

# St. Margaret Mary's

# Activities



St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church, Pilch Lane, Liverpool L14 0JG

## Activities

Ours is a very large and active parish, which means there is a lot to be done and always something going on. This is good, because it means that so many people can find a way of helping their parish and their church in a way that suits them.

- Are you good with your hands, or better when dealing with people?
- Are you more comfortable "behind the scenes" or better in the middle of the action?
- Do you find it easier to be involved with children, or older people, or mainly of your own age?
- Are you musical, artistic, have some acting talent, or some 'handyman' or handicraft skills?
- Do you need social contact, somewhere to go, some way of using your abilities?

There are so many activities going on in our parish, that you would be hard pushed not to find something which would be of interest to you as a way of serving your church. There was an old Latin saying, 'Laborare est orare' - To work (for God and his church) is a form of prayer, especially if you do it in the right spirit.

## Parish Office

St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church, Pilch Lane, Liverpool L14 0JG

Tel: 0151-220 4448

Fax: 0151-259 6019

Email: [office@stmargaretmarys.org.uk](mailto:office@stmargaretmarys.org.uk)

Hours: Mon - Fri 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (Aug 10.00 am to 2.00 pm)

Office closed on Wednesdays



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## Altar Servers

St. Margaret Mary's Parish has an excellent team of altar servers and the Parish has often been praised for their reverence and liturgical awareness. We are always looking for new servers who are capable of accepting the commitments that being a server entails.

This ministry is open to both boys and girls who have made their First Holy Communion. After deciding upon which Mass is most suited to them, they begin by observing Mass for as many weeks as they wish, then gradually progress onto taking up the role of Server, Torch Bearer or Crucifer. Servers are also called upon to attend Solemn Masses on other holy days of the year. After one year, servers may join the [Archconfraternity of St. Stephen](#) and receive the right to wear the bronze medal of the guild.

Please contact **James Finnegan** (11.00 Mass) or **Peter Ross** (9.30 Mass), or leave your contact details with the Parish Office.



## ARISE - A sector for people over 50

This is our parish group for older people who aim to stay active and interested, living life to the full. It is concerned with the whole spread of our life, so it is both practical and religious, but not "pious" nor killjoy. The activities of the Group are whatever members want it to be, currently including afternoon meetings, trips and days out. Recent events have included a day out to Salford Quays, and another to Skipton, and a Party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. For our forthcoming attractions, do keep your eye on our regular notice in the Parish Bulletin.

Our regular meetings are in the **PARISH CLUB** on **TUESDAYS** at **2.00pm** (first room on the right).

The **ARISE** acronym stands for:

- **Activity** - do things, open the doors in your mind, contribute to society, no matter what your age.
- **Recreation** - with others, let us enjoy the leisure in our life.

- **Inspiration** - we should keep looking for God's purpose in us, and grow old in grace (gracefully?).
- **Service** - let's keep using our talents, for others. We have a lifetime of experience to offer.
- **Education** - keep enquiring and learning; don't stagnate.

So when this kind of activity appeals to you, contact **Maureen Murphy** on **0151 489 0913**, or email her at [maureenmurphy38@talktalk.net](mailto:maureenmurphy38@talktalk.net), you can also contact the Parish Office.



## Bereavement Team

The main thing is to attend funerals, unobtrusively, simply to be there to help things go smoothly. This can be as simple as handing out service cards, or pointing out where the toilets are. Maybe doing readings when members of the Family do not feel up to it. Making sure the CD player is working, blowing out the Paschal Candle afterwards and putting away the funeral pall. All those little unseen things which could otherwise make a difficult time much worse.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## Bidding Prayer Writers

We are a team of 10 who write the Bidding Prayers (Prayers of the Laity) which are used at Sunday Mass, with extras for Christmas and Easter. We are always seeking more volunteers.

The Bidding Prayers are written to a formula laid down by the Archdiocese. They are written in your own home - no one, other than the team know who has written them. They can be written in your own hand or typed, handed in or e-mailed to the Parish Office. Instructions and help will be given to volunteers. Currently, each writer does 4 Sundays per year.

So, if you are not the sort of person who likes to get up and read publicly or become a Eucharistic Minister, perhaps you would like to try this quiet way of serving God and helping your Parish.

Please contact **Madelaine McDonald** on **0151 220 9874** or email [pmcdonald154@gmail.com](mailto:pmcdonald154@gmail.com) or through the Parish Office.



## Catechists

Children (and indeed adults) preparing for their First Holy Communion or for Confirmation are offered a lot of help in our schools, hopefully backed up in their homes, but some extra help in the parish is very important, and more helper catechists are always welcome. This is not usually a continual process, but usually during a few weeks leading up to a major event. As Father Mark says, If you were a catechist in the past, please do think of serving our community once more in this way.

Do get in touch, through the Parish Office.



## Children's Church

St. Margaret Mary's runs a children's church during the Sunday morning Mass, for children between the ages of 4 and 12. At the beginning of Mass, the children are taken out of Church and into the Parish Club by Children's Church leaders, to be given an activity more suited to their age than listening intently to the Liturgy of the Word, keeping quiet and being still!

There are two separate groups - Little Angels (4-8yrs), and Big Angels (8-12yrs). During the sessions the children sing the Gloria, say prayers and are then read a 'child-friendly' version of the day's Gospel. Then they will do an activity based around that gospel before finishing with bidding prayers. The children are returned to Church, usually just after the offertory. At Christmas time all the children perform in the Nativity at the Church's Carol Service.

All children's church leaders are CRB checked by the Archdiocese. Unfortunately, because of safeguarding issues, parents cannot accompany their children unless they too, have been CRB checked. We currently have around 15 leaders who work on a rota basis, but the list is by no means closed.

If any other 'young at heart' adult would like to be involved with us, please contact Jane Jamieson through the Parish Office.



## Church Maintenance

Some people like to see our church looking lovely, and find they can give some time to make sure there is always a beautiful display of flowers; some of them have developed a rare gift of skills in this direction. Others are so proud of their church they give a couple of hours a week to tidy up after services and clean around as required so that it always sparkles. Some others take it in turns to see that our celebrants always look well turned-out and that the altar linens and banners always look the part.

We have a very pleasant lawn that needs mowing and maintaining, as does our Quiet Garden which helps many people to work through their grief and reach a level of acceptance. There is always something to be done, and these activities provide quite a lot of satisfaction to those who do it, as well as the social benefits and friendship that come from working together.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## Coffee Morning

After the Sunday morning Mass, coffee/tea and biscuits are offered in the Parish Club just behind the church. Many parishioners attend, and often find there are people there from many parish groups or activities, which makes it quite easy to get in touch with somebody, as well as meeting old friends - or making new ones. The work involved hardly needs explaining, and there are

regular helpers who will explain what is needed, but knowing that you are helping people in the parish to make more contact instead of going straight home from church can be a very satisfying feeling.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## Eucharistic Ministers

There are two aspects to this kind of service. The most obvious is helping the Priest to give Holy Communion during a Mass, but possibly more important - and satisfying - is being able to take Holy Communion to people in the parish who cannot attend Mass themselves. It involves visiting them in their house, hospital or nursing home, usually directly from the Sunday morning Mass. As this is such a special activity, some training is needed, usually in Upholland, culminating in being Commissioned. There are a very good number of Ministers in the parish, but no limit on the number of people who can be commissioned.

**Pairing with the Eucharistic Ministers** - It is very important that our Eucharistic Ministers can feel safe and confident when they go into the homes of some of our very vulnerable families. That is why we are asking for people to accompany our ministers on a Sunday morning, probably once a month, for just over an hour. You would not need to be commissioned as a Minister, but the usual safeguarding checks would need to be made. Perhaps this important role in our parish community might appeal to you.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.

## Finance

This area of parish activity consists of a range of areas which might interest you. From the most obvious Collections at Mass, to secondary collections outside the church for special reasons, there is then the largely unseen work of opening the offertory envelopes, counting up the cash, and banking it.



The envelopes themselves need to be distributed afresh every Easter, and encouraging more people to use them. There is also the matter of making it possible and easier for people to support their church by standing order, direct debit or other online banking methods.

Another very important matter is dealing with Covenants so that tax can be reclaimed for the parish; encouraging other tax-payers to sign up, covenanting their weekly offering, maintaining our current group of covenanters.

If this is something which interests you, please contact Eddie Gallagher through the Parish Office.



## Flower Arrangers

At present we are a group of six ladies working in pairs on a three weekly rota.

On special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and Quarant Ore we have a faithful band of helpers as it takes many hours to prepare for these special events when we like to enhance the beauty of our church for the glory of God.

This is a most enjoyable and social activity. You do not have to have good flower arranging skills to start with, as you would learn by joining in with us.

If this looks interesting to you, do email Win Ehlen [win@ehlen.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:win@ehlen.orangehome.co.uk) or contact her through the Parish Office.



## Justice and Peace Group

We have had a Justice & Peace Group in our parish for many years; this group was formed about twenty years ago and is referred to as the Faith & Justice Group. We have ten



members and meet on the second Thursday each month at 7.30 pm in the Parish house.

Our aims are to create awareness of the injustice in the world. Support those who suffer for justice. Support those who work for the poor. Offering the hand of friendship and working with other people.

To do this we try to support campaigns for organisations like CAFOD, CAP, Trade Craft, Mercy Ships, Asylum Link and many disaster appeals.

Parish Activities include, Trade Craft stall, Fair trade events. Prisoners of conscience Christmas card campaign.

For further information contact **Phil Cooke** through the Parish Office, or come along to one of our meetings, you will be made very welcome.



## Mass Readers Rota

The readings at Mass are not the preserve of a special few, although the same people are often seen at the lectern. You would need to be put on the rota, find out in advance what readings would be required, and check through them for strange Biblical names. As with any rota, the more people who would like to take part, the less frequently you would be called on.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.

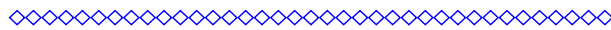


## St Margaret Mary's Music Ministry

Check out our recently launched website at [www.smmmusic.co.uk](http://www.smmmusic.co.uk) for up to date information about the group. Would you or someone you know like to hire us to provide the music at a wedding or funeral service? Please see contact details below. We will travel to other churches / parishes where possible.

Calling all those who enjoy singing or playing an instrument; new recruits are most delightfully welcomed aged 7 to infinity! For the safety and protection of the children, all adults are required to undergo a criminal records bureau check and this will be arranged for you.

We look forward to hearing from you, please contact **Mike Sweeney** on **07427 406 368**, or **Libby Cook** on **07835 607 976**, or alternatively come on over for a chat before or after 10.00 am mass on a Sunday.



## Minibus Sunday Mass Service

We have a valuable parish minibus driving team, who provide a pickup service for 11am Sunday Mass for people with mobility issues. This is an important service which we have been providing for parishioners for about fifteen years. There are six men who take it in turns to drive the minibus on Sundays. We would welcome new drivers (male or female) who would like to join the team (after obtaining the appropriate and current CRB clearance).

We pick the bus up from the parish between 8.30 and 9.00 on Sunday morning and go round picking parishioners up from their home until about 10.10 to arrive in good time for 11am mass. We then drop them off after mass and return the bus to the parish house between 12.30-13.00.

If you feel that this is something you would like to do, as a well of helping our less mobile parishioners, then please get in touch with the Parish Office, or email **Bernard Maloney** at [b.maloney@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:b.maloney@blueyonder.co.uk)



## Organists

Although many Masses and services have music provided by the Music Ministry team, there is a good and pleasant organ which is in regular use. It is a relatively simple instrument, having two manuals, with just a few stops on each, and provision for a pedal board to be fitted some time. The parish has a few organists in its ranks, but even so there are times when organists

from outside the parish need to be called on. If you are an organist already, do ask to try your hand on ours some time, and if you can already play piano or keyboard and think you might like to become an organ player, get in touch and someone will help you through your conversion process.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## Parish Archivist

Our Parish dates from 1933, and has acquired rather a lot of history. Much of this is in a number of box-files, but even more is in people's own homes and memories. Fortunately we do now have a Parish Archivist who aims to get all this material into proper shape and order, and some of the results will find their place in this web-site. However, much of the material is of photographs - with nothing written on the back! So much detective work remains to be done to identify people, events and dates. There is also an important task of talking to people, finding out what they remember, what source material they have in old albums and storage; this needs to be gathered for the posterity of our parish before it disappears or fades away. History is happening even now, and this needs to be viewed with an eye to our history, gathered and stored within the great scheme of things, properly documented and filed.

Is this the kind of thing which appeals to you as a way of serving your parish? Do contact our Archivist through the Parish Office.



## Planned Giving

### Envelopes - Covenants - Standing Orders

One important source of parish income is from income tax reclaimed from the Taxman by taxpayers who covenant the money they give to the parish. So we aim to persuade every taxpayer who donates to the church to sign up for a **Covenant**. However, the tax authorities need some proof that this giving is actually happening, and their preferred proof is by the taxpayer making their gift to the church by using special numbered **Envelopes** (or indeed by **Standing Order** through a bank). These methods provide another benefit

to that church in that the parish is assured of a regular predictable income rather than just what might be given in loose cash.

To gain these benefits for the parish does take some work, some of it seasonal, some of it regular, and quite a bit fiddly and tiresome, but all of it important and significant. Every year new sets of envelopes have to be labelled and issued, covenants checked and updated, and detailed reports to the Archdiocese. Each week the envelopes given in have to be opened and counted, and the amount given to be set against that Number.

Perhaps this kind of thing is a way you feel you could help your parish? Do contact **Sheila Smith** or **Monica Parry**, possibly at coffee morning, or through the Parish Office.



## **RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which interested adults and older children are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. Working your way through your thoughts and doubts until you are finally baptised and become a Catholic is not the end, but very much a new beginning. A lot of help and support can be needed in the early stages of life as a Catholic.

In both these periods of life the Parish RCIA team try to give whatever is needed in this journey of faith. Maybe you are fairly new to the Catholic faith, or maybe you are settled and comfortable in your life as a Catholic and would like to offer some help to parishioners who are still on that journey.

Do get in touch, through the Parish Office.



## **Safeguarding**

[The Archdiocesan Safeguarding Department](#) aims to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse by anyone who works for the Church on a

professional or voluntary basis. In our parish this work is done by **Rose Moffat** and **Fiona Lyons**. Anyone with knowledge, suspicion or worry about such abuse should contact them, through the [Parish Office](#), or you can phone the **Archdiocesan office** on **0151 522 1043** or email them at [safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk).

Their regular tasks in the parish involve CRB checking of anyone who would like to help in activities such as our youth clubs, children's church or any activity which involves visiting people in their homes.



## Scripture Group

Each Wednesday at 9.30 am we have Morning Prayer in Church when we pray, meditate and break open the scripture together. It is truly wonderful to see what effect the ancient texts have on individuals as a community. Everyone is welcome to come and join us.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## SVP - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Our parish Conference (branch) of this society aims to do what we can to help parishioners in need, who are referred to us by the Parish Priest. We meet weekly to discuss ongoing needs, new problems arising and what can be done. Then we usually visit our clients, in pairs, and discuss their current situation. Sometimes it can mean putting people in touch with the right agency, sometimes it can mean providing some household articles.. Naturally there is a great deal of confidentiality, and CRB checks must be carried out before anyone can become directly involved.



If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.

## The Church Shop

In this parish, this is rather more than what used to be called a 'piety stall' and it holds a fair range of goods. There is some extra work involved in making sure the Shop is well stocked with suitable items, but the regular activity involves making sure the shop is open immediately at the end of Mass, and that people can be served and supplied briskly and cheerfully.

If this is something which interests you, please contact the Parish Office.



## Union of Catholic Mothers

The Union of Catholic Mothers is a national organisation with Foundations (Groups) all over the country. Our aims are to support the Sacrament of Marriage, to bring up and educate our children in the Catholic Faith, to offer support to families in difficulties and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



St Margaret Mary's UCM (founded 1932) is a very active group of over 50 members involved in all aspects of Parish life. We meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 8.30 in the Parish Centre. All ladies are welcome, married or not, mothers or not.

We offer talks, demonstrations, days out, retreats, pilgrimages, theatrical performances, bi-monthly Masses at other churches - but principally support to each other. So come and join us in Faith, Fun and Friendship.

Contact **Mrs Ann Jones** (President) **0151 259 3442**, **Mrs Madelaine McDonald** (Secretary) **0151 220 9874** or by email at [pmcdonald154@googlemail.com](mailto:pmcdonald154@googlemail.com) or through the Parish Office.

# Uniformed Youth Groups

## Our Uniformed Groups for girls.

Meetings for all Groups are in the Junior School  
Guides: Alternate Tuesdays 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm  
Brownies: Tuesday 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm  
Rainbows: Tuesday 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

All the groups take part in a Church Parade, about once a Term

**Rainbows** is our section for girls aged 5 to 7, who follow a the "Rainbow Jigsaw". This involves a wide range of activities and games, through which they learn, develop self-confidence, build friendships and, of course, hav lots of fun!

**Brownies** is our section for girls aged 7 to 10, who participate in a wide range of activities at their regular meetings, and at special events. They try out arts and crafts or recipes, and playing energetic games. Girls can also extend their knowledge and abilities by working towards Brownie interest badges covering many different hobbies and activities.

**Guides** are girls aged 10 to 14, who take part in a wide range of exciting activities at their regular meetings, and at special events or holidays. Girls do everything from playing fun games, crafts and fundraising. They can extend their knowledge and skills by working towards Guide interest badges covering many different hobbies and activities. They can also gain Challenge badges that recognise their participation in guiding over a period of time.

If you feel you could enjoy being involved in this kind of parish activity, then please contact our Guide Leader, Terry Wilson, on 0795 2468101, or email her at [thereseterry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thereseterry@hotmail.co.uk)



## Welcome Team

The Welcome Team have a very important role and ministry in our parish community. They are the first face that we see when we enter church and their role is far deeper than simply handing out and collecting in the Hymn



Books! The ministry is to welcome everyone to Mass on a Sunday but especially to watch out for and give a real welcome to anyone who might be new to our community of faith.

Anyone can go into a church and pick up a hymn book, but it makes the place so much more friendly, enjoyable and welcoming, if there are some people there in the narthex ready to hand one to you, to say hello, and be available if there is something you would like to ask. We are also there to give directions/help if needed, and to keep the entrance safe and the church tidy. Please consider serving our community in this way. New members are always welcome. We need to be able to arrive at church 20-30 minutes before Mass/ services and stay about 10 minutes afterwards. There is a rota for weekend Masses so it isn't every week. Other services are arranged separately.

If you would consider serving our community in this way, please email me on [miriamwaite@hotmail.com](mailto:miriamwaite@hotmail.com) or contact the Parish Office.