



# St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

[www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk)

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, JCD

Weekday Masses: 9.30am (& 9.30am Sat)

Tel: 020 8669 6483

Holy Days of Obligation: 9.30am & 7.30pm

Email: [carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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*



25th December 2022 [Cycle A Year 1]

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10, | Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-6 | John 1:1-18



## Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

<b>Friday 23</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass
<b>Saturday 24</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Victor De Lima RIP
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5.15pm</b>	Devotion to Our Lady
	<b>6pm</b>	Children' Mass and Fiozinda & Jozef Kurowski RIP
	<b>10.30pm</b>	Carols
	<b>11.30pm</b>	Midnight Mass People of the Parish (CC)
<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>9am</b>	Castelino & Sykes
<b>[Psalm Wk 1]</b>		Families TG (FC)
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 26</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Altar Servers' Mass
<b>St Stephen</b>		
<b>Tuesday 27</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass
<b>St John</b>		
<b>Wednesday 28</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Den & Kath Hill GP
	<b>6pm</b>	Youth Choir Practice
	<b>7pm</b>	Central Choir Practice
	<b>8pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Thursday 29</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass
<b>St Thomas of Canterbury</b>		
<b>Friday 30</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass
<b>The Holy Family</b>		
<b>Saturday 31</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Mass
	<b>6pm</b>	Mass
	<b>11.30pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>9am</b>	Clara Senghore BD (YC)
<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>11am</b>	Castelino & Sykes Families SI (CC)

The Church's Liturgy rings in Christmas with a joyful noise. We hear today of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise.

In the First Reading, Isaiah foretells Israel's liberation from captivity and exile in Babylon. He envisions a triumphant homecoming to Zion marked by joyful singing.

The new song in today's Psalm is a victory hymn to the marvellous deeds done by our God and King.

Both the prophet and psalmist sing of God's power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. This language recalls the Exodus, where the people first sang of God's powerful arm that shattered Israel's enemy, Egypt (see Exodus 15:1, 6, 16).

The coming of the Christ child into the world fulfils all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured.

In Jesus, all nations to the ends of the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death.

Jesus is the new king. He is the royal firstborn son and Son of God promised to David, as we hear in today's Epistle (see Psalms 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14).

And as our Gospel reveals, He is the Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained.

In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days.

The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God.

He is the one Isaiah foretold—who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign (see Revelation 21:3-4).

So we sing a new song on Christmas. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and have been born again—who have by grace been given the power to become children of God.

*St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio*

**Christmas Collection for Fr Anthony:** The collection at all Christmas Masses this weekend will be our personal offering to Fr Anthony. We are sure that all parishioners will wish to contribute generously to this collection in thanksgiving for the wonderful service, dedication, leadership and spiritual guidance which Fr Anthony has given to our parish throughout the last year.

**Christmas Mass times:** The times of Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are displayed in a box elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please note that the **second** Mass on Christmas Day begins at **10.30am**, not 11am.

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.

Please pray for the soul of **Wendy Counsell** who died this week.

**Christmas at St Margaret's**

**Christmas Eve**  
**Children's Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm**  
**and at 10.30pm Carols followed by**  
**Midnight Mass at 11.30pm**

**Christmas Day**  
**Masses at 9am and at 10.30am**  
**Monday 26th Dec (St Stephen's Day)**  
**Altar Servers Mass at 10am**

**Altar Servers' Mass:** Boxing Day, 26 December, is the Feast of St Stephen. Our annual Altar Servers' Mass will be held at 10.00 that morning. During this Mass we will receive new servers into the Guild of St Stephen and present some of our experienced servers with Senior Servers' medals. We invite all parishioners to come to this Mass to show their appreciation of the service which our altar servers provide to the parish.

**Wonderful Carol Service**

The church has been decorated beautifully for Christmas and on Saturday afternoon, our Youth Choir Ensemble treated us to a delightful carol concert. The Youth Choir sang a selection of more modern carols with harmonies, accompanied by keyboard, violin, trombone, trumpet and drum. There were also traditional carols with the organ. Young children did the readings confidently and clearly. We are blessed with such talented young musicians, singers and readers. Afterwards there was mulled wine and warm mince pies. This was a great start to Christmas!

**A Family Christmas Prayer**

Loving God, during this holy season of Christmas, we ask your blessing on our family.  
 Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways inspire us to place our trust in You.  
 Let Joseph's courage provide us with hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.  
 Let Jesus's life ignite all our families with a spirit of light and love.  
 May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to encircle our family this Christmas.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Taken from St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin*

**Reflecting on the joy of Gaudete Sunday**

Within a recent Tablet article 'Advent meditation: reasons to be cheerful' by Richard Leonard SJ, he quotes Pope Francis: "...if we keep this joy to ourselves, it will make us sick in the end, our hearts will grow old and wrinkled and our faces will no longer transmit that great joy – only nostalgia and melancholy, which is not healthy. Sometimes these melancholy Christian faces have more in common with pickled peppers than the joy of having a beautiful life." So the advice for this Advent is: if you are a happy Christian, can you please tell your face about it!

**Thanks to St Margaret's from PACT**

"A very big thank you for your very generous response to Pact's Operation Elf appeal. The cards are now with Pact staff at HMP Downview and HMP High Down, where parents will give them to their children at the upcoming Christmas Family Days. This is a wonderful support for parents in prison and we are very grateful for your contribution. Many thanks also for the bags of clothes for HMP Downview. These donations are greatly appreciated and much needed, especially as the weather is so cold at this time. Prison staff have asked me to pass on their thanks.

Thank you again and may I take this opportunity to wish you and all at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church a peaceful and blessed Christmas season. With prayers from Marie Norbury, PACT Faith in Action Volunteering Manager."

**BBC Reith Lectures**

You can listen to the second Reith Lecture, The Freedom of Worship, by Dr Rowan Williams which was broadcast on Radio 4. Here is the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001fw1>

**Awakening**

As darksome winter wearies to the solstice,  
 five candles, stand around the Advent wreath.  
 The taper's touch, by a priest in surplice,  
 casts shadows that variegate the holly leaf.  
 Each week a coloured candle lights the way:  
 lit, then snuffed, smoking spiral haze,  
 shape-shifts to please the winter wind at play.  
 Three of the Advent days regally display  
 in purple, gifting Hope and Peace and Love.  
 The third, Gaudete, in joyful pink array  
 And in the centre for the infant from the Dove,  
 pure white, the candle to be lit on Christmas Day.  
 The Christmas season past the longer days will bring  
 us through the frost and snow to gentle spring.

*Bernie Jacobs*

**Christmas greetings**

On behalf of Fr Anthony and the PPC, I wish all parishioners  
 A merry Christmas.

*Clara.*

