



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



30th July 2023 [Cycle A Year 1]

Seventeenth Sunday

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 | Psalm 119

Romans 8:28-30 | Matthews 13:44-52

What is your new life in Christ worth to you?

Do you love His words more than gold and silver, as we sing in today's Psalm? Would you, like the characters in the Gospel today, sell all that you have in order to possess the kingdom He promises to us? If God were to grant any wish, would you follow Solomon's example in today's First Reading—asking not for a long life or riches but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will?

The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst; yet, many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given so that they—and we—might live.

We, too, must ever discover the kingdom anew. We are called to find it as a treasure, a pearl of great price. By comparison with the kingdom, we must count all else as rubbish (see Philippians 3:8). And we must be willing to give up all that we have—all our priorities and plans—in order to gain it.

Jesus' Gospel discloses what Paul in today's Epistle calls the purpose of God's plan (see Ephesians 1:4): for Jesus be the firstborn of many brothers.

His words give understanding to the simple, the childlike. As Solomon does today, we must humble ourselves before God, giving ourselves to His service. Let our prayer be for an understanding heart, one that desires only to do His will.

We are called to love God, to delight in His law, and to forsake every false way. And we are to conform ourselves daily ever more closely to the image of His Son.

If we do this, we can approach His altar as a pleasing sacrifice, confident that all things work for the good—that we whom He has justified will also be glorified.

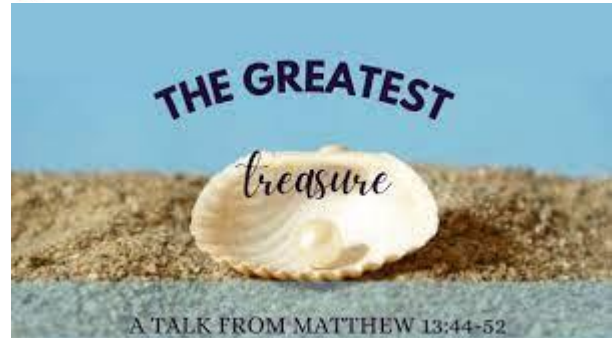
Reflection from St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio

Schools out for Summer!

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season.

Register your child for First Holy Communion

Parents can register their children in August for 2023/24 First Holy Communion programme. There is a registration form in the church entrance to complete. If your child has not been baptised at St Margaret's, you will also need to supply his/her baptismal certificate as well. A meeting for parents has been arranged for the evening of Monday September 18th.



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 28	9.30am	Mass
Saturday 29	9.30am	People of the Parish
Sts Mary, Martha & Lazarus	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 30	9am	Mass (YC)
Seventeenth Sunday	11am	Mary Wall (CC)
(Psalm Wk 1)		
Monday 31	9.30am	Philip & Mary Howard TG
St Ignatius		
Tuesday 1	9.30am	Ray Addison WB
St Alphonsus		
Wednesday 2	9.30am	Richard Neal WB
	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
Thursday 3	9.30am	Mass
Friday 4	9.30am	Philip Howard TG
St John Vianney	12.30pm	Mass for the Sick
	7pm	Wholehearted Choral Adoration
Saturday 5	9.30am	Mass
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
Sunday 6	9am	Ned Delaney RIP
Transfiguration of the Lord	11am	Gerald & Pauline Soane TG (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 from Tuesday to Thursday, and until 8pm on Friday.

Prayer requests: 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.

Community Outreach

As part of our ongoing plan, St Margaret's will be praying for the residents on Stanley Park Road - odd numbers 103 to 183 during the month of August. Cards will be put through residents' letter boxes informing them of this.

Proposal to establish Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust.

An application has recently been made to the Department for Education to establish a new Catholic Academy Trust (CAT) serving Catholic schools in Merton, Sutton and Croydon. There are currently 15 schools that propose to join Sancta Familia CAT, and these are:

- St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls (11-18)
- St Mary's RC Infants School
- St Mary's RC Junior School
- St Elphege's RC Infants School
- St Elphege's RC Junior School
- Regina Coeli Catholic Primary School
- St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School
- Ursuline High School Wimbledon (11-18)
- Wimbledon College (11-18)
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
- St John Fisher RC Primary School
- St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
- St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
- SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School

The governing bodies of the schools proposing to join Sancta Familia are now consulting with their individual school communities on the question of whether they should convert from Voluntary Aided (VA) schools to academies. Academies are state-funded independent schools. They are free from Local Authority control and are run by a not-for-profit organisation called a Multi-Academy Trust. The 'Pros and Cons of Academy Status' can be found at:

<https://sanctafamilia.co.uk/>

The Archdiocese of Southwark has made clear its intentions for all Catholic schools to join one of a number of local Catholic Academy Trusts. If you have any queries or would like more information, visit: <https://sanctafamilia.co.uk/contact-us>

[Note Academies are quite different from so-called 'Free Schools' that have a 50 % cap on faith-based admissions.]

Renewal Prayer Group Programme

At last week's PPC meeting, Lynn Pougher announced the Renewal Prayer Group programme of events for the Autumn term 2023. Commencing 19th September there will be a 5-Week CaFE Course on Our Lady, entitled "Let it Be Done Unto Me According to Your Word." This will be followed by a 6-week course on the "Sacramental Work of Christ in His Church", starting on 7th November. In addition, there will be a Service of Reconciliation on Monday 11th December.

CTIC stall at Eco-Fair

Christians Together in Carshalton (CTIC) will have a stall at the Eco-Fair that will to be held on bank holiday Monday 28th August in Carshalton Park. The theme of the stall is not yet fixed but the intention is to link it with the aims of the fair. So, something like 'Climate Justice - Protecting God's Creation' might be chosen. If you would like to help, contact Theresa Fox via the parish office.

Russia pulls out of the Black Sea grain deal

Christian Aid warns that Russia's decision to pull out of the Black Sea grain deal puts millions at risk from rising food prices and exposes the fragility of the world's food system. The deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey last July, allowed Ukrainian grain blocked by the Russia-Ukraine conflict to be exported safely.

Eastern European Books for Wandsworth Prison

Wandsworth Prison Welfare Trust (WPWT) is appealing for modern novels in eastern European languages (Polish, Romanian, Albanian, Bulgarian, etc) for inmates of Wandsworth Prison. If you have them, please bring them to the meeting area. WPWT will collect them when we have a box full.

Illegal Migration

The Illegal Migration Bill will now become law after a series of votes in the House of Lords failed to result in further modern slavery protections and child detention limits. Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Paul McAleenan, says the Church will continue to 'love the stranger' and call for the expansion of safe routes for those fleeing their homes. He added: "This legislation stands at odds with the teaching of the Church on welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating refugees."

Bishop Terence Drainey, Chair of Caritas Social Action Network, is urging Catholics to "speak out against this cruel Bill and write to their MPs urging them to work to expand safe routes for those seeking asylum." You can contact your MP using this link:

<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Complications in travel to Lourdes

Fr Luke's pilgrimage to Lourdes has hit difficulties as Tangney Tours cannot provide charter flights after 1st September this year. The organisers of HCPT's pilgrimage, notably Sandra Allen and Manus Finnerty, have met the challenge of finding alternative ways to travel to Lourdes on 15th September, this year. The pilgrims will travel to Lourdes in three separate groups each with a Group Leader and a Nurse. All will leave on the same day and will arrive at Hosanna House at around 9pm that evening. Scheduled flights to Bordeaux will be used in place of a charter flight to the more convenient Tarbes-Lourdes airport. God bless them.

Ask Your MP to Stop Abortion up to Birth

The abortion lobby is running a campaign to fully 'decriminalise' abortion. Right To Life UK has an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP at: www.righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth.

New Lectionary for Advent 2024

A new Lectionary that includes the scripture readings for Mass



and the sacraments will be launched in England and Wales for Advent 2024. The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and

Wales for the new Lectionary. Readings are taken from the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition of the Bible.

Free school meals

The Government provides free school meals for all pupils attending state funded primary schools in the following years: reception, year 1 & year 2. The Greater London Authority will be providing funding to Local Authorities to extend this entitlement to these year groups: year 3, year 4, year 5 & year 6. You can find out more at:

https://www.sutton.gov.uk/w/apply-for-free-school-meals?p_1_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dfree%2Bschool%2Bmeals

