

ST MARGARET'S PAGE

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

17th September 2017



Fr Peter writes.....

During the troubles in Northern Ireland the occasional grieving relative would issue a public declaration of forgiveness to the perpetrators of some terrorist killing. It always seemed, to me, a brave statement but somewhat premature. A commendable sentiment but too quick in its granting. On the other hand, some victims' families would wish undying vengeance. This seemed inappropriate too as vengeance consumes both the victim's family into a spiral of hate. The ancient Greeks understood that those who sought vengeance should always dig two graves. The desire to forgive is one of the many echoes of Christianity still found in this country while the desire for vengeance resonates with base human motives untouched by force of civilisation.

How though could a middle be discerned that would both anchor forgiveness in something more robust and would temper the untrammelled desire for vengeance? This middle way does exist and involves recognising that the offer of forgiveness requires a stable sense of justice. The restoration of justice is the persistent desire to give each person what belongs to him or her in their dignity as people. Behind this explanation of justice lies a sense of the order of the world, and ultimately of God's order. The reality of this order is experienced when my own world order falls apart, if only temporarily, with the loss or theft of a mobile telephone or bank card. There is a basic order to everyone's life, a pattern of activity, that is not simply self-determined, but participates in the order of the world.

The sculpture of the blind-folded lady holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other that stands on the pediment of the Old Bailey indicates the purpose of justice, of restoring order in civic society. The personification of justice might be blindfolded but the re-establishment of justice between individuals and people is orientated to the workings of society. Thus, the punishments handed out by the judge, should, in

Mass Times & Liturgy Services

Vigil 6.30pm (Sat).

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.30pm

Mon. Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat. 10.00am

Morning Prayer 9.15am Monday & Friday

Rosary 9.30am Monday & Friday

Adoration Wednesdays 8-9.15pm

Friday 10.30-11.00am Saturday 10.30-11.00am

The offer of forgiveness and so mercy is fundamental to the Christian life and the parable in this Sunday's Gospel sets the offer of mercy within the context of the application of justice. The first servant owed his master an un-payable amount, and the master using the crude forms of justice of the day would sell the servant, his family and chattels to meet his financial obligations, and restore right order with respect to the debt. This is not our form of social order but his sense of justice was open enough to answer the plea of the to forgive the debt. This may be a crude form of justice in our eyes but it was sufficient to be open the mind of the master to the offer of mercy. The same could not be said of the first servant's treatment of his fellow servant. Though a recipient of mercy himself his understanding of justice left no place for mercy to others, and he ended up suffering the fate that he wished to impose on his fellow servant at the hands of his master.

Today it often seems that the offer of forgiveness, as an expression of mercy is detached from the restoration of justice. Forgiveness as the expression of mercy cannot be offered to someone who has no care of justice, nor interest in re-establishing a right relationship between people. This is the reason so many public proclamations of forgiveness seem premature since no firm purpose of amendment is visible amongst the perpetrators, whoever they may be.

The mission, death and Resurrection of Jesus was to reconcile the world to God, to re-establish divine justice and the proper ordering of human life that allows for the many different forms of authentic human flourishing. This re-establishment of divine justice was also an act of infinite mercy of which every Christian is the potential beneficiary. To accept the gift of mercy, and to offer it to others is to participate consciously in God's plan to establish divine justice on earth, that is to

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for 'THE PAGE' on line contact Westminster Diocesan Website : parish.rcdow.org.uk/stmargaretonthames

Web: www.stmargarets-church.co.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Parish Administrator, Jean McGinley; Catechetical Co-ordinator: Therese Teevan; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

Entrance Antiphon:

Give peace, O Lord,
to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true. Hear
the prayers of your servant and of your
people Israel

Response to the Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Sick: Rose Lorden, William Hamilton,
Ethan Knott, Caroline Horsbrugh, Mary English,
Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Carmen Bourne,
Peter Coughlan, Carol Samba, Marie Titmus,
Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Arnolda,
Florence Clements, Amanda Lonergan,
Mary Ethel Arnolda, Colin Bertram
Francesca Bianchin, Miriam Colbourne,
Sydney Parkes and Mary (Jane) Eveson

Marriage: Stephen Follows and Emma Jay

Recently dead: Bernard Loughran
formerly of St Mary's College

Anniversaries:

Donalyn Wagner, Maria Jackson, Len Tanner,
Ann Della Holloway, Dermot Hogan,
Patrick B rowne, Mary Edwards.

Deanery Intentions for **Fr Michael Tuck** and
the parish of St Ignatius of Loyola,
Sunbury on Thames.

Thankyou!

Thank you to everyone at St Margarets I've
met during my placement at the parish,
which ends on Friday. Your kindness and
warmth have made my time here very
special and I've enjoyed it immensely.
Please keep me in your prayers as I
continue my studies for the Priesthood in
Rome as I will keep you all in mine. **Alex**

Mass Intentions & Liturgical Services

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|---------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Sat. 16 (Vigil) | 6.30pm | Mass Jan Marshall RIP | Walker |
| Sun 17 | 8.30am 10.30am 6.30pm | Mass For our Parish Mass Rev Norman Lawrence Anniversary Mass Mary Coughlan Anniversary | Watts Davis |
| Mon.18 | 9.15am 9.30am 10.00am | Morning Prayer Rosary Mass Moya St Leger | Burman |
| Tue. 19 | 10.00am | Rev. Tom Cunnah Recently ordained priest | Alex |
| Wed.20 | 10.00am | Mass Ann Luskin | Sarwal |
| Thu.21 | 10.00am | Mass Ray Rolinson RD | Matthewson |
| Fri. 22 | 9.15am 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am | Morning Prayer Rosary Mass Special Intention Adoration | |
| Sat.23 (Vigil) | 10.00 10.30- 11.00am 6.30pm | Mass For the Homeless Adoration Mass Sick of the Parish | |

Praise and Worship Music

Calling all musicians, singers, and anyone keen to help us develop praise and worship bands in our local parishes. Several of the local parishes have got together to develop the Praise and Worship in our schools and in our Parishes. Our first initiative will be a GIG FOR GOD at St James' Church on 17th November and we are looking for acts to perform and worship. We are especially keen to get the young people involved. Join us for a meeting at St Mary's University On 28th September At 6.30pm

For more information please email gigforgodtwickenham@gmail.com
Or call Kym 07979 108717

St Mark's Catholic School is a coeducational Roman Catholic secondary school and sixth form with academy status, situated in Hounslow, West London
106 Bath Rd, Hounslow TW3 3EJ 020 8577 3600.

Headteacher: Mr Paul Enright

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We invite Parents and Year 6 students to attend our
Open Mornings and Open Evening on
Thursday 28th September (Morning and Evening)
9.00 – 10.30 am and 5.00 – 9.00 pm
and
Tuesday 3rd October (Morning only)

17th September 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28.7 Psalm 102 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew:21-35
24th September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 144 Philippians 1:20-24.27 Matthew 20:1-16

Sacraments Preparation

This forthcoming year new arrangements are being made with regard to the preparation for the sacraments. I am sure that I am not the only person to see a sharp drop off in the numbers attending Mass since First Holy Communion in May. This is a welcoming Parish, the standard of Liturgy is good, and children are welcome here. It is not for me to judge such families, and I have no wish to do so, but do as a Parish Priest have a duty of care towards the precious things of God that runs in parallel with the commitment made by parents when they had their child baptised.

St Margaret's has a duty of pastoral care to those Catholics who live either within the Parish boundaries or who have made this Parish their spiritual home though live outside the Parish. The sacramental programmes run by this Parish are not appropriate for those living outside the Parish AND who do not attend Mass at St Margaret's.

First Communion 2018

May I invite all parents who wish to have their child receive First Communion in May 2018 to collect a Mass attendance card from Fr Peter or Therese after Mass. Please keep these cards as they will be needed on future Sundays. The possession of these cards will demonstrate the level of commitment required to have a child prepare for First Communion in this parish. Please also complete an application form and return it to the office.

There will be an **Opening Meeting on Tuesday, 10th October** at 7.00pm in the church for all parents to discuss the format of the course and other details. Classes will take place on a Saturday evenings in a 4 series of 4 talks. Classes start at 5.30pm—6.15pm followed by Mass 6.30-7.15pm

Please see dates for classes:

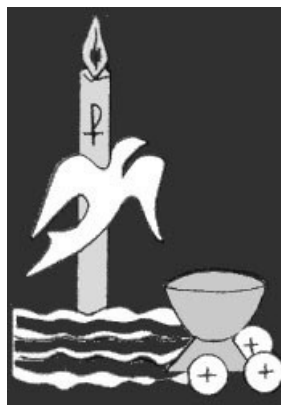
Saturdays 11,18, 25, November 2 December

Saturdays 13,20,27 January 3 February

Saturdays 24,February 3,10, 17 March

Saturdays 21 April, 5,12, May

Saturday 19 May, First Holy Communion Day



Baptism at St Margarets

Please see Fr Peter after Mass

Baptismal Course (consists of 2 sessions)

Tuesdays 10 & 17 October 8.00pm in the Library
Further dates will be announced later.

Confirmation 2018

If you are currently in year 8 and would like to be confirmed in June 2018 please come and speak to Fr Peter after Mass today.

There will be a meeting of all parents of potential candidates on **Tuesday 17th October at 7.00pm** in the Church to discuss the format and details of the course and what is expected of those who wish to be Confirmed.

Forms can be collected at the back of the Church or the Parish Office

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

A course for those who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith

Details of the course will be published next week.

Marriage Preparation Courses

Saturday 25th November at Brompton Oratory

Saturdays 10th February 2018 at **St Margarets**

Saturday 24th March at Brompton Oratory

Saturday 7th April at **St Margarets**

Saturday 16 June at **St Margarets**

Saturday 14 or 21 July at Brompton Oratory
(the above date to be confirmed later).

Please Register for the courses at St Margarets with the Parish Office 020 8892 3902

Email stmargaratsonthames@rcdow.org.uk

Youth

The dates for the youth club up until Christmas are; Friday 22nd September, Friday 13th October, Friday 24th November and Friday 15th December. The Youth Club is for anyone in Year 4 and up. We will be having a special Drama Workshop in December in the Christmas holidays. We will keep you posted with more. Also, we will be having a day for Youth, Year 9 and up possibly at a youth retreat centre but this is to be arranged so we'll keep you posted as to when and where.

Children's Liturgy

The children's liturgy will continue every Sunday as usual during the 10.30am Mass. Thank you to all the volunteers that help with this. We will also keep it going during the school holidays for those not going away.

Family Mass –

ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE!!

There is a rota on the 'green' board in the hall for any young people to sign up for one reading slot (either bidding prayers or readings). This is for anyone who has made their First Holy Communion. In the envelope below, the readings and bidding prayer will be kept from 1 or 2 weeks before your time to read. You can take your reading from the envelope to practice. Don't worry if you lose it as there will be another one on the day on the lectern. When it is your day to read, please come 10 minutes before the start of Mass so we can go through where to stand etc.....

I'm holding a Coffee Morning

to raise money for

Macmillan Cancer Support

on **Thursday**

28th September at 10.30am

in the Parish Hall.

Everyone welcome

Ann Edes



Mustard Seed Prayer Meeting

Saturday 23rd September in the Parish Hall.

Friendly charismatic prayer group with members from across south and west London.

8.00pm -10.00pm with refreshments beforehand from 7.45 pm. Everyone welcome.

Enquiries to Gavin and Sally Evenhuis at

mustardseed13@hotmail.com

Homelessness

in Our Area



Thursday 12 October 2017

we will be welcoming a

representative from **SPEAR** to tell us about their work with the homeless.

Please make a note in your diaries.

Peter Sweetman

Time to be confirmed later

'Season of Care for Creation'

Care for the Soil: Films we are showing show us farmers renewing fertility, and healthy food which communities produce together, locally, in places round the world

Care for endangered creatures: Do come to learn from Sue Kidger about Hedgehogs—what not to do and how to help

Next Sunday 24th September at 11.40 to 12 noon upstairs in the Library. (*We need to keep quiet when she brings out her rescued hog, Alfie*). All welcome upstairs in the Library and afterwards in the Hall

Care to conserve nature: Looking ahead a walk is being planned early afternoon. Sat. 30th September along a beautiful stretch of the Crane River Valley to experience the woodland and wild life –protected for us all by the work which bands of volunteers put in regularly, round the year.

Judith, Siobhan and Dorathea

Congratulations

to the following couples who were married recently at St Margarets of Scotland

Nicholas Hill and Leanne Jones

and

Stephen Follows and Emma Jay

We wish them every happiness

Soup Lunch Dates this Autumn 12.15-1.45pm

Friday 29 September

Friday 27 October

Friday 24 November

Friday 15 December

We hope you can come!