



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.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



19th March 2023 [Cycle A Year 1]

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 | Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 17 St Patrick	9.30am	John, Josephine Maughan & Family TG
Saturday 18	8am	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9.30am	Paddy Maughan TG
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Melba De Silva RIP
Sunday 19 4th Sunday of Lent St Joseph & Mothers' Day <i>[Psalm Wk 4]</i>	9am	John Studznski BT (YC)
	11am	Fiorinda & Jozef RIP (CC)
Monday 20	9.30am	Barbara Crook WB
Tuesday 21	9.30am	Saviour Xavier RIP
	6.45pm	Lenten Reflection
	7pm	Stations of the cross
Wednesday 22	9.30am	Patrick Flood RIP
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
	7.00pm	Central Choir Practice
Thursday 23	9.30am	Mary Lucy Manuel RIP
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 24	9.30am	Mary & Mary Reilly TG
Saturday 25 Annunciation	8am	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9.30am	John & Maryellen TG
	5.15am	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Tom & Rebecca Rilley TG
Sunday 26 5th Sunday of Lent	9am	Anthony & Nicole Maughan TG (FC)
	11am	William Foster RIP (CC)

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

TG= Thanksgiving, WB= Wellbeing, BT= Birthday Thanksgiving, Sl= 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: Albie Shahpazov, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Catherine Roberts, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mappley, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Hilda Gill, Michael Rowback, Max & Isabelle Mifsud, Kristine Harvey, and Margaret Fox.

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent."

Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will (see John 9:4; 12:44). He is the new source of life-giving water: the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism (see John 4:10; 7:38-39).

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70-71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus (see John 10:11).

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By His death and Resurrection He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord."

"The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light," trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

Reflection from St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio



1st Prize £50 Winning Number 49

2nd Prize £25 Winning Number 27

3rd Prize £10 Winning Number 118

Second Collection

This weekend there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration: We are launching an appeal to increase the number of parishioners involved in our all-day Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Members of the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration will speak at all Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses on 18 and 19 March.

St Margaret's foodbank: 'Desperate' shortages

Shortages in our food and toiletry stocks have prompted an urgent appeal for donations in March. Our priority list:

• Jars of Fish/Meat Paste & Peanut Butter • Breakfast Cereals 500g size • Jars of Honey & Jam • Packets of Dried Potato • Packets of Savoury Biscuits • Children's Desserts - Jellies/Puddings/Angel Delight • Packets of Dried Custard requiring only water • Tins of Dessert Rice Pudding • Unisex Deodorant • Toilet Rolls.

Thank you everyone for your continued generosity.

Reception of Holy Communion under both kinds

"Following discussion at the Bishops' Conference, and bearing in mind current guidance, it will be permissible in the Archdiocese of Southwark to offer once again Holy Communion under both kinds (that is also from the chalice) from Maundy Thursday (6 April 2023) onwards. This practice remains optional, and priests should take into account local circumstances in making this discernment."

Archbishop John Wilson

Concerns over the Illegal Migration Bill

Bishop Paul McAleenan: "Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story. People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them. While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances are essential to meeting these. As Christians we call for the human person, made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy."

The Bishop of Durham: "No one wants to see people risking their lives to reach safety, but we must ask is this Bill the right response - one that is built on compassion, justice and moral leadership? It's likely to push thousands of people, including children, into a prolonged legal limbo and imprisonment, and does nothing to support timely and effective consideration of asylum requests."

The Saint Vincent DePaul Society: Pope Francis has called for states to end "the return of migrants to unsafe countries and to give priority to saving lives at sea," something which the SVP strongly endorses as we believe people from all countries seeking refuge should be welcomed. As a Catholic charity that supports refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, the SVP is concerned the new Bill will leave vulnerable people at risk, and if passed in its current form will strip people fleeing war and persecution of their right to seek safety in the UK.

Fr Philip Dyer-Perry writing in ICN: "Let's be absolutely frank - the only crisis that these measures were ever designed to avert was the chance of the current administration losing the next election - yet there's no guarantee such a populist stunt will serve its intended purpose. After all, the public have other concerns - like paying the rent, the bills, and putting food on the table. A law that is as unworkable as it is unjust will not impress electors. Yet the language used to justify such a law is perhaps its most dangerous legacy."

A prayer from the Jesuit Refugee Service

God of all people, we pray that we may accompany those on the road, walking in solidarity with those forced from their homes. May we serve them humbly, recognizing not the cost, but freely giving from what we have.

Remove all fear and allow us to become a voice crying out in the desert, proclaiming the good news and advocating on behalf of all those forcibly displaced.

May we follow your example in being a friend to the excluded and a ready defender in their time of need. Please keep us united as a family, brought together by faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Catholic Union on Freedom of Religion

"Freedom of religion is central to our work. In recent weeks and months, we have seen reminders that this fundamental right cannot be taken for granted. In Scotland, the faith of one of the candidates to replace Nicola Sturgeon as First Minister has been in the spotlight. While in England, we have seen people arrested outside abortion clinics for silent prayer. The Catholic Union has called out these worrying developments, and has been supporting MPs and peers who seek to defend and promote their faith in the public sphere." More information at:

<https://catholicunion.org.uk/about/>

A new inquiry has been launched by the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights into human rights at work. The Catholic Union would be very grateful if you could spare a few moments of your time to complete the survey on religion in the workplace. The responses will form the basis of our written evidence to the inquiry. Find out more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n8h3m7j>

Celebrating Divine Mercy

Jesus asked Saint Faustina that the Feast of Divine Mercy be celebrated around the world on the First Sunday after Easter which falls this year on **16th April 2023** and the parish of St. Margaret of Scotland will be celebrating it, commencing at 2.00pm with a Service of Prayers, Adoration, Benediction, Confession, Veneration of Image followed by an extra Mass at 3.00pm.

Divine Mercy has been bestowed by Jesus as an extraordinary grace for each of us (complete cleansing of all sins and punishment due to that sin) on the Feast of Divine Mercy. The conditions to receive this great grace are as follows:

- The Feast should be preceded by a 9 day Novena of the Chaplet starting on Good Friday (Novena and Chaplet prayer cards will be available in the church porch before Good Friday - please take one home with you)
- The sermon by the priest on that day should be on the Mercy of God
- That we contemplate on the day the Mystery of Redemption as the greatest Revelation of Divine Mercy
- The Image Divine Mercy be ceremoniously blessed and exposed and publicly venerated
- Confession and Holy Communion on the day (or as close as possible to the Feast) and Holy Communion should be received worthily and with complete trust in Divine Mercy
- We should make an act of Mercy in word, act or prayer.

Please come and join in the celebration of Divine Mercy in our parish by praying the Novena commencing Good Friday, attend the Divine Mercy Service and Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday.