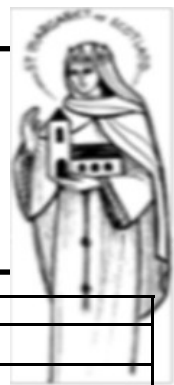


ST MARGARET'S PAGE

First Sunday of Advent - 29th November 2020 Year B



In Peter writes:

'Why did Alec Guinness come to acting so late in life?' one student asked me many years ago, engrossed as he was then in the theology of Star Wars. The question has now entered the realm of myth among the Chaplaincy students of that time. Whatever the theology might be, about the origin of evil, and the battle between good and evil, the film series acted as a wake-up call as to how understanding the end of the world as found in the Gospels. Descriptions of the destruction meted out on Jerusalem and the world, might seem to derive from the world of CGI but there is no other human language to explain the climatic end to history. Whatever descriptions are used, the denouement of world history, the final judgement, will be a vivid occasion and not a damp squib.

Cosmic catastrophe is not the only description offered in the Gospel about the end times. Last Sunday Jesus spoke about a different set of criteria for judgement, the service to the least who possess within themselves His purposeful identity. This Sunday, as the Church begins the season of Advent, the command is now to stay awake in anticipation. After nine months of lockdown arrangements make this command as pertinent as ever. The early optimism of replicating on zoom what one did in the flesh, the drinks, the get togethers, has now paled, the good weather of spring, summer and early autumn has disappeared, and after a few days' liberation at Christmas, lockdown restrictions will remain in force for a further few months. It would be perfectly understandable to retreat into one's personal bunker and close the door to the outside world during these winter months. However, this soporific inducing action is not what has been called for the by Jesus. Instead He wants us to stay awake, being open to the possibility of engaging with others, to remain safe (using government language) but also to be brave towards the future.

Bravery in front of the future will be an essential part of parish rebuilding throughout the world. There has been a sad lack of families at Mass over the months when the Church was open, though like most Churches, St Margaret's is well organised and all seating socially distanced. My worry is that,

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday	10.30 am	
Mon. Tue, Wed, Sat		10.00 am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Confessions	By request	

virtually unconsciously, we are becoming frightened of each other as potential carriers of disease. No-one should want to purposefully break the government rules for social distancing but fear of the other requires the conscious effort of resistance on our part not to succumb. This fear remains the subtext of so much reporting in the media and the regular predictions of medical Armageddon by scientists.

This attitude of fear does not bode well for the rebuilding of the country, any organisation or any Parish including St Margaret's, after the pandemic is over. Mass in pyjamas and tea during the boring bits might be a caricature but the other person, the other parishioner, is an integral part of each of our lives, as a community and as a Parish. The celebration of sacraments is always a communal matter because the kingdom is not a lonely and solitary place.

Re-engaging with our community wide activities, whether Catechesis, Children's Liturgy, social contact with the housebound, and housebound communions will be small examples of staying awake that Jesus demands of His disciples. Assisting at Mass with the necessary protocols brings engagement and creates a sense of order at Sunday Mass, now possible from Sunday 6th December. Collecting for the Hounslow foodbank demonstrates that the spirit of service is there waiting to be harnessed. Sharing this vision of communal life shaped by faith is the task of the whole Church. Now at the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year with Advent we might all think what this means for my engagement and my mission to St Margarets.

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 - Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday 28th November – Sunday 6th December

28-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Eileen Winter RIP	Winter
29-Nov	Sun 1st Sunday of Advent	10.30 am	Holy Souls	
30-Nov	Mon	10.00 am	Private Intentions	Rita Johnstone
1-Dec	Tue	10.00 am	Michael Langton	Emma Jay
2-Dec	Wed	10.00 am	Walker family's Intentions	Melanie Blackwood
5-Dec	Sat	10.00 am	Terrence Nagle RIP	
6-Dec	Sun 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8.30 am	For unemployed seeking work	
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For all young people	

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

Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Places of worship can re-open from 2nd December and the public celebration of Mass will resume on Saturday 5th December.

Sunday Mass will be at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

There will be no Saturday evening Mass. Please use the button on the parish website to reserve a place if you wish to attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, 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

Anniversaries - Eileen Winter, William Dexter, Lucienne Tybershein, Cyril Roberts, Margaret Lydon, Maureen Joseph, Bernard O'Hara, Betty Cameron-Waller, Babesky Benison, Jean Willett, Veronica Flood, Gertrude Ulrich, Michael Higgins, Nan Cobbing, Pauline Vaughan, Monica Scriven, Collin Morgan, James O'Malley

Christmas Masses



Places to attend Christmas Masses will need to be booked in advance to ensure we can respect safe distancing.

Masses will be held on:

Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day at 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Bookings can be made through the website and will open on Friday 11th Dec.

If you know anyone who does not have access to the internet and would like to reserve a place, please ask them to call the parish office who will do it for them.

29th November - 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
6th December—2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Psalm 79	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:33-37
Psalm 84	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8



LAS POSADA 2020 Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent

Calling the inn-keepers and pilgrims.

Mary and Joseph's itinerary is now arranged for Advent and they will be setting off on their journey with a blessing at Mass this Sunday.

If you signed up to host the Holy Family but have not yet received an email from Ann, please get in touch. annxedes@gmail.com or 07837 095 837



ADVENT IN ST MARGARETS The Joy of Hope – Parish Advent course

It is not too late to join the Joy of Hope Advent course, even if you missed the first week. Sessions run for one hour each week, for a further three weeks and are either Monday at 2:pm or Wednesday at 8:pm

Filmed on the Greek Holy island of Patmos, each session includes an engaging mix of teaching, scripture meditation and prayerful response with some praise and worship and time for reflection.

Please register with the parish office for the Zoom link.

Advent Service of Prayer, Praise and Readings



On Friday 4th December the parish musicians will be leading an Advent Service, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

The service will include hymns and readings, and last from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The YouTube link to join will be available on the website and an email notification of the same will be sent out shortly.

Children's Liturgy provision

We would like to bring together a small group that can plan and organise some children's liturgy provision to be delivered on Zoom while current restrictions are in place.



Depending on how many people are happy to help, we could offer something every fortnight or once a month. Perhaps a simple activity based on the gospel story, with some singing and a prayer.

Please let the parish office know if you could help.

WAYSIDE NATIVITY CAMBRIDGE PARK



Escape the commercial hoo-ha, enjoy a peaceful stroll along the Thames and discover an unusual nativity scene.

Follow the pathway linking the towpath with Cambridge Park and look for a niche in the wall where you will find a little reminder of what Christmas is all about, lovingly created each year for the past 4 years by two local women, Ana and Gill.

You are invited to attend the blessing of the nativity by Father Peter at 1.00 pm on Sunday 6th December, after which it will be on view until 8th January.

Admission arrangement for Catholic Schools

If you wish to apply for a place at a Catholic Primary school for 2021, you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Fr Peter is happy to sign these forms for regular parishioners.

Please bring along your forms to the Church Hall on the dates below to have the documents signed and stamped.

Saturday, 12th December 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Saturday, 9th January 2021 11.00 am—12.30 pm



Confirmation

The next Confirmation course, for those in Year 9 and above will begin on Saturday 16th January at 5:15pm to be followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

This year the Course is being led by Deacon Joseph Estorninho, Joseph Kilsby, a recent graduate from St Marys and Kirsten Roy, long standing parishioner.

If you would like to participate please contact Fr Peter at the Parish Office to obtain an application form.

Thank you
Fr Peter

Sunday Reflections for *December* by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, for 'The God Who Speaks' initiative,.

For more information on the 'The God Who Speaks' in Westminster see <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/> - see newly updated website

Also, see 'The God Who Speaks' website, which is regularly updated, for further resources and ideas <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

**Congratulations to our
100 Club Winners**

November Winners

1st Prize - £100/-

No. 14 Helma Jotinsky

&

2nd Prize—£50/-

No. 63 Mary Marriage

Cheques will be in post shortly.

Numbers are picked by a Random Number Generating Website.



Christmas Cards for our senior citizen parishioners and residents of Lynde House

Lynde House is the largest residential home in the Parish and last May many children prepared Pentecost cards for the residents that were well received. This Christmas may I ask if any child would like to create some handmade Christmas cards.

The sign-up link will be available soon, where you can choose your resident or residents but meanwhile, go ahead and enjoy making your wonderful cards.

The cards will be delivered in the week before Christmas.
Fr Peter



St James's
Catholic Primary School

Children starting school in Reception 2021

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 virtual tour of the school and meet him over Zoom on a Friday morning at 9:30 am. Please reserve a place by emailing the school office info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk



The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 1st December – 12 noon Tues 8th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 02075921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

Please generously give online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>