



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

www.stmargaretearshaltonb.co.uk

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, JCD

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Sat), 9am & 11am

Tel: 0208 669 6483

Weekday Masses: 9.30am (& 9.30am Sat)

Mobile: 0737 635 0370

Holy Days of Obligation: 9.30am & 7.30pm

Email: carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 5.15 - 5.45pm & at call

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



5th February 2023 [Cycle A Year 1]

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time

Isaiah 58:7-10 | Psalm 112

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 | Matthew 5:13-16

First Reading: "Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn . . ."

Responsorial Psalm: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: "When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed . . ."

Gospel: "Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden . . .'"

Reflection: Jesus came among us as light to scatter the darkness of a fallen world. As His disciples, we too are called to be "the light of the world," He tells us in the Gospel this Sunday (see [John 1:4-4, 9; 8:12; 9:5](#)). All three images that Jesus uses to describe the Church are associated with the identity and vocation of Israel. God forever aligned His kingdom with the kingdom of David and his sons by a "covenant of salt," salt being a sign of permanence and purity (see [2 Chronicles 13:5, 8; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24](#)). Jerusalem was to be a city set on a hill, high above all others, drawing all nations towards the glorious light streaming from her Temple (see [Isaiah 2:2; 60:1-3](#)). And Israel was given the mission of being a light to the nations, that God's salvation would reach to the ends of the earth (see [Isaiah 42:6; 49:6](#)).

The liturgy shows us this week that the Church, and every Christian, is called to fulfill Israel's mission. By our faith and good works we are to make the light of God's life break forth in the darkness, as we sing in this week's Psalm.

This week's readings remind us that our faith can never be a private affair, something we can hide as if under a basket. We are to pour ourselves out for the afflicted, as Isaiah tells us in the First Reading. Our light must shine as a ray of God's mercy for all who are poor, hungry, naked, and enslaved.

There must be a transparent quality to our lives. Our friends and family, our neighbours and fellow citizens, should see reflected in us the light of Christ and through us be attracted to the saving truths of the Gospel.

So let us pray that we, like St. Paul in the Epistle, might proclaim with our whole lives, "Christ and him crucified."

Scripture Reading from Universalis Publishing Ltd. Reflection from St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 3	9.30am	People of the Parish
St Lawrence	12:30pm	Mass for the Sick
	7:00pm	Wholehearted Choral Adoration
Saturday 4	9.30am	Mass
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
[Psalm Wk 1]		
Sunday 5	9am	Mass (Congregational)
Fifth Sunday	11am	Mass (CC)
World Day for the Sick		
Monday 6	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday 7	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday 8	9.30am	Mass
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	7pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 9	9.30am	Louise Stenning RIP
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 10	9.30am	
St Scholastica	10:15am	Requiem: Wendy Counsell
Saturday 11	9.30am	Fred & Nosa Philips RIP
Our Lady of Lourdes	5.15am	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 12	9am	Mass (FC)
Sixth Sunday	11am	Mass (CC)

FC= Folk Choir, YC= Youth Choir, CC= Central Choir,

TG= Thanksgiving, WB= Wellbeing, BT= Birthday Thanksgiving, SI= Special

Intention, RIP= Rest in Peace, GP= God's Protection and PI= Private Intention

NOTE: Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration follows every weekday Mass, until

11am on Tuesday through Thursday, and until 8pm on Friday.

Anniversaries: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Prayer requests: Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Catherine Roberts, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mappley, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Hilda Gill, Michael Rowback, Max & Isabelle Mifsud, Kristine Harvey, Margaret Fox.

At the Inaugural RJS Mass in 2022, Archbishop John Wilson stated firmly that there was no place for Racism in the



Catholic Church, and encouraged all to *'...broaden [their] hearts to love and minds to understand and to recognize that in the cultures of others, in the languages and traditions of others, there is something enormously enriching for the whole of the world.'*

This year the theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: *"All are included in the*

mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together." This reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022, when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, Healing and Reconciliation'

Also in 2023, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland encourage us to remember Stephen Lawrence. The 30th anniversary of the racist killing of the black teenager in Eltham will fall on 22nd April 2023. In life he aspired to be an architect, but his legacy has seen him become an architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity.

Those attending Mass in person are encouraged to wear cultural dress and are asked to be seated by 9.45 am for a prompt start at 10 am in St George's Cathedral. The Mass will also be live-streamed via the RC Southwark YouTube account. [from rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events](https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events)

Racial Justice and Equality Group

As a result of Canon Victor Darlington's visit in November, St Margaret's has been selected as one of three parishes in the Archdiocese to be involved in a pilot initiative on racial equality and inclusion. A meeting of the pilot group in our parish will be held on Tuesday 7th February at 7:30pm to discuss racial equality and inclusion in our parish and community. **Any other parishioner who would like to be involved should contact Paul Cavadino.** Racial Justice Sunday Mass 5th February 10:00 AM at St George's Cathedral.

Right To Express A Religious Belief



A resolution of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales passed in their November 2022 plenary on the issue of "Buffer Zones" around abortion clinics by Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues.

Statement

On 30 January the Government's Public Order Bill will be entering the report stage in the House of Lords. Clause 9, which was an amendment to the Bill in the House of Commons last autumn, introduces the 'offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services'.

This clause will criminalize a range of activities within a 150m radius of an abortion service, under the broad premise of 'interference'. Problematic for freedom of religion, expression, and association, are many of the terms. These include: 'seeks to influence', 'persistently, continuously or repeatedly occupies', 'advises or persuades, attempts to advise or persuade, or otherwise expresses opinion'.

Clause 9 could extend trends seen at a local level, where Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Bournemouth and Birmingham have set a dangerous precedent and banned, amongst other activities, prayer and the recitation of Scripture. Recent police actions have further exacerbated the concerns of Catholic bishops, and many others, regarding the broad legislative proposal of Clause 9 and its implications for freedom of religion, belief, expression, and association.

The interpretation of terms such as 'seeks to influence' could make prayer, certain types of thought, and even mere presence a criminal offence in a public place. There is a risk, despite any other intent, that existing and proposed measures constitute discrimination and disproportionately have an impact on people of religious faith. Its implications extend beyond the perimeters of an abortion service and raise questions about the state's powers in relation to the individual in a free society, both those with faith and those without.

All harassment and intimidation of women is to be condemned. Moreover, as accepted in a 2018 Home Office Review, there are already laws and mechanisms in place to protect women from such unacceptable behaviour and so render this Clause unnecessary and excessive.

The Catholic bishops, and many others, hold religious liberty to be essential for the flourishing and the realisation of the dignity of every human person and recognise it as a foundational freedom of any free and democratic society. [from cbcew.org.uk/freedom-of-religion-is-a-vital-human-right/](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/freedom-of-religion-is-a-vital-human-right/)

World Day of Prayer 2023



The World Day of Prayer prepared by the women of Taiwan, will be celebrated on Friday 3rd March 2023. St Margaret's will not be joint hosts as originally suggested, but we are encouraged to publicise and encourage parishioners to participate. A change has been made to the venue of each service. They are now: 1:30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Maldon Road, Wallington. SM6 8BL, and 7:30pm at Carshalton Methodist Church, Ruskin Road, Carshalton. SM5 3DE. You can find a number of good free resources, including work books for children, at: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2023-wdp-free-resources-to-ownload/>

Community Outreach

As part of our Evangelisation sub-group's ongoing plan, St Margaret's will be praying for the residents on **Princes Avenue (odd numbers) during the month of February.** Cards will be put through residents' letter boxes informing them of this.

Wintershall Update

The Passion of Jesus will be performed on Good Friday in Trafalgar Square. No tickets are required. There is a performance at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. Find out all the details here: <https://wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus-london>