



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 & 4.15 - 4.45pm & at call email: carshaltonbeechesg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



12th January 2025 [Cycle C Year 1]
The Baptism of the Lord
 Isaiah 40: 1-5,9-11 | Psalm 103
 Titus 2: 11-14;3:4-7 | Luke 3: 15-16,21-22



The Liturgy last week revealed the mystery of God's plan—that in Jesus all peoples, symbolized by the Magi, have been made "coheirs" to the blessings promised to Israel. This week, we're shown how we claim our inheritance.

Jesus doesn't submit to John's baptism as a sinner in need of purification. He humbles Himself to pass through Jordan's waters in order to lead a new "exodus"—opening up the promised land of heaven so that all peoples can hear the words pronounced over Jesus today, words once reserved only for Israel and its king: that each of us is a beloved son or daughter of God.

Jesus is the chosen servant Isaiah prophesies in today's First Reading, anointed with the Spirit to make things right and just on earth. God puts His Spirit upon Jesus to make Him "a covenant of the people," the liberator of the captives, the light to the nations. Jesus, today's Second Reading tells us, is the One long expected in Israel, "anointed . . . with the Holy Spirit and power."

The word messiah means "one anointed" with God's Spirit. King David was "the anointed of the God of Jacob". The prophets taught Israel to await a royal offshoot of David, upon whom the Spirit would rest).

That's why the crowds are so anxious at the start of today's Gospel. But it isn't John they're looking for. God confirms with His own voice what the angel earlier told Mary: Jesus is the Son of the Most High, come to claim the throne of David forever.

In the Baptism that He brings, the voice of God will hover over the waters as a fiery flame, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has sanctified the waters, made them a passageway to healing and freedom—a fountain of new birth and everlasting life.

Taken from St Paul Center

Community Outreach

During the month of January, St Margaret's will be praying for the residents on Warnham Court Road, even numbers 2 to 62. Cards will be put through residents' letterboxes informing them of this.

St Margaret's Foodbank: Top 12 priority items for January

Hot Drinking Chocolate requiring only hot water • 500g Bags of Sugar • Boxes/Packets of Dried Potato • Cartons of Long-Life Full Fat Milk • Tinned Tuna • Jars of Peanut Butter • Jars of Meat & Fish Paste • Tinned Dessert Fruit • Tinned Rice Pudding • Small Bottles of Washing Up Liquid • Bars of Soap • Toilet Rolls

St Margaret's Building Projects

Fr Anthony recently announced two matters: An architectural sketch of a future church hall will be on display in the meeting area shortly, and secondly there is to be a project to refurbish and extend the raised area of the sanctuary.

Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 10	9.30am	Mass, Nelezinha De Lima RIP
Saturday 11	9.30am	Mass, Margaret Morahan RIP
	10am	First Holy Communion Candidates' Confession
	10.15am	Legion of Mary
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Vigil Mass, Gerard Vijayam RIP
Sunday 12	9am	Mass: Margaret Fox WB (FC)
	Baptism of the Lord 11am	Mass: Eileen Kinsella RIP (CC)
		<i>Psalm week 3</i>
Monday 13	9.30am	Mass, Margaret Fox WB
	6pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday 14	9.30am	Mass, Margaret Dyos RIP
	7.30pm	Belong & Believe course
Wednesday 15	9.30am	Mass, Margaret Dyos RIP
	6pm	Youth Music Group Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
Thursday 16	9.30am	Mass, Margaret Dyos RIP
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 17	9.30am	Mass, People of the Parish
		<i>Saint Antony</i>
Saturday 18	9.30am	Mass, People of the Parish
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Vigil Mass, Gerard Alogsious RIP
Sunday 19	9am	Mass, Horst Graebe RIP (YMG)
	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11am	Mass, Shirley Orbell WB (CC)
		<i>Psalm week 2</i>

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
 Please pray for: Anne Towner, Ted Hewson, Neil Ockenden, Keith Ockenden, Maria Furtado, Tom O'Regan, Elizabeth Cuffy, Annabelle Colairo, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Paula Seradi, Maria Mappley, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Michael Rowback, Kristine Harvey and Margaret Fox.

Lately dead: Richard Neal (Brother of Marian Thurley), Michal Pacala (husband to Anna and Father to Dawid, Wiktor & Julia) and Margaret Dyos (Grandmother to Ben). May they rest in peace.

St Margaret's toolkit to support racial & cultural inclusion

In the January edition of the Catholic Post, (the UK's first carbon neutral Catholic newspaper!), there is an article on the toolkit that aims to help Catholic parishes become more racially and culturally inclusive. If you cannot readily obtain a copy of the Catholic Post, you can find the same text on the Archdiocese of Southwark website at: <https://tinyurl.com/45sveami>

Refreshing our Communities & Renewing our Mission

Our Renewal Prayer Group will be hosting a 5-week CaFE Film Course "Belong & Believe" from Tuesday 14th January to Tuesday 11th February. The course on Tuesday evenings will start at 7.30pm and end by 9.00pm.. Everyone is invited to attend.

Help with coffee mornings on Wednesdays, after 9.30am Mass

Fr Anthony is looking to build a rota of persons to provide coffees and teas on Wednesdays. If you would like to help, please talk to Fr Anthony.

Christian Unity Service on Tuesday 21st January 2025

This year Holy Cross Church (Carshalton), is hosting the CTIC (Churches Together in Carshalton) Christian Unity Service at 7.30pm.

CTIC 2025 Lent Groups, will begin from 9th March.

If anyone would like to host/lead a daytime group, please contact Adrian Clifton at: adrian.clifton@gmail.com

Pope's January prayer intention: 'for the right to an education'

In the Pope Video for January, the Holy Father warned that today, "we're experiencing an educational catastrophe". He explains that due to wars, migration, and poverty, some 250 million boys and girls lack education. You can watch the Pope's January video at: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8wuev>

Jubilee Churches and Shrines in Southwark

The faithful, pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage to any sacred Jubilee site. There will be sixteen Designated Jubilee Churches and Shrines in Southwark. Such are to be seen as 'sacred places of welcome and privileged spaces for the rebirth of hope'. Of these 16, the closest to Carshalton are:

The Cathedral of St George in Southwark, Sacred Heart in Wimbledon, St Ann in Kingston Hill, St Mary's (Our Lady of Reparation) in West Croydon, St Boniface in Tooting and St Elizabeth in Richmond.

Will this be our future?

Lima has always had a shortage of priests. Archbishop of Lima, Carlos Castillo, was recently interviewed in the Colombian Missionaries' magazine 'Far East'. In the article he explains: 'Now we have to plan for leadership in a synodal Church. Lifelong learning is essential. In many churches in Lima, the laity are in charge of *Sunday celebrations without a priest*. They are in charge of the prayers, readings and the communion service; they prepare the evangelical reflection. Part of the long-term planning in the archdiocese is courses to educate and train the laity.'

Ireland: Rationalisation of the number of parishes and Masses

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, Archbishop of Armagh, Eamonn Martin, announced "we simply cannot stretch the energies of our clergy any more". He acknowledged that "Our ability to provide access to the Eucharist and the Sacraments in the way that we did in the past when we had such a huge number of priests, is no longer there." He reassured people that: "It is not necessarily the death of something. We need to see it as igniting new life in the Church."

Pope's prayer for World Day of Peace, (1st January 2025)

*Forgive us our trespasses, Lord,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace,
the peace that you alone can give
to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart,
to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts of their
brothers and sisters,
to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you,
and to those who do not close their ears to the cry of the
poor. Amen.*

Call for testimonials for Cause of Brother Michael Strode

Brother Michael - the founder of HCPT, an advocate for disabled people, a doctor and later a member of the Cistercian community at Caldey Abbey - died on 27 December 2019, aged 96. The Committee for Brother Michael's Cause was formed to prepare a case for him to be declared a saint. Submissions can be made by email to: secretary@brothermichaelstrode.org

Course on Building a Better Marriage (BABM)

This is a one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to try and make them better. These BABM days start at 9.30am and finish by 4.30pm. Dates and venues for 2025 are: March 15, East Sheen; April 12, West Croydon; June 28, Kingston-upon-Thames; and September 13, Amigo Hall, Southwark. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Course on Marriage Preparation

Dates/venues for the official Southwark diocesan marriage preparation course taking place during 2025 are as follows: February 15, Wallington; April 26, Amigo Hall; June 7, Amigo Hall; July 5, Wallington; October 18, Purley; November 22, online. The face-to-face courses start at 9am and finish by 5pm. The online course, for which homework is set two weeks before, begins at 9.15am and finishes at lunchtime. The Certificate of Completion issued to each couple at the end of the courses is recognized worldwide. There is a charge for participating in the course of £120 per couple. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' (weekdays at 7.45am)

In the busy run-up to Christmas, you may have missed some of these interesting broadcasts. On Dec 28th, Pope Francis spoke for just 3 minutes. You can listen to the Pope's broadcast at: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0kfgbhp There was another excellent 'Thought for the Day' on church safeguarding at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0kcs9g>

The easy way to let your MP know what you think

With so many political matters under discussion currently, you may feel it your Christian duty to make your MP aware of your own views. Here is an easy way to make contact with your MP: <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/>

Wherever you are, get St Margaret's Newsletters by email

If you would like to receive St Margaret's newsletters by email, then just send an email to: carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk On the other hand, if you would like to stop receiving our newsletter by email, similarly send an email to the same address.