



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Committed to 'Churches Together in England'

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk

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

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, OP

Weekday Masses: 9.30am (& 9.30am Sat)

Tel: 020 8669 6483

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



27th November 2022 [Cycle A Year 1]
 First Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 2:1-5 | Psalm 121
 Romans 13:11-14 | Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. *St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio*

Mass for Widows and Widowers

The 9.30 Mass on Saturday 26 November will be offered for Widows and Widowers. All parishioners are welcome at the Mass, not just widows and widowers. The Mass will be followed by refreshments.

Visit from Canon Victor Darlington

Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar of the South East area, will be visiting St Margaret's this Sunday, 27 November. He will speak at the 11.00 Mass. Canon Victor is Chair of the Archbishop of Southwark's Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion.

Missio Red Boxes

We ask that all red box holders please return their boxes before the end of November.



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 25	9.30am	Liz Mathew RIP
Saturday 26	9.30am	Widows & Widowers
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	David O'Connor RIP
Sunday 27 [Psalm Wk 1]	9am	Carla Doran RIP (FC)
	11am	Iwona Szwarc Waanders RIP (CC)
Monday 28 First Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6pm	Confirmation Class
	6pm	Adoration
	7pm	Mass
Tuesday 29	9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 30	9.30am	Holy Souls
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	7pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 1	9.30am	People of the Parish
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 2 (First Friday)	9.30am	People of the Parish
	12.30pm	Mass for the Sick
	7pm	Whole Hearted Adoration
Saturday 3 St Francis Xavier	9.30am	Fr Albert Tomei RIP
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Deceased Members of Grace Singarajah's Family RIP
Sunday 4 Second Sunday of Advent	9am	Deceased members of the Fox and Ellis Family RIP (YC)
	11am	Deceased Members of the O'Connor & Riney Families 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.

Anniversaries: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month. They can be found in our website Documents.

Prayer requests: Fr Luke, Wendy Counsell, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mapple, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Hilda Gill, Michael Rowback, Max & Isabelle Mifsud, Catherine Roberts, Kristine Harvey, Margaret Fox and Richard Neal.



St Margaret's Supper

This year, parishioners celebrated the 950th anniversary of St Margaret of Scotland at La Banca restaurant in Carshalton Beeches.

The 'St Margaret's Declaration'

The historic 'St Margaret's Declaration' was made by the Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland on St Margaret's Day, 16th November 2022. It was signed by Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Archbishop Leo Cushley, Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, during a service at Dunfermline Abbey. In his homily at the service, Archbishop Cushley said: "The declaration is a consciously new approach to ecumenism, an attempt to re-imagine the path towards Christian unity. Instead of listing our problems and points of friction or grievance, old or new, the Declaration chooses to focus on what we have in common and underline that we treasure together, so much that is inspiring and ancient, profound and beautiful. We stand shoulder to shoulder before an unbelieving world and we wish to respect each other, to be a support to each other, and to do all we can to achieve the unity that the Lord prayed for."

Taken from ICN

Volunteers needed for after-Mass refreshments

We are looking for more volunteers for a rota to serve tea and coffee after the 9.00 and 11.00 Masses on Sunday. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Joana Bobie.

Our World Cup Sweepstake

The winner will be confirmed on 18th December. Thank you for your support and best of luck.

Catholic Union's view of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement

"The increase in the National Living Wage, cost of living payments to vulnerable households and decision to raise benefits in line with inflation are all welcome. However, it is far from clear that the Government grasps the scale of the challenge facing people. The complete lack of reference to the homeless or refugees is deeply concerning. At a time when so many families are struggling, it is disappointing that yet another Chancellor has missed the opportunity to make the tax system fairer for families. With marriage predicted to fall significantly, we urgently need a plan from the Government to support family life. While times are tough at home, we know they are even tougher for many people abroad. Sadly, today's statement makes restoring the international development budget to 0.7% of GDP seem like a distant prospect."

Advent Adoration and Mass

During Advent there will be an additional hour of Adoration on Monday evenings from 6.00 to 7.00. This will be followed by Mass at 7.00. On Monday 12 December Mass will be followed by a Service of Reconciliation beginning at around 7.30.

Cardinal Nichols on the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Catholics are present in every local community, seeking to contribute constantly to the support of those in need. So we are well aware of the dramatic impact this crisis is having, with many people knowing they face choices between 'heating or eating', especially as winter approaches. The affluence to which our society has become accustomed seems to be seeping away.

I, and my fellow bishops, recognise the complexity of the causes, both short and long-term, that bring about the crisis now affecting so many. There are many Catholics in public life and in the charitable sector who are engaging in trying to produce long-term solutions to these political and economic challenges.

The work of our local parishes, and of Catholic charitable agencies, is based on the firm conviction of the inherent dignity of every person. No one is to be cast aside or 'discounted'. I am confident that throughout this crisis, the Catholic community will do all we can to act on this conviction and promote this principle.

Taken from CBCEW

A free short reflection brought to you each day of Advent

Advent can be such a busy demanding time, but we encourage you to make some space to reflect and pray this advent. Sign up for our free Southwark Diocesan 'daily advent reflections' to aid your prayer.

Every day during advent you will receive an email with a very brief thought for the day based on the daily reading. It is an opportunity to listen to God's invitation to you this advent. All you have to do is sign up and then set aside a couple of minutes each day to reflect! Sign up via the Commission web site:

<http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/> clicking on the Advent Reflection box. Alternatively, if you are viewing this online, you can sign up directly by clicking here: <https://southwarkdsc.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a3e1dce7f8f666e9d64edd867&id=4f880b3b9c>

World Youth Sunday

In August 2023, Pope Francis will gather with hundreds of thousands of young people for World Youth Day, in Lisbon, and the theme there will be the verse from Luke's Gospel: "Mary arose and left with haste" (Lk 1:39).

Red Wednesday

According to the Pew Research Centre, Christians suffer persecution - from harassment to murder - in more countries than any other faith group. On Red Wednesday (23rd November this year), Aid to the Church in Need sets out to break the silence on the religious persecution of Christians and others. Find out more at:

https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/?mc_cid=8fb7e811b1&mc_eid=bf68dd70c2

Recommended Reading for Advent

CAFOD is providing an excellent set of daily reflections for Advent. You can find this valuable resource at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Advent-reflections-parishes>