

ST MARGARET'S PAGE



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 29th October 2023 - Year A

In Peter writes:

Today's conflict between Israel and the rulers of the Gaza Strip demonstrate how the misapplication of conscience has murderous consequences. Popular reactions in the west, mostly supportive of the rulers of the Gaza Strip demonstrate too the collapse in understanding of the proper role of conscience. Declaring the supremacy of conscience within a secular society might not lead directly to violence but it sets the tone for the culture of 'my truth', and placing sincerity above truth. Rejecting all forms of external authority whether of parents by children, of society by individuals, leads eventually to the rejection of objective truth. This does not mean that every decision made by external authority is always correct, but learning from others the distinction between right and wrong, is a necessary part of becoming a functioning member of family, community and society.

Thus, the current conflict in the Middle East being fought through WhatsApp, TikTok and other platforms is being undertaken largely lacking in the proper use of conscience. Both sides are sincere in their avowed destruction of each other, either as their political *raison d'être* or out of perceived necessity. Sincerity here leads to violence because conscience far from being an opening to the truth has become a protective mantle over the ego.

To the Christian, access to the truth is at the heart of faith, not truth as an abstract concept but made known as a person, Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ comes about by recognising the pivotal role of conscience. The Psalmist wrote, 'Lord, forgive me for my unknown faults.' (Ps 19:12-3). Only through dialogue with God can a proper estimation of my actions be appreciated, and the internal life of believers is this developing understanding on what is right. Jesus' gift of grace and reconciliation responds to this awakening understanding. Teenage years are just one phase of this potential transformation between the blind acceptance by children of their parents' authority, and the ability to see moral choices are more than just subjective choices. To see conscience as something more than the ego's wishes, allows space for authentic human development, of a life given to others, of a life open to the adventures of grace.

To possess faith is to accept the higher power of God. This requires humility, a difficult characteristic to nurture in secular society when every difficulty is cast as a battle between 'my rights' and the country, the government, the council, the community, the school, my family etc. Here might lie the reason why so many Catholics stop receiving the spiritual power (grace) derived from the Eucharist. The transformation from childhood to adulthood was never fully accomplished.

Returning to the violence in Gaza and Israel, the voice of conscience is also a call to restraint. Since our acts of conscience, of discerning right from wrong, connects us to the internal voice of God, conscience implies the care for the whole of creation. The care for creation through conscience became apparent in another war, that of the Spanish conquests in South America. Here the superior arms of the Spanish army encountered the powerlessness of the newly discovered peoples of the continent.

The superiority of arms combined with the certainty of Catholic faith produced murderous consequences. To the Bishop Las Casas, a 16th century bishop in South America, the only way to resolve this problem was within the Christian faith itself. He contrasted the powerlessness of conscience with the brutality of power without conscience. What justifies the Catholic faith is the awakening of conscience that limits the use of power and protects the powerless.

The bishop's efforts went largely unrecognised at the time, but his analysis of the centrality of conscience within Catholic faith offers the prequel to any solution in the Middle East. Conscience separates the Law of the People from the Law of God. Thus, the Law of the People cannot absorb the Law of God, and act on its' behalf. To the Christian fallible political institutions cannot absorb the Law of God in its entirety. Both Jews and Muslims possess the Law of God, the first the donation of the land, the second world conquest for God. Conscience, as understood by Christians, does not deny the revelation of God but would not seek to impose God's will through political means. Placing the emphasis on the exercise of conscience would at least bring an end to the violence, hard as that would be for both sides. This should be the prayer of every Christian in these weeks.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrcchurch.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: 30/10 —5/11

28/10	Sat	10.00am	Jane Gallagher RIP	Mary Gallagher
29/10	Sun	8.30am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Philip Crowe RIP	Margaret Crowe
		6.30pm	Antoinette (Toni) Phelan Recently deceased	Orla O'Sullivan
30/10	Mon	10.00am	For the peoples of Israel & Gaza, praying for peace	A parishioner
31/10	Tue	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
01/11	Wed	All Saints Day		
		10.15am	All Saints of God – pray for us	
		7.00 pm	All Saints of God – pray for us	
02/11	Thur	All Souls Day		
		10.00am	For the Holy Souls	
03/11	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
04/11	Sat	10.00am	Intentions of James Gallagher	Mary Gallagher
05/11	Sun	8.30am	Sarah Bonnamy RIP	Peter & Su Slatery
		10.30am	Madie Key RIP - 2nd anniversary	Chris Key
		6.30pm	Homer Baker RIP & Skip Curry RIP	Marta Browne

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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 - Kathleen Bowers, Annie Elizabeth Peel, Leonnard Collins, Cecilia Sykes, Nuala Persson, Kathleen Dwyer, Lily Ashton, Peter Argent, Dan Fitzgibbon, Toby Watkins, Harold Bearman, James Gumbleton, Jeff Walsh, Bridget Collis, Archibald Lowe, Marie Wright

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

November Month of Holy Souls - There will be 3 Masses a week offered for Holy Souls and a weekend Mass. Please write the names of the deceased family and friends on the purple sheets provided in the Church on the table as you enter and we will put them on the Holy Altar for the duration of November. Kindly put your donation in the envelopes provided alongside.



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.

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (30/10-05/11)

Weekend	Saturday	10.00 am
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday	Mon, Tue	10.00 am
	Wed (All Saints) Thu (All Souls)	10.15 am & 7.00pm 10.00 am
	Fri	10.00 am
Euch Ser	Saturday	10.00 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00–10.20am

Parish Pastoral Council Notices from Fr Peter

Every few years the Parish Pastoral Council undergoes a change of personnel as serving the parish should be a joy and not a life-sentence!

Currently I am looking for a new **Secretary/Convener of the Pastoral Council**, someone who co-ordinates the three yearly meetings and has oversight over the parish's different activities as a whole. I would like to thank for her work as secretary for the last three years. Kathryn James will be taking over the Community/Love your parish position.

I am also looking for two further parishioners who might consider overseeing the two posts of **Catechetical coordinator** and **Pastoral Outreach**. I am very grateful for the contributions made by Marta Baker (Catechetics) and Cath Brizzell (Pastoral Outreach). Both have ensured that the parish provides different catechetical and faith development courses and events, and that the parish has a sustained outreach into the community, especially with the Richmond Homeless lunches.

Sacramental Programmes 2024

Last call for applications to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2024. Please speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Joseph and email your details to the Parish office.



30TH SUNDAY IN OT - 29 OCT 2023

Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm 17

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

31ST SUNDAY IN OT - 5 NOV 2023

Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10

Psalm 130

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

Matthew 23:1-12

Blessing of the Graves

Sunday 5th November

2 pm Twickenham cemetery

3.30 pm Teddington cemetery



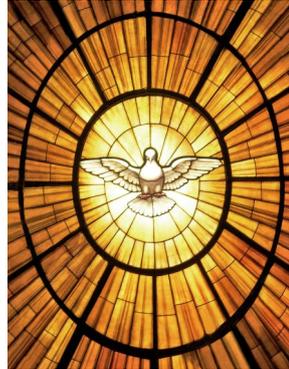
The Year of the Council: Sharing Faith Course

You are invited to join us in preparation for the Year of the Council with the Diocesan "Sharing Faith" course.

The course will run for 4 Wednesdays from 7.30-9pm in the Lower Sacristy, starting on **Wednesday 8th November** and finishing on **Wednesday 29th November**.

This new course, for faith-sharing communities across the Diocese, seeks to bring us into an act of love, as we journey through the 4 Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

All are welcome to join us—teas & coffees provided.



Patronal Feast Weekend Celebrations **18th & 19th November**

Saturday 18th November: 5pm in the Hall

Talk by Melanie McDonagh: "The powerful women of the Mediaeval Church, St Margaret of Scotland included".

Melanie McDonagh writes for The Tablet and The Evening Standard, amongst other newspapers.

Sunday 19th November: 12pm in the Hall

The traditional St Margaret's BBQ will take place after the 10.30am Mass. Tickets at amazing value! £15 per family, £5 per person—please bring a salad or dessert to share.

The memorial of St Margaret of Scotland is Thursday 16th November, and may be transferred to the nearest Sunday in churches dedicated to her name.



HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Wednesday 1st November - All Saints day

Mass at 10.15 am & 7.00 pm

Twickenham Repair Cafe hit 1,000 repairs

Thank you to the 33 repairers and support crew for their dedication, positivity and love of solving problems always with big smiles. They have shared their skills, saved over 5 tonnes from landfill and raised over £2,000 for charity over 19 months since the Cafe opened.

Their 1,000 years of combined experience has enabled them to fix almost anything including: iPads, clocks, lawn mowers, coffee machines, clothes, bikes, lamps, ceramics, furniture and even sharpen garden shears!

We have inspired seven other Cafe opening across South West London and the Cafe is a great nucleus for other projects most recently collecting over 300 tools for Africa - TWAM.UK.

The customers are always so grateful and there is a wonderful positive vibe in the hall. Come and share the experience on 3rd Saturday of every month.

Twickenhamrepaircafe.org



'Twickers Macknitters' (for Macmillan Cancer Support)

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

'Twickers Macknitters' is a group of friends who live locally. We meet in each other's homes to knit and craft items to sell, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are non-profit making, and all funds go to Macmillan.

Your Church is kindly enabling us to come and sell what we make on: **Sunday 12th November**

We shall be in the hall after the 8.30am and 10.30am Mass. We have a range of children's jumpers, and cardigans, also hats, mitts and scarves in all sizes, as well as Christmas items and gifts, all at reasonable prices.

Do come and say hello and see what we do. We look forward to meeting you.

Thank you for your welcome.

Janet and Hazel (for Macmillan Cancer Support)

REPAIR
CAFE
Twickenham

Reporting back from our second wellbeing breakfast. Well, we had a cracking session from Carl today, covering: Stress, Mindfulness and Mindful Eating We learnt about the two types of stress. Acute - small easy to deal with, Chronic - hard, try not to get to this stage.

"Its not selfish to look after your own body".
Build your own Stress management toolbox

If you want copies of the slides just ask at: info@twickenhamrepaircafe.org
Hope to see you at the next, and final session, November 11th - Sleeping and creating your health blueprint.



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT - SAT 11TH NOV 7.00 PM

Come along, join us on our BINGO night and have a great evening—for all the family. Tickets - adult £5/- and children £3/- (Year 3 up)

Pre order for a pizza meal. (Tickets and pre order for meals will be on sale after Sunday Mass)

Donations for prizes requested - any unwanted gifts (adult or child). Please drop off at the parish office.

The Sick & Retired Priests' collection is next week

The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. You may also wish to consider becoming a Patron of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please take a leaflet home today. And please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. Thank you.

Mass Count



Every year, across the country, Catholic Churches record a "Mass count" which counts the number of people attending Mass on Sunday, over 4 consecutive weekends. Average numbers for St Margaret's this year were as below

<u>2023</u>				
Avg per Mass	08:30	13	52	65
	10:30	69	126	195
	18:30	29	59	88
	Total	111	237	348

Average of 2021, 2022 as below

	Child	Adult	Total
2021	72	200	272
2022	94	213	307
2023	111	237	348

This is a marvellous achievement and I am so grateful to all those who have helped to make this a vibrant parish. We must also remember all those families who have received First Holy Communion and Confirmations in the years gone by and encourage them to come back to Church.

This will be our Parish mission for the year going ahead.

Congratulations to our 100 Club Winners

Winners for the month of Sept & Oct

2023

September

1st Prize No.16 Sally Gannon £100/-

2nd Prize No 30 Helma Jotischky £50/-

October

1st Prize No.40 R Poxton £100/-

2nd Prize No 51 Mary Wood £50/-

(Numbers are generated by a random number generating website)