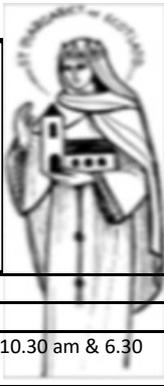


# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## *In Peter writes:*

The rain and cold of the Bank holiday were in sharp contrast to the lovely summer weather that the country has enjoyed for the last few months. Perhaps the change in weather and the start of the new school year is bringing a different realisation as to consequences of lockdown. Not that the past months were anything like a breeze, but the balmy days of summer made the restrictions rather more palatable than would have been the case in winter.

Now that the new academic year has started, the time is right to re-engage spiritually with what the world is currently suffering. How to engage positively remains fundamental. It is easy to identify lacunae in government provision, regulation and communication but though it might occupy acres of newsprint and hours of TV criticism of others it does not create a personal positive agenda for life. The internet is full of self-help suggestions but these lack deep foundations.

Perhaps this is the time to rediscover our long dormant faith, that personal relationship with Jesus that marked the intensely private moments of childhood and youth. Faith was then never life-denying but the source of hope for a better future, in matters both prosaic and profound. The hope fostered by faith is, in my own experience, intimately connected with the desire for deeper knowledge, of discovering the purpose behind what takes place. So, turning around the gloom surrounding Covid-19, I wonder to myself what positive actions faith telling me to undertake, and what positive hidden pattern is emerging from this encounter with the pandemic.

At the broadest level the world does not contain its own explanation, and if that is correct, so the explanation must come from beyond, thus pointing towards a Creator. If the world is created then was it is personal, and if so, was it was an act of love, a perverse act to indifference to human suffering or sheer act of malice. The second and third are intellectually incoherent because existence always possess some good even when deeply flawed but that is a conversation for another time. So, taking the first reason, then the world must be full of hope. Jesus turned this 'natural' hope into something much greater, a supernatural hope for the future, a future to be shared with Him. If this future is to be shared with him then in the words of this Sunday's

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
<b>Vigil</b>	Saturday	6.30 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
<b>Mon. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat</b>		10.00 am
<b>Thursday Communion Service</b>		10.00 am
<b>Rosary</b>	Mon & Fri	9.30 am
<b>Adoration</b>	Wednesdays	8.00 – 9.15 am
	Friday & Saturday	10.30 – 11.00 am
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturdays	10.30 – 11.00 am
	Sundays	10.00 – 10.20 am

Gospel this future must in some way be shared with each other: 'so that when two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them'.

This Sunday's Gospel gives yet another reason why Jesus established the Church as the place to gather two or three, and even more. This pandemic has shown all too clearly our common need for community to anchor our lives as we give hope to each other. No one single person's hope can overcome the vicissitudes of life but collectively there is so much more hope to draw upon. We share our hope in our parish community, and within our own families, and even if you are the only one in your family to participate in Mass you still bring to your family the power of this collective hope.

Since we share the hope that will take us beyond Covid-19 in this world and the next, we can ask what sort of community do I wish to create and share with others? This is a journey of discovery that includes both seeing the good in others, the possibility that they may change their ways, but most importantly my need to hear the counsel of Jesus coming from the most unlikely sources, my own family included! The day you can take criticism and counsel from your brother, sister, mother, father, son or daughter, wife or husband, is one of the great days of personal liberation. It is not the end of life as you imagine it but another stage in realising the hope for a shared future.

The pandemic and its baleful consequences may teach us as we enter into autumn the power of Christian hope that brings us together in common spiritual purpose. Hope overcomes the unconscious depression of the non-religious because Christian hope gathers us together as a community and gives us the courage to change through the counsel of others and to accept the grace of Jesus Christ so that we may share life together.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sep - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Sep

07-Sep	Mon	10.00 a.m.	For all young people	
08-Sep	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Ian Currie (Thanksgiving)	Barbara de Souza
09-Sep	Wed	10.00 a.m.	For unemployed seeking work	
10-Sep	Thur	10.00 a.m.		
11-Sep	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Christopher Faulds and family	Claudine Richardson
12-Sep	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Health care workers, doctors & nurses	
		6.30 p.m.	For unemployed seeking work	
13-Sep	Sun	08.30 a.m.	Mohinder Paul Loomba	Sue Slattery
		10.30 a.m.	For you the people	
		6.30 p.m.	For unemployed seeking work	

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Janet McAllister, Ben, Mark Titmus, 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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Donal Dwyer (brother of Mary Ibbett), Rose Mitchell, Ann Noble, Juliane Ditsche, Antonio Lopes, Muriel Kelly, Juliet Grafton, Karina Kinnear

## Bible Alive books available

We have the September edition of Bible alive books at the office. Please visit if you would like to have them or send in a request via email if you want future copies.



## Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

## Response to the Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

## Extra helpers needed



All of you who have returned to Mass over the summer will have seen the team of stewards and ushers at each Mass, who greet you with the temperature "gun", record your name and contact phone number for track and trace purposes, usher you to a socially distanced seat and encourage an orderly queue at Communion. You probably don't see that they also stay behind after Mass and disinfect the pews ready for the next congregation.

Our team of volunteers have been very faithful over the last two months but now we need **SOME MORE HELPERS** to share the load.

Please contact us via email [stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretson-thames@rcdow.org.uk) if you are happy to help, mentioning which Mass you usually attend.

## Contactless Giving is coming to St Margaret's

We are very grateful to all our regular donors who support the parish financially by standing orders, payroll giving or weekly envelopes. For those of you who contribute via the loose plate collection, we will soon have a contactless device that you can use to donate via a debit or credit card. Please look out for this in the coming weeks.



6<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in OT

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 94

Romans 13:8-10

Mathew 18:15-20

13<sup>th</sup> September - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT

Ecclesiasticus 27:30—28:7

Psalm 102

Romans 14:7-9

Mathew 18:21-35