



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, JCD

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Sat), 9am & 11am
Weekday Masses: 9.30am (& 9.30am Sat)
Holy Days of Obligation: 9.30am & 7.30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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Safeguarding Officer: Andrea Fernandes

Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 5.15 - 5.45pm & at call

email: carshaltonbeechessg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



10th March 2024 [Cycle B Year 2]
4th Sunday of Lent
2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 | Psalm 136
Ephesians 2:4-10 | John 3:14-21

We are created in Christ Jesus to live the good life

Our readings today 'Laetare (Rejoice!) Sunday', suggest many reasons for rejoicing. The First Reading from Chronicles describes the destruction of Jerusalem and the days of exile. But God, working through the Persian king, Cyrus, not only brings the Jewish people home to where they belong but also helps them rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

St Paul (Second Reading) writes that God, whose nature is Universal Love, brought us back to life in and with Christ Jesus through the gift of his infinite grace. Our good works and our lives lived in all their fullness are a grateful and authentic response to all we have been given by God.

The Gospel tells us that the resurrection of Christ Jesus, who was 'lifted up and exalted' on the cross, brings salvation to all who believe in him and in his teachings. Christ's Passion, for all its injustice and brutality, is a glorious revelation of God's love for all of humankind, and the source of our healing. Jesus calls us to live by his truth and light, where we can dwell in the flow of God's energy and love.

The Psalm of lament recalls the bitter days of exile in Babylon. For us today, 'Babylon' can stand as a symbol for all that threatens the fullness of human living. Hatred, selfishness, greed, and pride can all take us away from wholeness of life and into exile.

Taken from St Beuno's Outreach

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)

The following will be granted the Sacrament of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass: Andrew David Fletcher, Tristan Sebastian Philippides, and Matthew Peter Jane.

Baptisms on March 16th 2024:

Maximilian Philippides, Zacharias Philippides, and Leonardo Philippides.

Marriage Announcement

On August 3rd 2024, Philomena Maria Da Silva and Asif Salim Cockar will be married at St Margaret's.

New administrative staff at St Margaret's

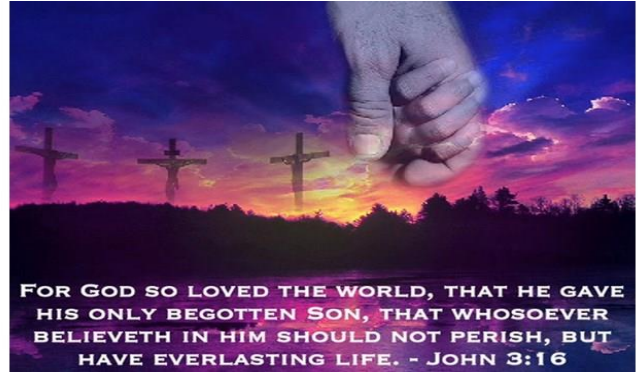
Fr Anthony is delighted to welcome Hannah Searle as our new Parish Secretary and John Ochai as our new Office Administrator.

Pope Francis suffering 'light' flu symptoms

The Vatican press office reported on Monday that Pope Francis had been taken to Gemelli hospital in Rome for "diagnostic tests" before returning to the Vatican soon afterwards.

The Pope Video in March is for persecuted Christians

You can watch the video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJbGGE0AtjLO



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 8	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
Saturday 9	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10	9am	Christine Douglas (FC)
Laetare Sunday (Mother's Day) (Psalm Week 4)	11am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP (CC)
Monday 11	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
Tuesday 12	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 13	9.30am	Mass
	6pm	Youth Music Group Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 14	9.30am	Mass
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 15	9.30am	Lucrecia Sabina DeSousa RIP
Saturday 16	9.30am	Mass
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
Sunday 17 5 th Sunday	9am	Hugh & Brendan Hargreaves RIP (YMG)
	11am	Mass (CC)

FC= Folk Choir, YMG= Youth Music Group, 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.

Prayer requests: Pope Francis, Michael Begley, Elizabeth Margaret Cuffy, Michelle Caley, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mappley, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Michael Rowback, Kristine Harvey, and Margaret Fox.

A Prayer for the 'Year of Prayer' (from Cafod)

*God of blessing, in this year ahead, give us a spirit of listening,
of openness to Your word and longing for Your kingdom.*

*As we journey towards the Jubilee, a time of new beginnings,
we pray for help and strength,
to heal our relationships with each other and creation.*

*Sing Your song of love over us, renewing our faith and courage,
so we may join our voices together,
discovering new harmonies of hope,
New melodies of reconciliation*

*Attentive to the Spirit, and awake to the needs of the world,
may we seek Your life-giving presence,
as we join as one global family,
in a great symphony of prayer and praise. Amen*

The Good Friday Agreement @25

Whatever political progress has been made since the signing of the Agreement, the reality is that it has not been matched by progress at grass roots level. Attitudinal surveys carried out since have consistently revealed that the gulf between the two communities is as wide as ever. As the Primate of All Ireland, Eamon Martin, put it recently: 'Sadly, twenty-five years on, the trauma and hurt of those horrific years remain substantially unhealed. Wounds within, and between, our communities remain open- wounds of body, mind, spirit and heart – and the legacy of suffering continues to fuel mistrust'.

If we have learned anything during the past 25 years, it is surely that the work of peace is never truly finished and has to be constantly worked at. Something for us to pray for in Lent!

Taken from Justpeace Pax Christi

Rough sleeping in England a "source of national shame"

An estimated 3,898 people slept rough in 2023, an annual increase of 27% – the largest annual rise since 2015 and more than double (120%) the number of people recorded as sleeping rough in 2010, when records began. According to the charity Crisis, "it is a sign of extreme inequality and must prompt a rethink at the highest levels of government."

Appeal for reconciliation in the Holy Land

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa has said that the only way to end the cycle of violence and revenge fuelling the conflict in the Holy Land is to keep reconciliation and forgiveness alive in our hearts. Watch his video at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/keep-the-desire-for-reconciliation-and-forgiveness-alive-in-our-hearts-says-latin-patriarch/>

Also, he recently wrote: "It takes courage to be able to demand justice without spreading hatred. It takes courage to ask for mercy, to reject oppression, to promote equality without demanding uniformity, while remaining free. It takes courage today, even in our diocese and our communities, to maintain unity, to feel united to one another, even in the diversity of our opinions, sensitivities and visions."

The Media Bill has had its second reading in the House of Lords

More concerns have been raised about the omission of existing obligations for public service broadcasters to provide programming about religion or belief.

Select Committee on Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide

Bishop John Sherrington has welcomed the decision of the Select Committee not to recommend the legalisation of assisted suicide.

The Hours: poems from Bernie Jacobs


Last week's newsletter contained Bernie's poem 'Time Marks the Candle', taken from his book 'In Light and Shade'. 'Time Lights the Candle' gives an outline of what is to come in 'The Hours' that follow the course of The Divine Office. Each poem named for one of the Offices (liturgies) which were prayed in monasteries at appointed hours. The poems are an allegory of human life, as the liturgies pass so do we, through the stages of our lives from procreation to death. Here is the first:

Matins

The night holds fast upon the coming light,
Waiting to reason with another day:
Brings order to our lives, so each hour might
Illuminate us, scour our cares away,
Clean out the dense thickets of confusion,
For then we can save our minds from despair,
Defeat the messages of delusion,
Overcome evil, and with good repair.
We are unaware; we are yet to know
Love for another, ecstasy, and pain
That in our lives will softly, gently grow,
Until passion flares, sears across the grain.
We are then truly sentient, and find
From dark womb, light; first sight no longer blind.

PUBLIC TALK

What is it like to be a Benedictine monk?



Sat
18 May
2024

10am -11.30am (9am Mass)
St Augustine's Abbey
Chilworth, Guildford
Retiring collection for the monks
RSVP: richardatob@gmail.com

Job: Youth Ministry Leader in the Lake District

Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience perhaps recently graduated. Interested, then contact: jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Laleham Lea, a Catholic Independent School in Purley

is looking for a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to start as soon as possible. For more information and application forms please visit our school website - www.lalehamlea.co.uk or call 0208 660 3351.

Grim milestone of 30,000 deaths in Gaza, a 'stain on the world's conscience'

Christian Aid