandwich Service:

Until Richmond Glass Door shelters open after Christmas, St John the Divine Church in Richmond will be running a Soup and Sandwich take away service two days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.00 -6.00 pm starting on Wednesday 17th November.

They are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve guests from 4.30-6.30. Please contact Isabelle Swann if you would like to be involved: (swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk)

Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 4th December 2021 in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10am-5pm) to prepare for Christmas, with teaching, workshops, prayer, confessions and mass. Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations on-

ly. Register: tramy@assumptionreligious.org



Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

Winners for the month of November

1st Prize No. 37 £100/- Catherine Wigington

2nd Prize No 66 £50/- Leslie Hill

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)

Can you help Afghan refugee families get out and about to play outside?



Scooters and buggies needed. Afghan refugee families living in hotel rooms need scooters, pushchairs, buggies, so they can get out for a walk. Double buggies doubly welcome! Also suitcases or holdalls, and men's outdoor warm coats. Collection point in the church hall on **Sunday 5th Dec** (open before/after each Mass). Definitely **no other clothes or gifts** as storage is overwhelmed. Please only bring items that are clean and in good working order.

If you have something to donate but cannot bring it on Sunday 5th, please do not turn up with it on another day, but get in touch with Mary first.

Any queries, ring or text Mary Ibbett 07758 625669

St James's is an outstanding Catholic school



with close links to St Margaret's parish. Due to the generosity of previous parishioners who funded part of the new build some years ago, the Admissions Policy gives priority places to 15 Catholic children who live within the geographical boundaries of St Margaret's parish. The Head Teacher Mr Beatty warmly invites you to join a tour of the school and meet him on a Friday morning at 9:30 am. Please reserve a place by emailing the school office info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk