

ST MARGARETS PAGE

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

15th December 2019



Fr Peter writes:

By the time this edition of the newsletter is published the results of Thursday's General Election will be known. At the time of writing no-one seems quite sure of the final result. These are the earthly powers, necessary for the ordering of society but cannot by themselves effect the spiritual transformation of society for which Jesus is looking. This must be one of the first general elections in which none of the party leaders professes any religion, even of the weak or non-practising. David Cameron memorably compared his own religious beliefs to that of the radio station Heart FM in the Chilterns, something which tunes in and out. Theresa May was a practising Anglican, Gordon Brown was son of the Manse and Tony Blair flirted with Catholicism whilst Prime Minister. Tim Farron had to resign the Lib Dem leadership over his mainstream Christian views on morality.

The absence of traditional religion with its matrix of rituals, commands and customs does not imply that the religious urge has disappeared. Instead it has morphed into something rather more dangerous; the treating of Brexit or Remain as a dogma of faith and denouncing the opposing views as either verging on fascism or succumbing to the myths of the well-paid urban elites; turning the NHS into a religion, so criticism is seen as heresy, and anything other than a reverential attitude unbecoming; militancy about who can determine sexual identity and the no-platforming of differing views. This is a very religious general election, but not in the ways of past contests.

The Christian find himself or herself in the strange position, almost like the secularists of the 19th century who doubted the scientific claims of religion. Now it is the Christian who has to question the religious fervour in which political discourse is undertaken, and to question the excessive guilt that is laid upon us by environmentalists, social commentators, academics about our habits, our culture, and our prejudices. The exercise brings perspective and proportion both to what politics can achieve, and to the individual's role in the transformation of society. This Sunday's Gospel offers a religious answer to much the same question. St John the Baptist was languishing in Herod's fortress at Machaerus, a lonely outpost in the Judaeian desert on the east bank of the river Jordan, a long way from Jerusalem. John had heard of Jesus' miracles but must have been perplexed because since the societal changes that he was expecting were not happening. Everything must have seemed so small scale compared to the large crowds coming for the baptism of repentance.

However, John's messengers are reassured. Something is happening and though the actions are small-scale, God's kingdom is breaking into the world. The small scale of the healings is not just a foretaste of something to happen in the future but the beginning of something completely new, the inbreaking of God's

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

kingdom into the world. This distinction between the multitude coming for conversion and the small-scale quality of Jesus' intervention points to the longer process that is conversion, of composed both of the negative and the positive. God's grace is the positive and is not destined for the privileged few alone but the positive gift of grace does require a response. The gift, therefore, is always personal, and so spiritual

healing is always small scale. Public life, on the other hand, has become very good at the first, about what is wrong in society and what needs change, all added with the sulphur of entitlement and greed. It is lamentably poor at providing the positive since the demise of religion in the public realm as may be seen in the instant criticism about failing to mention alternative lifestyles when a politician or public figure defends the family.

Elsewhere in the Gospels the Church is described as the yeast that leavens the flour of the community. The numbers involved in any Christian community are therefore immaterial to its mission. Now as Western Europe enters more deeply into a post-Christian age for the present, the role of the Church as a witness in darkening times will be ever more vital. The Good News is that the light of the Church is provided by none other than her believers who shine not with their light but with the light of Jesus Christ. The origin of this light is from beyond the world and the Christian participates in this light. This is the light shining in the darkness of St John's Prologue, the light of the crib. The light is immediately attractive and has the power to overtake us, and make us its own. Here lies our true happiness and peace.

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

Tel: 020 8892 3902 E-mail: stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk

for Web: <https://www.stmargaretsrccchurch.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:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Response to the Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us.

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

Frederick Morgan, Janina Jascia, Stanislaus Leszczynski, Mary Kelly, David Mathewson, Bridget O'Connor, Helen Colsey, Charles Bendy, Marje Kensit, Alice Bendy, Carol Manning, Thomas Goulds, Timothy Exley

Deanery Intentions:

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

St Margaret of Scotland

Welcomes

Newcomers to the Parish

We would be pleased if you could complete one of our **Census Forms** available at the back of the Church and return it to the Presbytery.

Mass Intentions

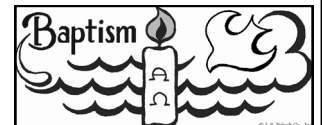
Saturday 14th Dec - Sunday 22nd Dec

Sat 14th	10.00am Mass 10.30-11.00am Adoration 6.30pm Mass	Norrie Buxton (Hazel) Sick of the Parish
Sun 15th	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Fr Christopher RIP Gawecki family Tulia Medina Anniv. Edna McCaw Anniv. Carmen Bourne Anniv. (McCaw) John Cunningham Int.
Mon 16th	9.30am The Rosary 10.00am Mass	For the Holy Souls
Tue 17th	10.00am Mass	For Refugees
Wed 18th	10.00am Mass	Special int. (Walker)
Thurs 19th	10.00am Communion Service	
Fri 20th	9.30am The Rosary 10.00am Mass	
Sat 21st	10.00am Mass 10.30am-11.00am Adoration 6.30pm Mass	
Sun 22nd	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Irene Starzecki (Thanksgiving) (McGinley)

Next Baptism Courses

Tues Jan 14th & 21st at 8.00 pm

If you wish to be enrolled on any one of these courses or wish to book a date for Baptism, please talk to Fr Peter first and then contact the Parish Office between 9:30—11:30 on 020 8892 3902.



Date for Your Diary

**Family Epiphany Dinner on
Saturday 4th January after 6:30pm
Mass.**

Everyone welcome

15th December Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Psalm 145

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 23

Romans 1:1-7

Mathew 1:18-24

Ealing Abbey Choir
Sat 21st Dec 7.30 pm

Carols by Candlelight: A Sequence of
Music and Readings for Christmas

Tickets: www.seetickets.com or
0871 230 0010 or at the door

Mass Offerings November 2019

Date	Loose	Envelopes	Total
03-Nov	573	202	£775
10-Nov	512	217	£729
17-Nov	535	181	£716
24-Nov	492	131	£623
	2112	731	£2,843
Standing orders + payroll giving			£4,133
Total			£6,976

Thank you for your support for the Parish Mission.

New parishioners who would like to make a commitment to regular giving are encouraged to complete a standing order form or to make contributions through weekly envelopes. Please contact the parish office for more information:

stmargaretsnthames@rcdow.org.uk

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 are
travelling around Twickenham stay-
ing with parishioners.

If you are a host family, please en-
sure you have made contact with the
other host families before and after
you so that you can agree a convenient 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 or 07837 095 837

Vineyard Lunch for the Homeless

The Parish has been asked to host TWO
Vineyard Lunches on Sundays 29th Decem-
ber and 5th 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 **OR** Fr. Peter

is happy to **sponsor** a regular parishioner who is
interested and happy to undergo a First Aid Train-
ing



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

All Angel Tree gifts need to be returned by today, **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.

Wrapping Night!!

Willing hands needed to wrap the gifts on Monday night, 16th December from 6.30 pm.

We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you for your support!

Candlelit Advent and Christmastide Walks – BYO lantern

You are invited to join a Lantern Advent and Christmastide walk taking in Westminster, Central London parks and the Christmas lights.

3.00 Wed 18th December 2019 from Westminster Cathedral steps

6.00 Mon 6th January 2020 from the Church of the Precious Blood, London Bridge, SE1 **SPECIAL EPIPHANY WALK**

Cost: £10 - Go to Eventbrite to book or simply come along.

chwalkslondon@gmail.com

07495 205 568



catholichistorywalks.com

LENTEN PROJECT 2020

The parish pastoral council invites nominations from charities that would like to be considered as beneficiaries of St Margaret's Lenten Project 2020.

We will choose one local and one overseas charity that are raising funds for a specific project. The proposer should be involved in some way with the suggested charity and should have a link to the parish.

Applications open:

December 16th - January 12th

– Application forms available by emailing the parish office: stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk