

# ST MARGARETS PAGE

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

23rd February 2020



## *In Peter writes:*

The sad news of the death of a former reality TV presenter last week is just another step in the decline of our culture and the moral confusion that such actions generate. Promoted beyond her mental resilience by an industry unable to give due weight to the collateral damage that instant fame bring, remembered by the tweetings and Instagram pictures of vacuous friends lauding the achievements and their friendship of the recently deceased seemingly oblivious to what had happened; and the sustaining of a blame game as to who should take responsibility, the viewer, the reader, the director, the production company or the individual themselves. This case and others like it demonstrate the dangerous combination of lack of education, instant fame, the vicissitudes of the public seeking ever new thrills and the media chasing ever new sources of profit. These moments demonstrate the dark side of contemporary culture where the moral anchors have been lost both corporately and individually. Profit and culture are not mutually exclusive pursuits as the popularity of West End musicals demonstrate but recognition should be made of the darker side where profit link-up with the baser demands of sinful humanity.

This is both a moral tale for today and the place where the light of the Gospel potentially could bring both sanity and forgiveness. Most drug addicts begin their path of decline by claiming to themselves that they are strong enough to take it and will not let the drug master them. More often than not this is an idle boast. Dependency comes quickly that leads the addict into an ever-increasing spiral of decline. That same spiral is always found when something becomes addictive, whether alcohol, pornography, or pornography-lite, too much of modern television.

The search for perfection, the content of the last two Sunday's Gospels concludes with the need to demonstrate forgiveness in front of one's enemies. One might ask who are these enemies? Are they just the obvious, the physical bully in the school playground, the psychological bully in the office, or the verbal bully at the school gate? There is also a much more subtle enemy that permeates the structures of our mind and heart, that can often, without our conscious consent, dictate what we find humorous and entertaining. Alternative comedians think swear words are a form of entertainment as do the gullible sitting in the audience. They, like us, might never have examined the spiritual sources of

### Mass Times & Liturgy Services

<b>Vigil</b>	Saturday 6.30pm
	Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.30pm
Mon. Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat	10.00am
<b>Thursday Communion Service</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Rosary</b>	<b>Monday &amp; Friday 9.30am</b>
<b>Adoration</b>	<b>Wednesdays</b> 8-9.15pm
	<b>Fri</b> 10.30-11 am, <b>Sat</b> 10.30-11.00am
<b>Confessions</b>	<b>Saturdays</b> 10.30-11.00am
	<b>Sundays</b> 10.00-10.20am

humour and entertainment.

One source of humour is the feeling of getting someone back for the sleights and pain caused by others. If I have suffered such misfortune, I will seek to find someone else to off-load my anger and shame. Laurel and Hardy made this an artform but their self-inflicted misfortunes, ones that we have all shared, were harmless compared to the misfortunes of the individuals voted out of tv competitions. The desire to get back at others is rooted in the inability to forgive or less pass. The emotional pain festers and naturally we wish to pass that pain on to someone else. It becomes easy to pour our scorn on some inadequate who has been voted out of the house, the island etc. The drive is our own failures in love, not the inherent worth of the project to find the best. The brutal society that was the Roman Empire found its mirror in the Games. The same dynamic holds for modern secular society.

Jesus concludes the Counsels of Perfection with the command to forgive because it breaks the cycle of imitative violence. To break the cycle is to begin to live in spiritual peace because the instinctual drive to get one's own back is mitigated by the more original plan of God to live in harmony with Him and each other. The conclusion of this section of the Sermon on the Mount recognises that the world is ambiguous as God causes His rain to fall on just and unjust alike. Yet the call to perfection remains and that is why the cycle of forgiveness is a necessary part of the life of faith. The divine gift of forgiveness cuts away gradually at the malignant power that animates contemporary culture of getting our own back, and of finding a victim to mitigate our unexpressed anger. Maybe this Lent is an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual source of our own culture as expressed in our TV habits, our driving habits and our speech in the company of others.

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

Tel: 020 8892 3902 E-mail: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been  
bountiful with me.

### Response to the Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### The Sick:

Mark Titmus, Janet McIndoe, Mary Ibbett, 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** Thomas CH Yong, Kathleen Balmer, Pat Brazier, Moira McDonnell, Harold Livermore, David Chow, Neville Stracey, Rosie Noaks, Rita Kabat, Ellen Bailey,

**Deanery Intentions:** For Fr. Sidon Sagar and parishioners at St. Michael's, Ashford.

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March after 10:30am

This will be an opportunity to ask members of the Pastoral Council questions about what has been happening over the last six months, what you would like to happen in our community in the future. Fr Peter will also explain the practicalities of the summer building campaign for Project 2020 (the refurbishment of the Hall, lavatories and basement).

Fr Peter

## 100 Club

Congratulations to our February Winners :

1st Prize £100/- Fran & Joe Early

2nd Prize £50/- Mary McHugh

Cheques have been sent by post.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 22nd February - Sunday 1st March

Sat 22nd	10.00am Mass 10.30-11.00am Adoration	For you the people
	6.30pm Mass	For the homeless
Sun 23rd	8.30am Mass	Special Intention (Walker)
	10.30am Mass	Helen Douglas (Private Int.) (Johnstone)
	6.30pm Mass	Joseph de Souza (Barabara de Souza)
Mon 24th	9.30am The Rosary 10.00am Mass	For the homeless
Tue 25th	10.00 am Mass	For those struggling with debt
Wed 26th	ASH WEDNESDAY 7.15 am Mass 10.00 am Mass 8.00 pm Mass	
Thurs 27th	10.00 am Communion Service	
Fri 28th	10.00 am Mass	For the sick of our Parish
Sat 29th	10.00am Mass 10.30am-11.00am Adoration	For you the people
	6.30pm Mass	For the homeless
Sun 1st March	8.30am Mass	Nowell & Monica Anderson (Int.)
	10.30am Mass	For you the people
	6.30pm Mass	Carmen Bourne (RIP) Walker

## Lenten Project 2020

Save the Dates

Events in aid of the Lenten Project

## Murder Mystery Play

Saturday 21st March

## Quiz Night

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Further info:

Chris Smith at [cjsmith@outlook.com](mailto:cjsmith@outlook.com) or 07951959054

1st March - 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Psalm 50

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

8th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 32

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9

## January Offertory Giving

Date	Loose	Envelopes	Total
05-Jan	416	203	£619
12-Jan	503	182	£685
19-Jan	485	179	£664
28-Jan	443	199	£642
	1847	763	£2,610
Standing orders + payroll giving			£4,349
<b>Total</b>			<b>£6,958</b>

Thank you for your support to the parish mission. New parishioners who would like to make a commitment to regular giving are encouraged to complete a standing order form or to make contributions through weekly envelopes. For more information, please contact the parish office: [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

## Project 2020

May I update the Parish on the status of the appeal with regard to the refurbishment of the Hall, facilities and basement. Thank to everyone who has contributed so far and I am very pleased to say that the total donated or pledged is now

**£80,600**

The appeal total is £100,000, of which we have now raised just over 80% which is a great achievement in the time. If you would like to contribute to the appeal and help the Parish to achieve this target please do so. The Church has always been a mass donor society, and every parish relies on the contributions of parishioners for its continued existence. The cost of refurbishing the hall and facilities is being mitigated by the future rents from the Hall which have been bundled together to create a Diocesan loan to the Parish. Therefore it is very desirable for the good financial order of the Parish that the £100,000 target is met.

Everyone will benefit from the refurbishment and so may I ask those who wish to contribute and have not done so please make this task a priority. Thank you to all those who have already contributed. It is marvellous that the Parish has got so far already.

**Fr Peter**



**Welcoming newcomers to  
St Margaret's parish**

Every Parish must ask itself from time to time; 'Are we a welcoming community?'

and ask of newly or recently arrived parishioners: Have you recently joined our parish and would like to get to know other parishioners? or 'Have you been coming here for six months and no one has spoken to you yet?'

This Lent, St Margaret's will have a special focus on welcoming newcomers to the parish.

At coffee after the 1030 Mass, we would like to have a couple of tables where people are encouraged to chat to new people. Would you be prepared to commit to doing this for 20-30 minutes on any 2 Sundays in Lent?

We aim to have a rota of about 12 people who would sign up for 2 Sundays to sit at these tables and chat to people who don't know anyone in the parish.

You might wish to consider this part of your personal Lenten project, of taking up this ministry for Lent.

If you would like to be involved, please either contact Lily McCaw or email Cynthia in the parish office on [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

Thank you,  
**Fr Peter**



**St James's**  
Catholic Primary School

**Head Teacher vacancy  
from Sept 2020**

The Governors of St James's RC Primary School, Twickenham are looking to appoint an inspiring and energetic Headteacher who is a practising Catholic and will lead, guide and develop our pupils and staff in the development of living out their faith, build on the school's outstanding reputation and guide the school into the next chapter of its history with a strategic focus on our faith and teaching and learning. St James's is a three-form entry primary school with its own nursery and a unit provision for children on the autism spectrum.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed; please contact Mrs. O Mahoney by email

[oonagh.omahoney@st-james.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:oonagh.omahoney@st-james.richmond.sch.uk)

An application pack and more details can be found on ETeach, vacancy no. 1090980.

Closing date for applications is March 9th



## Picnic & Play—Mums and Kids have fun in half term



### Lenten Project 2020

We are pleased to announce that the two charities that will be the recipients of this year's Lenten Project monies are:

**Medical Missionaries of Mary Trust** - The money we raise for the Medical Missionaries of Mary will fund much needed equipment for the St Kizito Health Centre, a clinic opened by the MMM in 2016 in a slum area of Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. This includes a microscope slide drier (used in the diagnosis of malaria), a Hemocue machine for the diagnosis of anaemia (especially useful for pregnant women) and an autoclave for sterilising instruments for basic surgical procedures. Any extra money we raise would be used to fund treatment for the very poorest patients, who can't afford to pay for their own treatment.

#### ZANE—Zimbabwe, A National Emergency

We support the education of 84 children from destitute families in pop-up classes. Part of the expense of these classes is the provision of a hot meal each day to the children. ZANE comment that this food has made an incredible difference; the children are looking noticeably healthier and are far better able to concentrate. ZANE also support with a weekly food pack for 14 of the poorest families of those attending.

**Weekly envelopes for Lenten Alms will be available from the start of Lent.**

If you would like to propose an event or to organise fundraising activities, please contact **Kathryn James** on [kathryn@feburman.co.uk](mailto:kathryn@feburman.co.uk)

Thank you

### Settled Status

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: [gov.uk/eusetledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusetledstatus)

Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: [gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme](http://gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme)

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.



ASH WEDNESDAY

26TH FEBRUARY

MASS AND DISTRIBUTION  
OF ASHES AT

7.15 AM, 10 AM & 8 PM

