

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 5 DECEMBER 2021 Year C

*In Peter writes:* Last week I was invited to see Wagner's Valkyrie, the first opera in the Ring of the Nibelung Cycle, an operatic three-part work, like Star Wars with its own prequel, the Rhinegold. Wotan, the chief god, is having his authority questioned and rejected by one Valkyrie, Brunhilde who is protecting Siegmund in confrontation with another Germanic tribe. Twelve hours later, after two more operas the twilight of the gods is confirmed. Such rejection of ancient tradition starts the god's decline, their unchangeable laws, now openly questioned. The decline of the pagan deities and the collapse of humanity go hand in hand. Wagner's creation has been misused by some, most notably the Nazi party and his operas are still to this day not performed in Israel. Fascism is one possible response to the collapse of the old order, its violent restitution. Yet his musical scores are found in the theme music of Star Wars and Apocalypse Now, to mention just a few, because they can also be a call to liberation.

The same themes of the Ring Cycle, the collapse of the older order is found partially in the Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, and of course, in the Bible itself. The biblical account of the Garden of Eden, explains in the light of God's saving presence to the Israelites, the reason why they are being saved. Personal and national salvation is only necessary because of the case of the Fall, and the collapse of the old order. How does one know? Strangely the collapse of the old order was never complete, something inside us remembers that originating condition, of belonging and peace. To Cardinal Newman this is the true voice of conscience, a frail ability to judge right and wrong that needs to be carefully cultivated in order for it to become a solid presence inside us.

Why does any of this matter you may ask. Well without any sense of disconnect between the situations we have created for ourselves and the voice of conscience, the doorway to knowing where truly live, in peace and in friendship, then the Gospel has no traction. If that disconnect is

Mass Times & Liturgical Services (6/12 - 12/12)		
Saturday		10.00 am
Sunday		8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6.30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday		10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Rosary (In church )	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday	10:30-11:00am
	Sunday	10.00 - 10.20 am

accepted why then become a Christian, what is wrong about trying to become and remain a good person? Any answer must accept that the gap is too wide to be bridged by human effort alone, the damage to humanity too great for simply a human remedy. Yet the answer strangely does not obliterate our humanity, first because Christianity does not present us with an abstract truth, but a real bodily person, Jesus Christ. God's unique work adopts a way of engagement that engages me in something much bigger than myself. Yet, as this Sunday's Gospel emphasises, this engagement starts at the smallest level, a voice crying in the wilderness.

John the Baptist is the historical figure who makes present and real the prophecies of Isaiah. His mission realises the ideas of the prophets, announcing the immanent arrival of the Messiah, and the hope that leads to reconstruction, personal and collective. All the entrapments of life are being dismantled by forces greater than ourselves, valleys are being filled in, hills are being made low. Later in the Gospels, the Pharisees will be questioned as to what attracted them to the call of John the Baptist. 'Why did they travel out to the desert?' asks Jesus. John the Baptist arouses in us the questions that the cares of life and the impositions of the world, forced on by others and adopted by ourselves in unthinking conformity to our culture, are being questioned. Such questioning is never easy, and indeed painful too on occasion. Hence Advent is a penitential season, not in terms of personal sin, like that of Lent, but in appreciating the gap between what is being proposed by the coming of Our Saviour and my life now as lived now. We can all ask the question, but the answer is always personal.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk)

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 4/12 – Sun 12/12

4/12	Sat	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
5/12	Sun	8.30 am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
		10.30am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	Pupils and staff of St James School and St Richard Reynolds Catholic College	
6/12	Mon	10.00am	The families of St Margarets Parish	
7/12	Tues	10.00am	Deceased members of St Margarets Parish	
8/12	Wed	10.00am	Nelson Nwosu RIP	Chioma Nwosu
9/12	Thu	10.00am	Missionary spirit of the Parish and the Church	
10/12	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
11/12	Sat	10.00am	Works of charity in the neighbourhood	
12/12	Sun	8.30 am	For you the people	
		10.30am	Tulia De Vergara RIP Anniversary	
		6.30 pm	Francis Mooney	Ciara

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rose Blackman, Georgina Lotitto, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, 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, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Kevin Sweeney, Christopher Cousins, Irena Starzecki & Judith Thomas

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

*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:

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

The Angel Tree  
Is here!

Richmond Social Services has given us a list of children who probably will not receive a gift this Christmas. You could make their Christmas special by selecting an angel from the Christmas tree at the back of the church and buying the suggested gift, or an alternative one if you wish.

What you have to do:

- Select an angel...or two!
- Sign it out on the lists provided by matching the number on your angel with the number on the sheet – please don't forget to fill in your contact details!
- Buy your gift
- Return your unwrapped gift and angel together in a Christmas gift bag no later than 6.30pm on Sunday 12th December 2021

We realise there is a very tight turnaround time to return gifts and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. It is essential that gifts are returned by the date above.

This year we won't have a wrapping session as social services has requested that the gifts are instead placed into Christmas gift bags which will be presented to the recipients. Please would you ensure that you provide your gift unwrapped in a gift bag.

If you have any questions then please call Caroline Estorninho on 07769 691 012.

Thank you for your continued support for this project.

**We could not do it without you!**

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 5 DECEMBER 2021	Baruch 5:1-9	Psalm 125	Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11	Luke 3:1-6
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 12 DECEMBER 2021	Zephaniah 3:14-18	Isaiah 12	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:10-18

## Sacramental Programmes

### Baptism

The next available Baptism courses are as below:

**January** 12th & 19th 2022

**March** 8th & 15th 2022

Should you wish to have your child baptised in this parish, attendance at these courses is compulsory. Please either speak to Fr Peter after Mass or contact the parish office.



### **First Holy Communion 2022**

Sessions are now underway. Please contact the parish office for more information. **Applications close on December 19th .**



### **Confirmation 2022**

The course will start after Christmas. Please register through the parish office.



### **Marriage Preparation**

The next course will run at St Margaret's on **Saturday 9th April 2022**. Please contact the parish office to register.



Courses at The Brompton Oratory - **Sat 5th March and Saturday 21st May 2022**. Kindly contact Fr Michael Lang (michaellang@rcdow.org.uk)

**Advent Service of Readings & Songs** - Monday 13th December at 7.00 pm. Guest confessors available.



### **Christmas Liturgies**

**Christmas Eve Mass** especially for families **4.00 pm & 6.00 pm**. Advance booking required; bookings will open on Sunday 12th December.

**Mass of the Night**—Carols & Readings at **9.30 pm**.  
**Mass at 10.00 pm**

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

**Feast of The Holy Family** (Sunday 26th December)  
10.30 am ONLY.

Weekday Mass in the week commencing 20 Dec and in the Christmas Octave, week commencing 27 Dec will be at **12.00 noon**.

## Advent activities for children

**Advent wreath making** - Sunday 5th

Dec 11.30 am—12.00 noon



**Christmas card making session** - to make cards for our elderly and housebound parishioners—Sunday 12th December 11.30—12.00 noon and also a second opportunity to make an Advent wreath if you missed it the previous week.

**Children & Young People's Christmas Party (Fun and games evening)** - Friday 17th December

Years 1 to 6 from 6.00 pm—8.00 pm

Years 7 to 11 from 7.00 pm—9.00 pm



### **Tea, Coffee & Chat**

Our next tea afternoon will take place on **Wed 8th December 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm**

in the Church hall. All are welcome.

Please feel free to bring a friend or neighbour.



## STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



### **Our Parish, Our Needs, Our Responsibility** **Stewardship**

**Planned Giving – Thank You**

“For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.” - I Chronicles 29: 14-16

Thank you for taking part in our ‘Planned Giving’ appeal last weekend.

At the back of the church there are still the forms which you may complete following prayerful reflection about stewardship of your blessings.

Once again, thank you for all that you do. Please keep our parish in your prayers.

## Can you help Afghan refugee families get out and about to play outside?



**Scooters and buggies needed.** Afghan refugee families living in hotel rooms need scooters, push-chairs, buggies, so they can get out for a walk. Double buggies doubly welcome! Also suitcases or holdalls, and men's outdoor warm coats. Collection point in the church hall on **Sunday 5th Dec** (open before/after each Mass). Definitely **no other clothes or gifts** as storage is overwhelmed. Please only bring items that are clean and in good working order.

If you have something to donate but cannot bring it on Sunday 5th, please do not turn up with it on another day, but get in touch with Mary first.

Any queries, ring or text Mary Ibbett 07758 625669

Thank you from ACTSA - We were very grateful for the opportunity to raise some much-needed funds, especially since all our fundraising activities have been stymied during the coronavirus epidemic. We had a very successful morning. Please can you thank your congregation for their support and tell them that we're sending the proceeds of the sale, totalling £251, to Breadline Africa today.



'London SW Catholic Social Group is looking for people to help lead and organise events for 18 to 35s and over 60s. Please let us know if you are interested in participating or organising. Our main contact details are [londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com](mailto:londonswcatholicsocial@gmail.com) and London SW Catholic Social Group on Facebook.'



Brendan Baker

### Glassdoor update:

We are still looking to finalise a start date for our Glassdoor shelter likely to be on Mondays from mid January 2022. If you would like to be involved and haven't got in touch with us yet, please email Cath Brizzell ([cathmcdee@yahoo.com](mailto:cathmcdee@yahoo.com))



### Winter Soup and Sandwich Service:

Until Richmond Glass Door shelters open after Christmas, St John the Divine Church in Richmond will be running a Soup and Sandwich take away service two days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.00 -6.00 pm starting on Wednesday 17th November.

They are looking for volunteers to help set up and serve guests from 4.30-6.30.

Please contact Isabelle Swann if you would like to be involved:

([swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk))

**Advent Retreat for Young Adults** (18-30s) with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 4th December 2021 in Kensington. Young people are invited for a day retreat (10am-5pm) to prepare for Christmas, with teaching, workshops, prayer, confessions and mass.

Venue: Milleret House, 23 Kensington Square W8 5HN. Donations only. **Register:** [tramy@assumptionreligious.org](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)



**The Passage**, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a



matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

Kind regards, Andrew Hollingsworth, Community Fundraiser



I am delighted to let you know that Westminster Cathedral's annual Christmas Celebration, a wonderful evening of music and readings for all the family in the magnificent Mother Church of the Diocese, is taking place this year on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 6:30pm, with organ music being played from 7pm. The programme includes some of the finest Advent and Christmas choral music from across the centuries, sung by the world-famous Cathedral Choir, as well as favourite congregational carols. Westminster Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will be conducted by Simon Johnson, the Cathedral's new Master of Music.

Tickets are now available at Ticketmaster:

<https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/westminster-cathedral-tickets-london/venue/254582> We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral as we celebrate the start of the Christmas Season.

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 tour of the school and meet him on a Friday morning at 9:30 am. Please reserve a place by emailing the school office [info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk)