

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 4th DECEMBER 2022 - Year A

## *In Peter writes:*

Last week the Office of National Statistics issued their latest survey of religious affiliation in England with information culled from the 2021 National Census. Much glee has been expressed by secularists that only 43 per cent of the population would choose a religious affiliation. Personally, I am surprised that the figure is not lower. Religious affiliation comes in different forms from full commitment, intermittent attendance at a place of worship and to fraying cultural ties through family of origin.

Saying Mass at St Richard Reynolds on a regular basis and seeing the disappearance of families with teenage children from the Parish makes me think that the situation is not going to get better any time soon. Strangely I am not depressed about this. Much of the traditional structures of the Church will disappear; regular weekday Masses; multiple Masses on Sunday; the availability of priests to celebrate funerals for the lapsed; saying Mass at catholic schools; second collections for redundant organisations. These cultural practices have endured long after their meaning has disappeared. The large number of vocations in the 1960s is now fully unwound, through death and retirement. The blip of Anglican converts from the 1990s is now reaching retirement. There will be far fewer priests about in the future.

Two reasons make me hopeful for the future. Firstly, the lack of religious practice has not made this country an easier place to govern. Indeed, the opposite is the case. Once the role of conscience has been excluded from public life, the corruption in central government, the unaccountability of local government, the lack of responsibility in the running of utility and transport companies, the greed of bitcoin financial institutions, the bullying culture of trade unions. The list is endless. If this is the consequence of a non-religious society then perhaps the collapse of faith, of accountability to a higher power for one's actions might be something to rue, rather than celebrate. Faith has something to offer the public square. Responsibility and conscience, of taking care of everything by taking care for what one is responsible, at home, at work, in society. These matched with compassion and forgiveness are the Christian tools for shared existence without which social fragmentation and mutual antagonism are the consequences.

Secondly Jesus Christ brought a healing balm to the pains of the world of His time, both to those he encountered during His public ministry and universally through His death and Resurrection. The Church can communicate the same healing balm too. Jesus' offer followed the cry of the suffering for healing. They knew their need

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Weekend	Saturday Sunday	10.00 am & 6.00 pm 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Weekdays	Mon, Tue & Friday	10.00 am
	Thur (Funeral)	11.30 am
Eucharistic Service	Wednesday	10.00 am
Rosary	Monday to Saturday	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday Sunday	10:30-11:00am 10.00 – 10.20 am

for healing and for grace. Where such knowledge is missing or has been misappropriated the healing balm cannot be given. Misappropriation describes our secular culture living as it does in the shadow of its Christian heritage.

Thus, Christmas has been appropriated but without the season of waiting, Advent. The shallowness of secular culture is only emphasised by the spurious bonhomie of the season, of social events preceding the Festival itself, of endless Christmas songs on the radio. Any sane person would be tired of the season by the time Boxing Day arrives, when to the Church this is only the second of twelve days of Christmas. Preparation gives way to joyful celebration.

Jesus Christ did not preach an arcane or secret message that requires a password to enter, and neither does the Church. There is no double check to begin a relationship with Jesus or the Church. He comes to us as does the Church in simplicity and that is the problem. The contemporary world finds it difficult to engage with the obvious whether it be sadness or joy. To the contemporary mind there must be some catch, an undiscovered cause, a concealed pattern of power. Deflecting the causes of sadness away from sin, whether personal or cumulative within any society, makes the proposed cure of grace marginal. Answers to the modern non-religious person is always therapy but such processes can only go so far. The healing comes from beyond mere human processes, however well intentioned. Paradoxically this desire for healing is the time-honoured entry into faith. If human processes cannot heal who can? Time to think of spiritual healing not just psychological.

Recognising this spiritual healing and the hope that it brings into the world defines the Advent season. This Sunday's Gospel is the account of John the Baptist's call to conversion, of recognising within ourselves what only the coming Saviour can achieve. Out of this healing relationship is built both the Church, and our shared lives; family, community and society.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrcchurch.co.uk](http://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 Sat 3 Dec – Sun 11 Dec

03/12	Sat	10.00 am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
04/12	Sun	8.30 am	For you the people	
		10.30 am	For the deceased members of the Sharratt family	Maria Sharratt
		6.30 pm	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
5/12	Mon	10.00 am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
6/12	Tues	10.00 am	Intentions of the Secular Clergy Common Fund	
7/12	Wed	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
8/12	Thu	11.30 am	Funeral for Mary Maguire RIP	
9/12	Fri	10.00 am	Nelson Nwosu RIP	Chioma Nwosu
10/12	Sat	10.00 am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
		6.00 pm	The families of St Margarets Parish	
11/12	Sun	8.30 am	Moya Crosgrove RIP	Jean McGinley
		10.30 am	Tulia de Vergara RIP anniversary & Edna McCaw RIP anniversary	Lily McCaw
		6.30 pm	For you the people	

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Cathy McKendry, Sue Rolph, 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), Judith Thomas, Allan de Souza, Tony Tucker, Dr Christopher Khoo, John Wood-Collins, Eleanor Drew, Theresa Bulpitt (sister of Margaret Crowe) & Michael Barnes

**Anniversaries** - Nan Cobbing, Monica Scriven, Irena Starzecki, Collin Morgan, James O'Malley, Edna Hughes, Florence Pluck, Doris Geary, Jack Halligan, Alison Noble, Rose Polland, Angela Crowley, Nessa Sweetman, Dennis Leillot

**Recently deceased** - Mary Maguire RIP

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

## 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.

## Christmas Mass



**Christmas Eve Mass** - especially for families 5.00 pm. Refreshments provided in the hall afterwards.

**Mass of the Night** - Carols & Readings 9.30 pm and Mass at 10.00 pm (In lieu of Midnight Mass)

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

Weekday Mass in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 26th December will be at 12.00 noon.

**Feast of the Epiphany**, Friday 6th January 2023 - 10.00 am & 6.00 pm

## Friday Night Adoration



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December will be our final session for 2022 and we will resume on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

## Funeral

### For Mary Bridget Maguire RIP

will take place on Thursday 8th December at 11.30 am at St Margaret's. The family will then go to Mortlake Crematorium for the committal at 1.20pm, you are welcome to attend.



The Funeral reception will be held in the Russell Suite at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park from 2pm to which you are warmly invited.

The family would like to thank all those, family and friends who have helped them through this sad time. We are all very grateful. No flowers, thank you. Donations in lieu to The Alzheimer's Society

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A—4 DEC 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 71

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A—11 DEC 2022

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Psalm 145

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**Foodbank Collection,**  
**Sunday 11th December –**  
**please give generously**

Our First Holy Communion families are organising a Foodbank collection for the Foodbank at St Pauls' Church, Hounslow. The Foodbank has supported over 5000 households this year and is experiencing increasing demands as families struggle to cope with rising prices.

**Donations required**

Milk (UHT/powdered), Breakfast Cereal, Jars Of Pasta Sauces, Pasta & Rice, Baked Beans, Tinned Pulses, Packets Or Tins Of Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Puddings (Sponges, Custard,

Rice Pudding, Angel Delight), Cereal & Porridge, Biscuits And Chocolate, Tinned Fish & Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Fruit Juice (Long Life), Tea, Coffee & Sugar, Baby Wipes & Nappies, Toiletries (Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Sanitary Towels, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes), Washing Powder

Please – only tinned or dried food; nothing fresh or perishable.

Please bring your donation to the church hall before or after any Mass on Sunday 11th December. We can't accept donations before this day as there is no storage space.



Thank you for your generosity.

**"The Mustard Seed Prayer group** is meeting in the Church Hall for an evening of Praise and Worship on **Saturday 10th December 2022; 19:45** for tea and coffee with a 20:00 start.



Please join us celebrating Advent as we prepare for the coming of the Lord!"

**Some pictures from our Wreath making sessions**



**We need helpers to clean the Church, Could you help?**

**Sat 10<sup>TH</sup> Dec 2022 , 10.30 am—1.30 pm**

Could you spare one hour or so to help spruce up the Church. Lots of small jobs need undertaking. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning. Refreshments provided. Please sign up at the back of the Church or drop a note to the parish office, or even just turn up on the day.



For more information contact via email - [stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk) or chat to Patrick Collins & Jimmy Green after Mass. Or reach the parish office: 020 8892 3902.

## the **GIFT** a life in the Spirit course

As we gradually begin to turn our attention to Advent and Christmas, come join us as we start to explore "The Gift," a course that will help us develop a much closer personal relationship with God: The Catechism reminds us that we can actually come to know the Father's love like Jesus did while on earth.

'This is the most beautiful moment of any creature's life: to know that one is loved, personally, by God, to feel oneself lifted to the bosom of the Trinity and to find oneself in the flood of love that flows between Father and Son, enfolded in their love, sharing their passionate love for the world.' Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, Come, Creator Spirit.

**the first three sessions of the course have taken place before Christmas. In 2023, we will have the sessions on 12th, 19th & 26th January.**

The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evangelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis. Sessions are comprised of a 30 minute video followed by small group discussion over tea and biscuits. Please do join us!

### Used stamps for Medical Missionaries of Mary



Please collect all the stamps from your Christmas post. In January we will be collecting used stamps for the MMM, as we did last year; the sisters sell these to raise money for their work in Africa and other countries.

### GETA - Soup Lunch

Unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel the proposed Soup Lunch on Friday 9th December. **The next event will be on Friday 13th January 2023.** In the meantime, GETA is looking for more volunteers - those who are semi or recently retired, or younger - who might be able to spare a little time just once per month to ensure they can continue and help raise funds for Fr Paul Bigirwa's initiatives in Uganda. Please email [david.rose@geta.org.uk](mailto:david.rose@geta.org.uk) for further information.

David Rose, Chairman  
charity no. 1167092

Many thanks,  
David Rose  
Chairman, GETA



## Twickenham Repair Cafe

UPDATE FROM THE REPAIR CAFÉ

**We've saved 2 tonnes going to landfill in 9 months, have a look at our other impressive numbers.**

- 400 Items brought in
- 3/4 Repaired or partially repaired
- 82 Different types of items repaired
- 800 Hours of volunteer time
- 10+ Press articles inc: Sunday Mail, R&T Times, TW Mag etc...
- 30 Repairers, and we still need more!
- 16 Support volunteers
- 1/2 Repairs were electrical
- £15,000+ Saved in replacing products
- 85% Customers were local, some from across London
- 23 Different sources of customers
- £625 raised for charities
- And finally .....
- 500 Cakes consumed (most lovely homemade)
- 200 Beers consumed (thanks to Twickenham Ales)

Foundation Governor Vacancy



**St James's**  
Catholic Primary School

Would you like to serve the local Catholic community in

*"Put out into the deep"*

an important and strategic way, ensuring that our children benefit from an education that reflects a Catholic vision and ethos?

St James's Catholic Primary School, Twickenham, has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. St James's is an outstanding school and Governors play a strategic role in the school's development. Governors need to be willing to work as part of a team, read papers, attend meetings and ask constructive questions. There is free training available from the Borough and the Diocese.

For this vacancy, we are particularly seeking applicants who either have a background in finance or accountancy. This vacancy is open to Catholics who are not parents of children currently attending the school. Governors are appointed for a four-year term of office, which can be renewed.

If you would like to learn more about being a school governor please email Hilary O'Sullivan, Vice Chair of St James's Governing Body via [aileen.sharp@st-james.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:aileen.sharp@st-james.richmond.sch.uk)