

# ST MARGARETS PAGE

First Sunday of Advent (A)

1st December 2019



## *In Peter writes:*

The starting gun for Christmas has been discharged and the Christmas trees are already lining Crown Road. Every year, the Advent season is seen as a battleground between the secular festivities and the spiritual preparation that should be undertaken. Obviously for nearly everyone the festivities take over, the spiritual insights of the season not taken up so it becomes a secular imperative to get to Christmas itself and have a rest afterwards. The two tracks, the spiritual and material are not necessarily in conflict and the spiritual can orientate the material in the right direction and use the material for a higher purpose.

There is an appealing logic to this spiritual preparation which may be glimpsed in the unfolding of the Sunday readings for Advent. The Church begins its liturgical year this Sunday and the Gospel invites us to reflect on our own faith, not in terms of spiritual thoughts but in earthly realities. This then opens each of us to the message of conversion from St John the Baptist over the second and third weeks, and finally to contemplate one of the scenes surrounding the birth of Jesus on the fourth and last Sunday of Advent.

This Sunday Jesus describes the final days of the world in apocalyptic terms but not simply as a scene of destruction but as a means to understand the bigger picture of our own lives today. The difference between the two sleeping in the one bed and the two working in the fields does not reside in the activity itself, being the same in both cases, but in some unspecified internal disposition. The basic difference might be described as between life lived indifferently and life lived intentionally.

Everyone has experienced coming to the end of the day and wondering to themselves as to what have I done today? The question is not one of content because the day has been full of semi-conscious activity, but rather of something vital missing. That missing element is what distinguishes the human from the animal kingdom. Animals are busy all day but with the tasks inculcated by instinct alone or maybe, with domestic pets, some repetitive training. The ability to recognise the reason for why we act the way we do, or why we undertake the activities that we do distinguishes us from animals. Since we are created with a non-material, spiritual, centre of our existence, to recognise the reason for doing something becomes essential for our well-being. The experience of being crushed by semi-conscious activity, as we all know all too well, is not good for the soul, nor for our long-term health.

## Mass Times & Liturgy Services

Vigil 6.30pm (Sat).

Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am & 6.30pm

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

Thur. Communion Service 10.00am

Rosary 9.30am Monday & Friday

Adoration Wednesdays 8-9.15pm

Friday 10.30-11.00am

Saturday 10.30-11.00am

Confessions Sat 10.30-11.00am Sun 10.00-10.20am

The recent years have seen a much greater awareness of mental health problems but their many of their causes still remain obscure. Whatever the causes of such illness might be, this situation cannot be helped by living lives with no ground, purpose or community. When the problems of life appear they easily spin out of control and become insurmountable. The Christian experience such difficulties too but even with a buried faith is still able to clutch the straws of meaning.

The season of Advent then begins with reflecting on our daily lives to see if we have not somehow lost that unique human characteristic of acting with intention rather than simply by instinct. This reflection will set up a chain-reaction that will make us more receptive to being questioned by John the Baptist as to the direction of our life, and later to recognise the tender details surrounding the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The conclusion of our spiritual journey will be a renewed appreciation of the forthcoming Feast's meaning.

This spiritual journey will inevitably inform our own material celebration of Christmas by providing the measure by which to conduct ourselves throughout the festivities. The feasting, present-giving and shared time together will have found its spiritual anchor.

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon: Joseph Estorninho, Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Jones.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 130 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham TW1 1RL 020 8892 3902 [stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretsonthames@rcdow.org.uk)

Web [www.stmargarets-church.co.uk](http://www.stmargarets-church.co.uk) for 'THE PAGE' on line Diocesan Website: [parish.rcdow.org.uk/stmargaretsonthames](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stmargaretsonthames)

The Parish Office is open Monday-Friday 9:00am-11.30am. Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes

### Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
 In you I have trusted, let me not be put to shame  
 Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
 And let none who hope in you be put to shame

### Response to the Psalm

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
 Let us go to God's house

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### The Sick: ,

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), Barry Titmus, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga), Paul Costello and Kevin Sweeney

#### Anniversaries

Veronica Flood, Gertrude Ulrich, Edna Hughes, Michael Higgin, Nan Cobbing, Pauline Vaughan, Monica Scriven, Colin Morgan, Doris Geary James O'Malley, Florence Pluck, Jack Halligan.

#### Deanery Intentions:

For Fr Nigel Griffin and the parishioners of St Edmunds Church, Whitton

## **WELCOME**

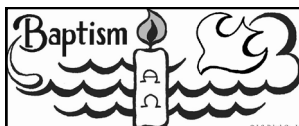
A warm welcome to **Cynthia Souza** who joins the parish team as our administrator from December 2nd.

Cynthia will be in the parish office every weekday from 9 am to 11.30 am.

## **Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 30th Nov - Sunday 8th Dec**

|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| <b>Sat 30th</b>    | 10.00am Mass<br>10.30-11.00am Adoration<br>6.30pm Mass   | Holy souls<br><br>Sick of the Parish   |
| <b>Sun 1st Dec</b> | 8.30am Mass<br><br>10.30am Mass<br><br>6.30pm Mass       | Intention of Gonzaloer Walker<br>Eileen Winter anniversary<br><br>Christopher Bermingham Doyle |
| <b>Mon. 2nd</b>    | 9.30am The Rosary<br>10.00am Mass                        |  |
| <b>Tue. 3rd</b>    | 10.00am Mass   | Intention of Maria Sharratt  |
| <b>Wed. 4th</b>    | 10.00am Mass   | Fr Christopher RIP Gawecki family  |
| <b>Thurs. 5th</b>  | 10.00am Communion Service                                |  |
| <b>Fri. 6th</b>    | 9.30am The Rosary<br>10.00am Mass                        | Holy Souls   |
| <b>Sat. 7th</b>    | 10.00am Mass<br>10.30am-11.00am Adoration<br>6.30pm Mass | For Prisoners and their families<br><br>For the Homeless                                       |
| <b>Sun. 8th</b>    | 8.30am Mass<br>10.30am Mass<br>6.30pm Mass               | For the Fr Christopher RIP Irene<br>Patrick's Intention Walker<br>Fr Christopher RIP Doyle     |



### **Next Baptism Courses**

**Tues Jan 14 & 21 at 8.00 pm**

If you wish to be enrolled on one of the courses or wish to book a date for Baptism please talk to Fr Peter first and then contact the Parish Office 8.00-12.30pm 020 8892 3902

### **First Holy Communion 2020**



**COMMUNION SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 30th November 5:15pm start followed by 6:30pm Mass.**

Please pray for the parish children and their families who will be preparing for receiving Holy Communion on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 that they will grow in faith and understanding over the months of the course.

1st December First Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 121

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

8th December Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 71

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12



## WAYSIDE NATIVITY CAMBRIDGE PARK

Escape the commercial hoo-ha, enjoy a peaceful stroll along the Thames and discover an unusual nativity scene.

Follow the pathway linking the towpath with Cambridge Park and look for a niche in the wall where you will find a little reminder of what Christmas is all about, lovingly created by two local women, Ana and Gill.

**You are invited to attend the blessing of the nativity by Father Peter at 1.00pm on Sunday 1st December, after which it will be on view until January.**

### Churches Together in Twickenham

General Election Hustings Meeting with the Twickenham Constituency Parliamentary Candidates

Teddington Baptist Church

17 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8 PF

Thurs 5th Dec at 7.30 p.m.

### St Margaret of Scotland

## Welcomes

### Newcomers to the Parish

We would be pleased if you could complete one of our **Census Forms** available at the back of the Church and return it to the Presbytery.



## POSADA

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 the 6.30 pm Mass on Saturday, November 30th

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](mailto:annxedes@gmail.com) or 07837 095 837

### Foodbank Advent

As adverts on the TV gently remind us of Christmas some of us might give some thought to what we have planned for advent, but certainly by the time Christmas music is played in shops and restaurants most of us know what our plans for the Christmas season will be.

A lot of these plans will revolve around food, right from advent calendars to supermarket turkey sandwiches. What we eat plays a big part in the celebrations. For those among us who rely on foodbanks, this can be extremely isolating. They cannot plan their meals effectively, or fantasise about a huge meal on December 25th. Many children will not get a small chocolate every day in December. Food poverty is an issue all year round, but at a time when children are not at school is particularly challenging to provide that extra meal.

This year many people are doing a reverse advent calendar or 'Foodbank advent'. We are suggesting that as well as enjoying the traditional countdown to Christmas, we make room in our celebrations for giving. Beginning on 27th November, we will suggest one item a day, for 25 days, ending on 21st December. Then, before Christmas, donate the 25 items you have collected to your local foodbank. The reason it starts earlier is to allow time for the food to be dropped off at your local foodbank in time for Christmas.

The items will be things that foodbanks have need of, but feel free to substitute if you know of a particular need for something different. We also suggest dropping off some actual advent calendars off at your local foodbank before the start of December, to allow children (and adults!) to be part of the joy of preparing for Christmas.

We understand that dropping off large packages in London is tricky, so if you are struggling, but want to donate please let us know by emailing [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk)

### First Aider

If you are a qualified First Aider and would be willing



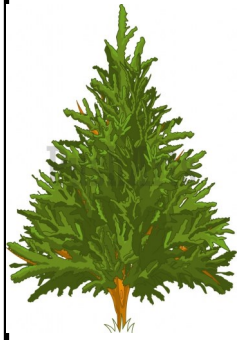
to help in the Parish please contact Fr Peter.



## Confirmation 2020

If you are in Year 9 or above, and wish to be Confirmed next year, please come and collect a Mass attendance card from me after Mass. The classes will start after Christmas and last till mid-May. The date for Confirmation has not been set but will probably be in June.

Fr Peter



## 7 more sleeps until it's back .... The Angel Tree

Our angel tree will be up from **next Saturday** for two weeks over Advent. Remember to pick up one (or two!) angels before or after Mass and you could make the difference for someone who is unlikely to receive a gift this Christmas.

If you have any wicker hamper baskets or boxes that you no longer need we would love to take them off your hands as they are perfect for our hamper presents. Please leave them in the sacristy and we will collect them.

Finally, please put **Monday 16th December** in your diary as we need you to help wrap the angel tree presents. Join us in the hall **from 6.30pm**

Caroline Estorninho

## Advent Penitential Service

Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm

with visiting Confessors

**Please note change of date.**

## 50th Anniversary Talk on

St Margaret of Scotland:

History and Legacy

*By John Joe Watts, parishioner*

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the parish, this talk will examine the historical reality of St Margaret and her times, and will explore her legacy as queen and saint.

All welcome. Bar open. Light refreshments

**Friday 13th December; 7:30 pm—9 p.m.**

**in the Church hall**



**NO  
PARKING  
ANY  
TIME**



## Car Parking

The Management of Old Lodge Place our neighbours, have written to us complaining that cars continue to park on the slip road in front of the the Presbytery although **No Parking signs** are on the wall. Would you please refrain from parking on this road which is maintained by the above company.

## Alpha

Meeting on

**Monday 18th November**

**In the Parish Hall at 7 pm**

Explore the meaning of life.

Ask. Learn. Discuss.

