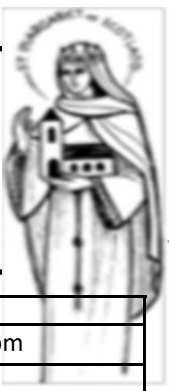


ST MARGARET'S PAGE

2nd Sunday of Advent - 6th December 2020 Year B



In Peter writes:

Christmas decorations have arrived early this year here in St Margarets Road, by at least two or three weeks. All very understandable after this year of Covid-induced restrictions that have cut to the heart of national life. I wonder, though, if the preparations will return back to their normal start date next year, hungry as we all seem to be to celebrate everything in anticipation. Even the University is in on the act of pre-celebration, and so I must admit to installing the crib in front of the Chaplaincy already!

As a contrast the Church proposes something different this Sunday, a stark contrast to the well-known Christmas account, the opening verses of St Marks' Gospel. This account does not begin with the birth of Jesus or brief account of His parentage. Instead it starts mid-stream, at a different beginning, that of the mission of John the Baptist when Jesus was already thirty years old. I would like to propose that this beginning complements what every Christian knows from tradition, the story of the birth of Jesus. This beginning has the capacity to start at any time in life, and therefore becomes the answer to those who think Christmas is for children only. This is our 'adult' reading through which we may reflect on what joys the coming of Jesus will bring to our lives this year. To begin one has to clear out all the junk, a spiritual decluttering.

John the Baptist raises the question about our conduct, about the meaning of my own life, and where to rediscover this purpose once again. The repentance demanded by John the Baptist obviously refers to wrongdoing but also to the many grey areas of life, too many drinks, obsessive checking of mobile phones, binging on Netflix, and aimless surfing of the internet nurturing your favourite conspiracy theory. What was once an enjoyable relaxation has somehow become obsessive. The Baptist is barging into our world, into its most unprepossessing parts, that spiritual wilderness of mediocrity in which we have found ourselves wandering these last months.

Much has been spoken about the mental issues stemming from lockdown but what has become obvious is how Covid has only accelerated the process of secularisation that has gripped this country over the last twenty years. Older people can speak about these months of lockdown through the medium of a quiet

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday	8:30 am, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm	
Mon. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat	10.00 am	
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed and Sat (via Zoom) (please email the parish office for the link)	9.30 am
Confessions	By request	

religiosity, of Sunday school, RE classes and intermittent attendance at Church. This natural light, of vague knowledge of God, part of the traditional virtue of justice, has been taken away from young people. They grow up in a culture where religion is a folk memory derived from the practice of a long distant generation. The hope that previous generations possessed through their faith has been taken from them, and with that the power to effect change in themselves and our society. Belief in God is the true foundation for justice and for mutual respect because only because God's existence raises questions about equality between peoples: we are all God's children. Being equal entails mutual responsibility. John the Baptist is calling us to take back responsibility.

Taking responsibility for each other implies that life is shared, a joint enterprise, not always easy, sometimes difficult and lonely. John the Baptist's command to repent is the invitation to reflect once again how we embrace our family responsibilities, our care for ourselves, our care for each other, and be extension the common home we share with each other. His preaching raises questions but also prepares us for someone who will supplement our newly discovered weakness and fill that weakness with His grace.

The mission of John the Baptist helps through our self-examination to glimpse at the power of the one who is to come, Jesus Christ. He came once in history. He will come again at the end of time, but is arriving now continually whenever we answer the preaching of John the Baptist and begin the road of conversion. Then Jesus breaks into our lives, the ever present breaking-in, that is the consequence of Him coming into the world, and being born in a stable in Bethlehem. The joy of Christmas is not just once a year, but potentially available every day.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk • Website: www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk
Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5th December – Sunday 13th December

5-Dec	Sat	10.00 am	Terrence Nagle RIP	
6-Dec	Sun 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8.30 am	Thanksgiving for prayers answered	Winter
		10.30 am	For you the people	
		6.30 pm	For all young people	
7-Dec	Mon	10.00 am	Merche Jaureguibeita's Intentions	Melanie Blackwood
8-Dec	Tue	10.00 am	Judith Thomas	
9-Dec	Wed	10.00 am	Erhardt-Lewis family	
10-Dec	Thu	10.00 am	Eucharistic Service	
11-Dec	Fri	10.00 am	For all young people	
12-Dec	Sat	10.00 am	For unemployed seeking work	
13-Dec	Sun 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8.30 pm	For you the people	
		10.30 am	Dennis Coates RIP	Olga McLoughlin
		6.30 pm	Tulia de Vergara (Anniv) Edna McCaw (Anniv)	Lily McCaw

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, Patricia Mary Picton (Mary), Arthur Mathewson, Maureen Costello, Helen Sweeny, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, 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 and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

Anniversaries - Collin Morgan, James O'Malley, Edna Hughes, Florence Pluck, Doris Geary, Jack Halligan, Alison Noble, Rose Polland, Angela Crowley, Nessa Sweetman, Syd Pascoe, William Cowell

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

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.



LAS POSADA 2020

Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent

Calling the inn-keepers and pilgrims.

Mary and Joseph's itinerary is now arranged for Advent and they will be setting off on their journey with a blessing at Mass this Sunday.

If you signed up to host the Holy Family but have not yet received an email from Ann, please get in touch. annxedes@gmail.com or 07837 095 837

Christmas Masses



Places to attend Christmas Masses will need to be booked in advance to ensure we can respect safe distancing.

Masses will be held on:

Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day at 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Bookings can be made through the website and will open on Friday 11th December.

If you know anyone who does not have access to the internet and would like to reserve a place, please ask them to call the parish office who will do it for them.

6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Psalm 84

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

13th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

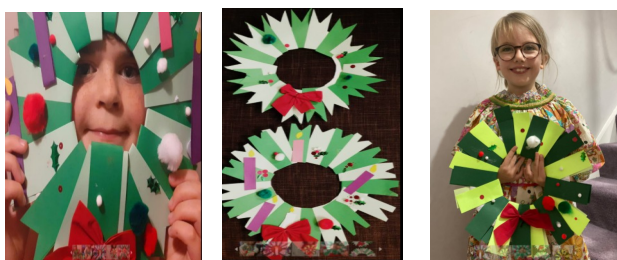
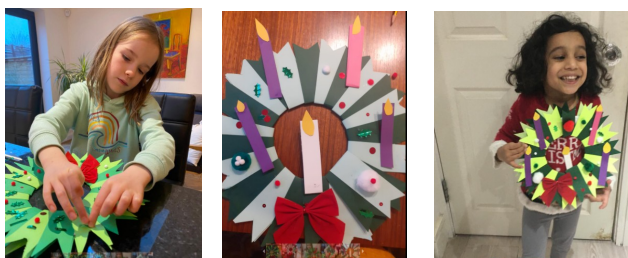
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

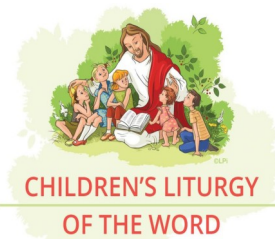
We had a wonderful Zoom Advent Wreath making session organised by Kathryn James and team. The session was enjoyed tremendously.

Sharing some pictures of the beautiful wreathes and the participants.



Children's Liturgy provision

We would like to bring together a small group that can plan and organise some children's liturgy provision to be delivered on Zoom while current restrictions are in place.



Depending on how many people are happy to help, we could offer something every fortnight or once a month. Perhaps a simple activity based on the gospel story, with some singing and a prayer. Please let the parish office know if you could help.



St James's
Catholic Primary School

Children starting school in Reception 2021

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 virtual tour of the school and meet him over Zoom on a Friday morning at 9:30 am. Please reserve a place by emailing the school office info@st-james.richmond.sch.uk

Please see the link below for our School Virtual Tour Video <https://vimeo.com/480819740>

Admission arrangement for Catholic Schools

If you wish to apply for a place at a Catholic Primary school for 2021, you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP). Fr Peter is happy to sign these forms for regular parishioners.

Please bring along your forms to the Church Hall on the dates below to have the documents signed and stamped.

Saturday, 12th December 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Saturday, 9th January 2021 11.00 am—12.30 pm

Confirmation



The next Confirmation course, for those in Year 9 and above will begin on Saturday 16th January at 5:15pm to be followed by Mass at 6:30pm.

This year the Course is being led by Deacon Joseph Estorninho, Joseph Kilsby, a recent graduate from St Marys and Kirsten Roy, long standing parishioner.

If you would like to participate please contact Fr Peter at the Parish Office to obtain an application form.

Thank you

Fr Peter



ADVENT IN ST MARGARETS

The Joy of Hope – Parish Advent course

This zoom Advent course continues for the next two weeks, one session at Monday 2:00pm led by Angie Keane, and Wednesday 8:00pm led by Fr Peter. The daytime course has attracted 10 participants and the evening course 16 participants.

The sessions include time for worship, listening to the presentation, shared dialogue afterwards and concluding music and prayer. Each session lasts an hour and quarter.

This is simple way to help prepare spiritually for the coming Festival of Christmas. Zoom details on the website.

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 1st December – 12 noon Tues 8th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 02075921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

Please generously give online at <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>



Christmas Cards for our senior citizen parishioners

Last May many children prepared Pentecost cards for the residents that were well received. This Christmas may I ask if any child would like to create some hand-made Christmas cards.

Please use the sign-up link to chose your parishioner and send in your cards through the letterbox to the parish office before Monday 14th December.

volunteersignup.org/QXCD4

The cards will be delivered in the week before Christmas. Fr Peter

Sunday Reflections for *December* by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, for 'The God Who Speaks' initiative,.

For more information on the 'The God Who Speaks' in Westminster see <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/> - see newly updated website

Also, see 'The God Who Speaks' website, which is regularly updated, for further resources and ideas <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>



CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or take one of the physical brochures at the back of the Church.