

# ST MARGARETS PAGE

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

8th December 2019



## *In Peter writes:*

Last week saw the tragic and senseless deaths of two Cambridge post-graduates employed in a de-radicalisation programme involving former convicted terrorists. The murder of these two young people by one of the programme's participants has raised the question as to the merit and effectiveness of such conversion programmes. The optimism placed in these courses seem at odds with the commonly attitude that conversion therapy regarding sexuality which are seen as an infringement of conscience.

These de-radicalisation programmes are the secular imitation of the Christian emphasis on conversion, of seeing the errors in one's ways and making a firm purpose of amendment. This leads to embracing a renewed life under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This religious path of conversion has God, faith and morals both at the beginning and end of the process of conversion. They are in dialogue with each other, though the originating understanding looks inadequate in light of the concluding understanding. There is no sense of changing gods, but of seeing the implications of God's commands as now being more clearly fulfilled. This process of conversion may be seen in that of St Paul, who experienced the same God of Israel as being the One God, but Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St Augustine discovered that the one God for whom he had been searching through philosophy was actually the God speaking through the Bible.

The modern secular mind-set has appropriated the Christian dynamic of conversion but turned it into an ideology of moving a convicted extremist from an erroneous belief in God to some belief in the goodness of humanity and the values of liberal democracy with all its attendant moral certainties. This may seem at first sight a beneficial procedure for the good of secular society but the process touches on the rights of conscience to religious belief. This can only be experienced by the religious person as a secular attempt to stamp out religious faith on mutually incomprehensible terms. The Church has always understood the freedom of religious belief to be an integral part of conscience and right of every individual. This freedom to practise religion does not extend to the creation of civil disorder. The Church rejects violent religious fundamentalism, but that is not the same as rejecting religious faith as such or thinking that all religions lead to violence. The dynamic of conversion requires a spiritual sympathy of sorts, so that only a fellow Christian can invite another Christian through a shared faith to reflect on issues that to a secular minded person would seem completely incomprehensible or the stuff of prejudice. The same is true for Judaism and Islam. Though the thought processes of the violent religious extremist are rightly abhorrent, and more so to a secular minded person, an essential empathy with similar faith is the necessary prequel to any potential conversion.

The season Advent gives central place to conversion. During these four weeks the Church shares the process of conversion prior to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ Our Saviour. John the Baptist embodies this process and his public ministry precedes that of Jesus Christ's just as his own birth preceded that of Jesus. The Gospel readings narrate events

## Mass Times & Liturgy Services

Vigil 6.30pm (Sat).

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.30pm

Mon. Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat. 10.00am

Thur. Communion Service 10.00am

Rosary 9.30am Monday & Friday

Adoration Wednesdays 8-9.15pm

Friday 10.30-11.00am

Saturday 10.30-11.00am

Confessions Sat 10.30-11.00am Sun 10.00-10.20am

that took place thirty after the birth of Jesus, and therefore the season of Advent also looks beyond the birth of Jesus towards the adult life of faith and not just the child centred celebration of the Nativity. The focus on the responsibility for conversion might explain why the season of Advent is largely forgotten as it loses its identity in the rush to celebrate the simple childhood certainties of the crib.

However, the strident critique of John the Baptist is the necessary means to grasp our attention to engage in the need for personal change. Nobody wants to be told that their spiritual life has born no good fruit despite the spiritual advantages with which they have been presented, namely the sacraments, privileged moments of access to God's grace. The call is to think once again of the demands of life entailed by encountering Jesus Christ. They are small scale, almost domestic and local; inter-generational harmony is the description of John's mission according to angel that appears to Zechariah; the just and non-violent means of employment are John the Baptist's request to the tax-collectors and soldiers who come for repentance. The conversion is small scale because this is our contribution that prepares us for the intervention of God inhuman history and not its substitute. The modesty of ambition does not preclude the grandeur of God's gesture of His Son being born in a stable. The conversion in our understanding of God and consequent transformation of our moral compass prepares us for a renewed understanding of God's love and His relationship with us through the birth of His Son in the bare circumstances of the stable in Bethlehem.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 130 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham TW1 1RL

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for Web: <https://www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk/>

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

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 am –11.30 am

### Entrance Antiphon:

O people of Sion, behold,  
The Lord will come to save the nations,  
And the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
In the joy of your heart.

### Response to the Psalm

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till  
the moon fails.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### The Sick:

Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Peter Coughlan, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Mary Arnold, Ethan Knott, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Francesca Bianchin, Sydney and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Donal Dwyer (brother of Mary Ibbett), Barry Titmus, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

#### Anniversaries

Jack Halligan, Alison Noble, Rose Polland, Angela Crowley, Nelson Chioma, Nessa Sweetman, Dennis Leillott, Syd Pascoe, Sally Colegate, Patrick Evenhuis, William Cowell, Oliver Foster, Patrick Farrell, Joyce Lennon.

#### Deanery Intentions:

For Fr Nigel Griffin and the parishioners of St Edmunds Church, Whitton

## **WELCOME**

A warm welcome to **Cynthia Souza** who has joined the parish team as our administrator.

Cynthia will be in the parish office every weekday from 9 am to 11.30 am.

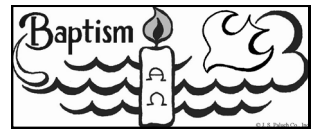
## **Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 7th Dec - Sunday 15th Dec**

<b>Sat 7th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b> <b>10.30-11.00am Adoration</b> <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	Holy souls  Sick of the Parish
<b>Sun 8th</b>	<b>8.30am Mass</b>  <b>10.30am Mass</b>  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	Fr Christopher RIP Gawecki family Patrick's Intention (Walker)  Christopher Bermingham RD (Doyle)
<b>Mon 9th</b>	9.30am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass</b>	Nelson Nwosu Anniv. (Chiona)
<b>Tue. 10th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	For Refugees
<b>Wed. 11th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	For Political Leaders
<b>Thurs. 12th</b>	<b>10.00am Communion Service</b>	
<b>Fri. 13th</b>	9.30am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass</b>	Winifred Winter Anniv (Winter)
<b>Sat. 14th</b>	<b>10.00am Mass</b> <b>10.30am-11.00am Adoration</b>  <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	For Prisoners and their families  For the Homeless
<b>Sun. 15th</b>	<b>8.30am Mass</b>  <b>10.30am Mass</b> <b>6.30pm Mass</b>	For the Fr Christopher RIP Irene Tulia Medina Anniv. (McCaw) John Cunningham Intention

### **Next Baptism Courses**

**Tues Jan 14 & 21 at 8.00 pm**



If you wish to be enrolled on one of the courses or wish to book a date for Baptism please talk to Fr Peter first and then contact the Parish Office 8.00-12.30pm 020 8892 3902

## **Date for Your Diary**

**Family Epiphany Dinner on**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January after**  
**6:30pm Mass.**  
**Everyone welcome**

8th December Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 71

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

15th December Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Psalm 145

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

## Soup Lunch

Raising funds for Fr David Cullen  
in Zambia



**Come and join us on,**

FRIDAY 13th December, 12.15 - 1.30.

Enjoy a lovely lunch and please be as generous as  
you can.

**ALL VERY WELCOME!**

## Y3 & 4 Christmas Carol Concert

### St Richard Reynolds

Parishioners and local residents are invited to  
attend the Carol Concert on Monday 9th at 5 pm

Elizabeth Hall

St Richard Reynolds Primary school,  
Clifden Road, TW4 1LT

We have launched our new website—  
please take a look.

[https://  
www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk/](https://www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk/)

We will be adding more content in the  
coming weeks.

Save it as a “favourite” or clear your  
browser history as the old website will  
no longer be updated.

If you would like to receive copies of  
The Page electronically, you will need  
to **register again** with your email ad-  
dress on the new website.

Please also remember to

**UNSUBSCRIBE** from the distribution of  
the old website



## POSADA

Mary, Joseph and the donkey set off  
last Saturday with a blessing at the  
6.30 pm Mass. They are now well on  
their way on their route around  
Twickenham and environs! If you are  
a host family, please ensure you have  
made contact with the other host

families before and after you so that you can agree a conven-  
ient handover time.

If you signed up to host the Holy Family but have not yet re-  
ceived an email from Ann with relevant information please  
get in touch.

[annxedes@gmail.com](mailto:annxedes@gmail.com) or 07837 095 837

## Vineyard Lunch for the Homeless

The Parish has been asked to host TWO  
Vineyard Lunches on Sundays 29<sup>th</sup> Decem-  
ber and 5<sup>th</sup> January. May I ask if volunteers  
could sign up for **ONE** of them with contact  
details.

The Parish expects 25 guests at each lunch  
so we would like the following for each Sun-  
day:

Cooks to bring cooked food

Hosts to welcome guests

Kitchen help with cooking and washing up

The Vineyard lunch involves a raffle so if an-  
yone could bring some small gifts such as  
low denomination vouchers, toiletries they  
would be gratefully received.

## First Aider

If you are a qualified First Aider and  
would be willing to help in the Parish  
please contact Fr Peter.



## Christmas Card & Leaflet "Drop"

**WE NEED YOU!**



The Pastoral Council organises this project as a local awareness-raising as well as simple friendship, at the time of our Lord's birth.

We need people who will deliver a Christmas card which lists our Mass times to houses in their street.

We are hoping to reach approx. 5000 households in our parish locality. We have 98 streets—could you take one street and aim to complete the drop by the weekend of the 21st/22nd?

Bags are labelled by street and are at the back of church. Please pick up a pack and put your name down on the list to say you have taken it.

Hemp bags should be returned to the church afterwards so we can re-use them for Easter.

**THANK YOU**



## *The Angel Tree*

Our angel tree is still up and there are a few angels left. Please remember to take one and buy a gift for someone who will probably not receive a gift this Christmas.

Please don't forget to bring your unwrapped gifts back by **Sunday 15th December**. Remember to include the angel with your gift as we need to know for whom you bought it.

Any questions please give either Caroline Estorninho or Su Slattery on 07769 691 012 or 07970 967 691.

We also need **you** for our wrapping night on Monday 16th December from 6.30pm. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you for your support!

## 50th Anniversary Talk on

### St Margaret of Scotland:

### History and Legacy

*By John Joe Watts, parishioner*

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the parish, this talk will examine the historical reality of St Margaret and her times, and will explore her legacy as queen and saint.

All welcome. Bar open. Light refreshments

**Friday 13th December; 7:30 pm—9 p.m.**

**in the Church hall**



## For Young Adults

**Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30s)** with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 14th December 2019 in Kensington.

Young people are invited for a day retreat (10am-5pm) to prepare for Christmas, with teaching, silence, prayer, confessions and mass. Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations only.

Register: [youth@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:youth@assumptionreligious.org)

T: 020 7361 4755