



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 December 2023 [Cycle B Year 2]
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 84
 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

'Prepare a way for the Lord!'

Advent is a sacred time of longing and preparation for the Lord; a time for waking up to listen to the Spirit calling deep within us.

The words of Isaiah (First Reading) bring to this Sunday's liturgy a cry of consolation for a people desperate for peace. As we make a straight path to welcome the Lord into our lives, he gathers us up into his arms like a shepherd tenderly holding his lambs.

Our world is thirsting for this peace now, the deep peace that only Christ can bring. The Psalm is a prayer that speaks to the longing and yearning that is within us all.

Christ is not slow to respond to our desire for this peace. Peter's letter (Second Reading) to the early Christian community teaches that the Lord wants no one to be lost: he desires for all to be gathered unto himself. Since we do not know the time of the Lord's return, our prayerful preparations will draw us nearer to the peace that he promises.

The Gospel of Mark that we follow throughout this coming year begins the revelation of the Good News with that same call of the prophet Isaiah that began our readings: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calls us to repentance and renewal. He baptises with water, but tells of the time when we will be made new by the Holy Spirit.

Let us continue our Advent journey together, praying for this same spirit of renewal and preparation. Let us pray too for peace in our hearts, in our communities and especially in the Holy Land.

Taken from St Beuno's Outreach



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 8	9.30am	Maria Silva RIP Charles Wei BT
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
Saturday 9	9.30am	Mass
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
Sunday 10	9am	Charlotte Heard SI (FC)
Second Sunday of Advent (Psalm Week 2)	11am	Francis Ikphoh-Akah RIP (CC)
Monday 11	9.30am	Wanda Juchniewicz RIP
	8pm	Reconciliation Service
Tuesday 12	9.30am	Mass
	7.45pm	The Sacraments in Scripture
Wednesday 13	9.30am	Eileen Killick RIP
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 14	9.30am	Juchniewicz's Family RIP
St John of the Cross	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 15	9.30am	Doroszkiewicz's Family RIP
Saturday 16	9.30am	Mass
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Grace Singarajah' Family and Grandchildren WB
Sunday 17	9am	Francis Ikphoh-Akah RIP (YC)
Third Sunday of Advent	11am	Eric Mulholland RIP (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.

Prayer requests: Peter Thompson, Michael Begley, Elizabeth Margaret Cuffy, Michelle Caley, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Catherine Roberts, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mapple, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Michael Rowback, Kristine Harvey, and Margaret Fox.

Christmas at St Margaret's

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us

Monday 11 December - Reconciliation Service after 7.30pm Mass
 Sunday 17 December - Carol Service at 4pm

Sunday 24 December **Christmas Eve** - Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am
 Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 6pm
 Midnight Mass at 11.30pm preceded by carols from 11pm

Monday 25 December **Christmas Day** - Masses at 9am and 10.30am

Tuesday 26 December **Feast of St Stephen** - Altar Servers' Mass at 10am

Sunday 31 December **New Year's Eve** - Masses at 9am, 11am and 11.30pm

Monday 1 January 2024 **New Year's Day** - Mass at 9.30am

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk

Pope urges COP28: 'Choose life, choose the future!'

Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin delivered Pope Francis' speech at the UN Climate Change Summit in Dubai Dec 2 2023, urging urgent and concrete action to address climate change. Emphasizing the environmental crisis as an offence against God, the Pope called for a shift from self-interest and nationalism to a new multilateralism. He highlighted the need for political change, ecological conversion, and breakthroughs in energy efficiency, renewable sources, and fossil fuel elimination. The Pope urged leaders to move beyond talk and ensure the welfare of future generations, emphasizing that the purpose of power is to serve. He called on the year 2024 to mark a decisive breakthrough in addressing climate change.

Advent Message from Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Chair, Westminster Justice and Peace

Advent, a season of renewal and hope, marks the beginning of the Church's Year. Despite the challenges in the world, including violence, homelessness, poverty, and environmental threats, Christians find hope in the message of Christ's light. The Christian disciple's prayer during Advent is for God's Kingdom of justice and peace to prevail. This hope leads to concrete action for justice and peace, expressed through initiatives like food banks, shelters, vigils, and advocacy efforts. Rooted in Christian love, this action seeks reconciliation and lasting peace, respecting the dignity of every individual. The Justice and Peace network, guided by Catholic Social Teaching, plays a crucial role in advocating for a peaceful resolution to conflicts and spreading the prophetic vision of true and lasting peace during Christmas.

Gospel in Art: Be on your guard, stay awake Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The painting by Pieter Breughel the Younger depicts a Winter landscape, with leafless trees revealing their barren shapes. The present composition derives from a composition by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, dated 1565. The reflection on a painting by Pieter Breughel the Younger highlights the beauty of trees stripped of leaves as we enter December and transition from Autumn to Winter. Much like the seasons of nature, our lives also have moments akin to a "winter of the spirit." These periods, marked by grief or loneliness, can serve as opportunities for God to work creatively within us. The Gospel's call to stay awake and hopeful, even in dark times, resonates with the painting's depiction of a Winter landscape, suggesting a metaphor for life's precariousness and the need for attentiveness.



Salve and Vale

The Catholic Union Deputy Director, James Somerville-Meikle, emphasizes the quality over quantity of Catholic MPs at Westminster, estimating around 60 or 70 MPs identify as Catholic, but only a few consistently express and act on their faith. Contributions of notable Catholic MPs like Sir Edward Leigh, who served as President, and Baroness Hollins, the new President in the House of Lords have been acknowledged. [The Catholic Union of Great Britain](#) has always been fortunate in being able to count on the support of parliamentarians in both Houses of Parliament. With a new session of Parliament underway and a General Election on the horizon, that support will be all the more needed in the year ahead as challenges new and old are faced. Catholic lay men and women have always stood up when it mattered. Let's pray that continues.

Film: The Shift

With Advent starting - an interesting Sci-fi film called 'The Shift' written and directed by Brock Heasley and produced by Dallas Jenkins of 'The Chosen' fame is about to hit our screens. "The Shift," explores the concept of multiple realities unseen in ordinary life. The protagonist, Kevin, faces a dystopian journey after a family dispute. Battling evil forces, he clings to faith, ultimately gaining a new version of his life with lessons learned. The film, reminiscent of Christopher Nolan's style, offers a fluid plotline and thought-provoking themes, making it worth a watch. The Shift is being released in the UK on 15 December 2023.



Donations from the Blackmore family

The Blackmore family gave surplus donations of drinks, biscuits and snacks to St Margaret's, more than enough to serve the practitioners for teas and coffees after the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses. May God reward their generosity.

Wanted: 2-bedroom house or flat

One of our parishioners is looking to rent a 2-bedroom house or flat in the Carshalton or Wallington area. If you own such a property or know of such a property that is available, please inform the parish office. Thank you.

In Partnership with Housing Justice, Caritas Southwark is hosting an online information session on 13 December 2023, 7.30-8.30 PM for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this other QR code to register for the event. Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you.

caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk

