

# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

Thirty Second in Ordinary Time - Year A 8th November 2020



## *In Peter writes:*

This coming week St Marys University will be celebrating Interfaith week and this year, for the first time, I have been assisting with its organisation. This has confirmed all my views that the non-religious frame of reference, even with the best of intentions finds it impossible to grasp the religious mind-set. The fault is not just theirs but ours too, as people of faith, for failing to identify just what constitutes the religious point of view, and how believers can tolerate each other rather more easily than secularists and agnostics. This is nothing new. A sixteenth century traveller to eastern Europe marvelled at how Catholics could trade with Jews and Muslims, tacitly accommodating their religious beliefs while simultaneously persecuting other baptised Christians. A small deviation within one faith is always of much greater concern than the content of other faiths.

The battle grounds of the Reformation extending from the doctrine of justification by faith alone, through questions of papal authority and the religion of the rulers, combined with barbarity of the religious wars of the 16th and 17th century gave credence to keeping religious affiliation private. This history has not repeated itself in Islam which never possessed any central religious authority like the Papacy. The split between Sunni and Shia dates back to conflict between the descendants of their founder but these religious wars, continuing today, over one thousand years later have not led to any secular rejection of the muslim faith as such.

The trouble with most contemporary interfaith dialogue is that its method adopts unwittingly a Christian perspective on the power of reason. The relative autonomy of human reasoning is made an absolute sustained by its own authority. An unconscious post-Christian heritage about the role of reason is applied to other faiths which can completely different standpoints. The attempts to find reason-based commonalities between faiths alights on the cultural form cut off from its living source, that faith itself. Mussolini tried much the same in Italy and many of the cultural events attended by tourists, though originating in the Middle Ages found a new lease of life as expressions of Italian identity that would only allude to their Catholic origin.

How then does a multi-faith society co-exist? How does one animate the annual University Inter-faith

week? The first place to start is by accepting that in terms of content every faith is different, and in second place to accept that those who practice their faith have opted in, maybe through conversion, rather than failed to opt out of their religious heritage. Most people of faith both accept the practice of others in their religion while at the same time expressing little interest in that faith's content, since their own is the pathway to truth and salvation.

For me the more interesting issue is not trying to bring together different faith's content but of discovering a similar dynamic to believe in each faith that anchors their cultural practices. Every faith that accept God's revelation has taken place in some way, recognise that this revelation is true which elicits a specific response from the believer. At the same time, but in the background, the experience of faith must imply that every person has the ability to enter into a living faith relationship. Every person is naturally religious and is open to the transcendent, God, as the source of existence. This openness to the transcendent is not faith itself which requires something more, the dynamic relationship, between God making Himself known and the believer responding.

Interfaith week then can recognise this universal human possibility while at the same time recognising that this natural ability is realised within the dynamic of faith as explained. The life of faith is not lived in isolation but instead creates a community, and every community has its own ways of praying and customs. Obviously, there are many cultural similarities between faiths whether in regard to sacred space, sacred time, ritual expression, shared meals and ways of praying. The curious fact about these cultural similarities is that they only make sense from within the experience of one's own tradition. To be confident in one's own faith makes one open to the faith of others. To say all religions are the same misses the point of faith and rejects the fundamental orientation of humanity to the transcendent.

Mass Times & Liturgy Services		
Sunday		10.30 am
Mon. Tue, Wed, 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	

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk](http://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 7th Nov - Sunday 15th Nov**

7 Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Jean Birmingham (RIP)	Shirley & Pat Doyle
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
8 Nov	Sun	08.30 am	No Mass	
		10.30 am	Holy Souls	
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
9-Nov	Mon	10.00 am	Burda Family Intentions (deceased & living)	Irene Starzecky
10-Nov	Tue	10.00 am	Holy Souls	
11-Nov	Wed	10.00 am	Laurie Iman RIP	Lily McCaw
12-Nov	Thu	10.00 am	No Mass	
13-Nov	Fri	10.00 am	No Mass	
14-Nov	Sat	10.00 am	Hazel Green (RIP 18th Anniv)	Jimmy Green
		6.30 pm	No Mass	
15-Nov	Sun	08.30 am	No Mass	
		10.30 am	Jim Ehmann (RIP)	Katie Pettinato
		6.30 pm	No Mass	

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

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

### 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**

### Entrance Antiphon:

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

### Response to the Psalm

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

In light of the new Government Guidelines, the Sunday 10.30 am Mass will now be celebrated online for the month of November.



**You can access Mass on  
[www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk)**

### Private Individual Prayer



The church will be open for individual prayer on **Saturday mornings from 10.00 am—1.00 pm or by request**. Please send your request either by email or phone.



**Diocese of Westminster**  
SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

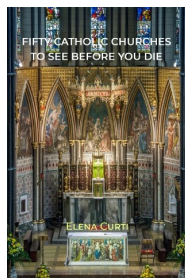
### **The Sick & Retired Priests' collection**

Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate online at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations) - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online or drop your envelope with your donation through the door at the parish office.

## Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die

St Margaret's features as one of Elena Curti's **Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die**.



This beautiful, lavishly illustrated book explores fifty of the most memorable Catholic churches in England and Wales to reveal not only their artistic and architectural splendours but also the fascinating stories behind each one. Together, it offers a fascinating history of Catholicism as expressed in the buildings themselves.

As well as the individual churches featured, the book also lists Many More Worth a Detour – providing details of other churches or sites of special Catholic interest nearby.

At over 300 pages with 190 full colour photographs, it is published at the very reasonable price of £14.99. However, it is offered to those churches featured at a special rate of £12 each for orders of 10 or more copies. If we have enough interest, the church office will put together a group order. Please email Cynthia on [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) before Nov 13th if you would like to put an order in.



### Blessing of Graves Sunday 8th November, 2.00 pm

There will be the traditional Blessing of the Graves at Twickenham Cemetery, Hospital Bridge Road at 2:00pm.

We will start with a prayer. Individual graves will be blessed including Fr Sydney Dommersen's, Canon Desmond Swan, Fr Ian Dommersen and the Sisters of Mercy from St Catherine's and St James's Schools along with former parishioners.

If you would like a family grave blessed please contact the Parish Office giving an approximate location of the grave.

### November Holy Souls



Every November, the church prays particularly for the Holy Souls and Masses will be offered three times a week for them in November. As mass will be celebrated online now due to the lockdown, please send in the names by email to [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk) if you would like the deceased members of your family to be included. The sheets will then be placed in the basket which will be placed in front of the weekday and Sunday altars for the duration of November.

If you have already picked up a Holy Souls envelope last week, please post it through the Presbytery Letter Box with a donation.



The Jesuit Refugee Service are in urgent need of **volunteer drivers** based in London to deliver food and toiletry parcels to our refugee friends as part of our Emergency Response Team. Whilst our current volunteers are doing an amazing job of getting deliveries to each of our friends, we expect that more assistance will be needed as a rise in COVID cases means further lockdown restrictions are likely to be imposed. More information can be found: [www.jrsuk.net/volunteer/](http://www.jrsuk.net/volunteer/) or from St Margaret's parishioner Teresa Smith 07726722614

**Sunday Reflections** for **November** kindly produced 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 updated website for further resources and ideas <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

### LAS POSADA 2020 Innkeepers & Pilgrims Needed in Advent



Small figures of Mary & Joseph will be travelling through Twickenham this Advent. Innkeepers are needed to host them for a night as they continue their journey. Would you like to welcome them into your home? Innkeepers then become pilgrims as they take Mary and Joseph on the next leg of their journey to the next home they will be staying at.

The tradition of the travelling crib is hundreds of years old and originates from Spain and South America where each evening during Advent "Las Posadas" takes place ("posada" means inn or lodging). Pilgrims re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus, travelling on their journey looking for somewhere to stay for the night. This is a lovely way to do something spiritual in Advent and enhance your anticipation of Christmas and the excitement of receiving again the new life that comes to us with the birth of the baby Jesus. Young and not-so young; singles, couples and families can all take part.

We have made a few adaptations this year to be COVID safe. Mary and Joseph are now plastic figures that can be easily washed and disinfected. Doorstep handovers (without refreshments) will be needed whilst restrictions against gathering indoors are in force. The sign-up sheet will be online. If interested, please sign up for one date on the sign-up sheet at <https://volunteersignup.org/RPFRD> with your name, address and contact details. Ann will then be in touch with further details of Mary and Joseph's journey.

Any questions, please contact Ann Edes on 07837 095 837 or [annxedes@gmail.com](mailto:annxedes@gmail.com)



## ADVENT IN ST MARGARETS

### 'The Joy of Hope'

This Advent the Parish is running a four-week prayer, discussion and catechetical course entitled 'The Joy of Hope', something in short supply these days. This was originally written by David Payne of CaFe, a well-known catholic broadcaster.

The sessions (online via Zoom) will last an hour, and one series will run on Monday afternoons, led by Angie Keane, music by Gavin Evenhuis, on **Mondays at 2:00pm**, starting on Monday 23rd November, and continuing 30th November, 7th December and 14th December. The same series will also be run on **Wednesdays at 8:00pm** on Wednesday 25th November, Wednesday 2nd December, 9th December, 16th December.

Please email the parish office if you would like to join, to register and receive the Zoom invitation code.

### Advent Service of Prayer, Praise and Readings

Friday 4th December 7:30pm - 8:45pm

The musicians of St Margarets will be gathering at suitable distances to play music and accompany a series of Advent readings, read by parishioners in their homes. The evening will be broadcast through Youtube to allow as many as people to participate in our shared parish preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

### Christmas Masses – Advance Notice

Christmas might seem a long way off and who knows what the situation will be about the opening of Churches in that period. Please note that all Mass places will have to be booked in advance owing to the numbers wishing to attend (I hope!).

There will be three Masses on  
**Christmas Eve, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm,**  
and on  
**Christmas Day 8:30am and 10:30am.**

Many thanks  
Fr Peter



h from the  
Archbishop Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
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**Message from Olga McLoughlin** - Kidney Urgently Needed for my son Christopher McLoughlin. Sole parent to Libby McLoughlin, without it he has less than a year to live. Please contact ladyofleisure6@gmail.com

Mobile—07960 333 461

Everybody's prayers for this situation will be really appreciated.

## Jesuit refugee service Christmas card appeal

For the last two years JRS UK supporters have sent Christmas Cards to people we support in immigration detention. Christmas and New Year can be a very difficult time for refugees and asylum seekers accompanied by JRS UK. The holiday period can remind people of a time of celebration with their families and the feelings of isolation and loneliness that many experience tend to increase around Christmas time.

We would like to give Christmas cards to as many of our friends in detention and our friends in the community as possible and we would like you, our supporters, to help us write them.

Cards should be sent to the JRS UK offices and we will distribute them in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Please leave your card envelopes unsealed.

**In order for us to distribute your card we will need to receive it by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.** Please send your cards to: **JRS Christmas Cards 2020, JRS UK, The Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler Street, London, E1W 2QT.** More information and instructions can be found here

<https://www.irsuk.net/news/christmas-card-appeal-2020/>

### Message from Head Teacher, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Reception Admissions for 2021

We are proud of our wonderful school and how we celebrate each child's individual uniqueness, talents and abilities and ensure they aspire to reach their full potential.

We are working on enhancing our reputation and raising our profile within the local community, ensuring that our strengths, successes and achievements are well known and understood externally, as well as internally.

On Monday 23rd November 2020 at 9:30am and repeated on Tuesday 24th November at 5pm, we will be holding live virtual events for prospective parents wishing to join St Mary's in September 2021.

To register for the event, email: [reply@smi.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:reply@smi.hounslow.sch.uk) with 'Virtual Welcome' in the subject line. Please include any questions you would like answered too. Please pass this information on to anyone who may be interested.

A key message that we want to get across is that although we are a Catholic school, we do not simply offer an education to Catholic children, but a Catholic education welcoming ALL children who are ready to embrace our ethos and values. We place great value on the faith you show in us to educate your child(ren), and we would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support.

On behalf of **St.Paul's Hounslow foodbank** I would just like to say thank you SO much to everyone for all of your support and donations over the last 2 Sundays. In total over 2 Mondays we took down over 4 car loads of food, toiletries & warm winter coats & clothing.

The response from our parish was truly overwhelming & St.Pauls were extremely grateful for our support. It was a huge help for them just when they needed it at the start of this second lockdown.

A big thank you to everyone & a special extra thankyou to Mary & the residents of Bonser Road who contributed to one whole car load between them! Wow! Thank you to everyone who also gave support helping organising & driving donations, spreading the word & organising their own mini collections. What a wonderful parish we have! Bless you all x  
Vicky Phelan

