

ST MARGARETS PAGE

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

22nd December 2019



In Peter writes:

The quiet of the night, and the silent arrival of the angel to convey momentous news is a welcome contrast to the noise of the daytime world with its obsession with trivia. The encounters between the angels of the Lord to both to the Virgin Mary and St Joseph invite the most profound human co-operation with the coming of God into the world. This graced co-operation, different in the cases of both the Virgin Mary and St Joseph are our access points to celebrate Christmas with renewed heart.

The Annunciation, the moment when the archangel gives news to the Virgin that she will conceive and give birth to a son, Jesus is well known. The scene if one of the most common painted by the artists of the past. However, there is another visitation that was as crucial, that of the visit of the angel to St Joseph, the subject of this Sunday's Gospel. This encounter elicits St Joseph's full co-operation which would fulfil the Old Testament prophecy that Jesus would be of the line of David. St Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy that anchors Jesus firmly in Israelite history, making Jesus the descendant of Abraham and David.

The adopted family of Jesus, may have fallen on hard times in comparison to their royal predecessors but they were still faithful to the promises of God. Their situation has resonance with our own. The contemporary Church throughout Europe has shrunk in size over recent centuries and now takes a much less public role in contemporary society. It is therefore much easier not to have to sustain a living faith, interact with any religious institution especially in education, or encounter an actively religious person. Like ourselves St Joseph lived amongst the wreckage of previous religious greatness, the Temple and the Law, yet he did not give up, but remained faithful. His fidelity, like our own will bear fruit because it was both open to the Holy Spirit and creative in its practise.

The special circumstances around the birth of Jesus should not detract from the fact that he was born into a family with a particular history and culture. The Word becoming flesh, in the words of St John, dwelt amongst us, not over and above us, but with us, within a family group. The expression 'the Word became flesh' is was not just an idea of its time similar to some fashionable tag such as 'small is beautiful', or 'the end of history', but a real person, Jesus Christ. Like every real person, therefore, Jesus was born into an individual family and into a culture permeated by fidelity to the promises of God.

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

One of the strange contradictions of contemporary life is that between the attraction of Christmas even for the most tangentially minded agnostic and the denunciation of Christianity as being intolerant for the rest of the year. For a few days a year Christianity becomes a person while for the rest of the year becomes an intolerant idea. The world is awash with too many ideas that lack any historical mooring or sense of tradition. This lack of a historical anchor helps explain much of the vitriol of public conversation. Ideas are given quasi-independent existence whether it be the environment, human freedom, religion and sexual identity and gender politics. In this environment it becomes easy to see religion as yet another set of ideas promoted by another set of people, ranging from the intelligent to the fanatic. Yet that is far from the truth. The Christian faith is anchored around a person Jesus.

Now at Christmas time the birth of Jesus gathers around a group of little people, the anawim, of the Gospel. St Joseph presents us an attainable target, of becoming a just man or woman, attentive to the call of God whether through the sacraments or prayer. St Joseph welcomed the Virgin Mary and Jesus into a culture of justice, peace and religious practise. Jesus sanctified the Holy Family, but St Joseph was predisposed through his honour, sense of duty and humility to be sanctified. Here are we ready to be sanctified by the coming of Jesus Christ and who will bless and nurture the cultures of our own families and parish community.

May I wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

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

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:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; Let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

Response to the Psalm

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

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), Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

Anniversaries

Mary Sharratt, Ida Verbruggen, Margaret Ottmann, Colleen Watkins, Pamela Simpson, Brian Faul, Catherine Noonan, Mortimer O'Sullivan, Frank Traynor, John O'Callaghan, Winifred Gosling, Audrey Paul, Kathleen Oliver, William Douglas, Pegg Fleming, Lea Lodi-Bruni

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 21st - Sunday 29th Decemeber

Sat 21st	10.00am Mass 10.30-11.00am Adoration 6.30pm Mass	For the Homeless Sick of the Parish
Sun 22nd	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Irene Starzecki (Thanksgiving) (McGinley) Stella Griffiths RIP (Winter)
Mon 23rd	9.30am The Rosary 10.00am Mass	For prisoners and their families
Tue 24th Christmas Eve	10.00am Mass 6.00 pm Mass 11.30 pm Carols & Midnight Mass	For Refugees For you the people For you the people
Christmas Day	8.30 am Mass 10.30 am Mass	For you the people For you the people
Thurs 26th	St Stephen's Day 11.00am Mass	For our altar servers
Fri 27th	9.30am The Rosary 10.00am Mass	For those struggling with debt
Sat 28th	10.00am Mass 10.30am-11.00am Adoration 6.30pm Mass	For the poor and marginalised For you the people
Sun 29th	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	Moya Cosgrove RIP (McGinley) Deceased members and friends of the Winter family Christopher Walker (Int) (Blackwood)

Parish Epiphany Dinner

on Saturday 4th January after 6:30pm
Mass.

Come and welcome the arrival of the
Three Kings

Sign up sheet in
the foyer.



Club Winners Congratulations to:

First Prize £100: No. 45 Catherine Sugrue

Second Prize: £50: No. 22 Suzanne Heffernan

Cheques will be posted to your address shortly

22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 23

Romans 1:1-7

Mathew 1:18-24

29th December Feast of the Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 127

Colossians 3:12-21

Mathew 2:13-15, 19-23

Bereavement Café

St Stephen's Church, in partnership with the Princes Alice Hospice, is hosting a monthly drop-in café, open to all who have been bereaved. We offer refreshments and an opportunity to talk with someone who is trained to listen, as well as an opportunity to share experiences with other people who have been bereaved.

Where: St. Stephen's Church, Richmond Rd, TW1 2 PD

When: Wednesday 8th January 10 am – 12 noon and then on the 1st Wednesday of every month

For more information:

carynweber@st-stephens.org.uk

Angel Tree



Thank you to everyone in the parish who donated gifts and hampers for the Angel Tree project, your generosity was overwhelming. Our heartfelt thanks also goes to those who came to help wrap on Monday evening, the drivers who delivered the gifts and hampers to social services and the team from previous years who held our hands and guided us along the way. We could not have done it without any of you.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all. Su & Caroline

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

<https://www.stmargaretsrchurch.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 address 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 staying with parishioners.

They have been made welcome by many families and we hope those who have hosted them feel blessed.

If you have any photos of the Holy Family staying in your home that could be displayed in the church, please do email them to stmargaretsrchurch@rcdow.org.uk with your permission to display them in a collage in the hall. Thank you.

Vineyard Lunch for the Homeless

The Parish has been asked to host TWO Vineyard Lunches on **Sundays 29th December 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 Sunday:

Cooks to bring cooked food
Hosts to welcome guests
Kitchen help with cooking and washing up

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

Singers Wanted For our Children's Mass on Christmas Eve (6 pm)

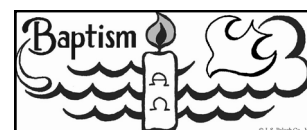


All welcome, especially young singers !!

Please be here at 5.30 pm. The service starts at 6.00 pm.

Come and have a word with Grainne O'Kelly if you would like to join in.

**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.

Christmas Card & Leaflet "Drop"

WE NEED YOU!!



Thank you to all those who have taken a bag and delivered the cards. There are just a few more bags to be delivered

could you take one?

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

THANK YOU

Christmas Offerings

The collection taken on Christmas Day is your offering to the parish priest and together with the Easter offerings, Mass stipends and stole fees make up the annual amount which is then transferred to the parish priest in monthly instalments with income tax and NI contributions deducted.

Christmas Offering envelopes are on the pews this weekend. If you are a Gift Aid donor, please be sure to write your name on the envelope so that the parish can claim back Gift Aid on your donation

Your generosity this Christmas is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.



Fr Peter would be happy to visit any sick or housebound parishioner to offer Confession and receive Holy Communion.

Please contact the parish office to arrange a time.

Also if there is a parishioner you have not seen recently at Mass and feel they may be unwell, please let Fr Peter know.

Copies of Westminster Year Book for sale

£4.50 simple binding/

£5.00 ring bound version

Collect from the parish office

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: stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk

Caritas Deaf Service – Used postage stamps

At this time for year we are far more likely to receive post with stamps on the envelopes. Caritas Deaf Service collects old stamps to send to Macmillan Cancer Care. If are able to collect your stamps over the festive period and drop them into the parish office before January 10th, we will take them to the local Caritas Development Worker in Felham.

Please cut round the stamps leaving a border of approximately 1cm.

Thank you.