



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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Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 4.15 - 4.45pm & at call email: carshaltonbeechesg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



26th January 2025 [Cycle C Year 1]
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Nehemiah 8: 2-4a | Psalm 19: 8.9.10.15.
 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30 | Luke 1: 1-4



The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading. Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3-4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it. We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year. Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God. *Taken from St Paul Center for Biblical Theology*

'The Kevin Pelham Community Hall'

The proposed new hall for our church has been given this name in memory of a previous parish priest at St Margaret's. Fr Kevin Michael Pelham was priest for 25 years here from March 1985.

Southwark consults on Archdiocesan renewal

In 2023, Archbishop John Wilson began a process - Called to Bear Fruit - which seeks to ensure parish communities in the Archdiocese are equipped with what they need to grow, evangelise, form disciples, and inspire witness. In his pastoral letter last weekend, Archbishop John announced a consultation as part of the next phase of this renewal process. You can find out how to go about this at: <https://rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit>

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The date for our next commissioning day for our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is Saturday 1st February 2025 in the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of St George – Southwark. If you would like to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please speak to Father Anthony or contact the parish office at: carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk.

Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 24	9.30am	Mass
Saturday 25	9.30am	Mass
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends	9.30am	FHC Parent Session – Prayer & Adoration
	10.15am	Legion of Mary
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday 26	9am	Mass, Margaret Dyos RIP (FC)
Sunday of the Word of God	11am	Mass, People of the Parish (CC)
Psalm week 3		
Monday 27	9.30am	Mass, The People of Soviet Union who died in World War 11
	6pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday 28	9.30am	Mass
St Thomas Aquinas	7.30pm	Belong & Believe course
Wednesday 29	9.30am	Mass, Nelezinha De Lima RIP
	6pm	Youth Music Group Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study via zoom
Thursday 30	9.30am	Mass
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 31	9.30am	Mass, Angeline Louis RIP
St John Bosco		
Saturday 1	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am	Legion of Mary
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Vigil Mass, People of the Parish
Sunday 2	9am	Mass, Members of the Padovan Family RIP (YMG)
Presentation of the Lord	11am	Mass, Lucy Hazel BT (CC)

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
 NOTE: Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration follows weekday Masses, until 11am on Tuesday through Thursday, and until 8pm on Friday.

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 Mapple, Sheila Sharp, Michael Rowback, Kristine Harvey and Margaret Fox.

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Nicene Creed, which traces its origins to the Council of Nicaea. The Council of Nicaea led to the adoption of the Nicene Creed as an expression of the common faith of Christians. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

Remember Me: A Catholic Approach to Criminal Justice

This is the title of a new Bishops' Conference Social Justice Department document. At the Parliamentary launch Bishop Moth, Liaison Bishop for Prisons, said: "This is a good moment to launch this document. We would like to speak on these matters for two particular reasons: to highlight the threat to human dignity in the criminal justice system, and emphasize the innate dignity of every human person as someone created by God."

He explained: "For a long time, the Catholic Church in this country has promoted the common good...Our Catholic vision means that justice needs to be restorative. It includes care for victims, appropriate punishment for offenders, and then rehabilitation to reform prisoners and give them the chance at redemption. Punishment might be a vote winner but it does not promote the common good. We need *just* punishment."

He added: "As a community of faith, it is of crucial importance that we visit those in prison, as Our Lord told us to do. We are called to remember and also to walk alongside them, like Christ did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus."

You can find the document at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/remember-me/>

Racial Justice Sunday 16 February 2025

A special celebration will be led by Archbishop John Wilson, who will preside over the 10am Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Racial Justice Sunday. The Racial and Cultural Inclusion Commission, under the leadership of Canon Victor Darlington, warmly extends an invitation to you and your parish community to join us, as we reflect on the theme: "*Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice*". Our worship at Saint Margaret's that weekend will also feature the theme of racial justice.

Our Archbishop's new book & book launch

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled *The Romero Rosary*. With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, this beautiful and creative new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary (*Joy, Light, Sorrow & Glory*) and the *NEW* Romero Mysteries (*Charity, Compassion and Mercy, & Justice and Peace*) - all illumined for reflection and prayer by the words of St Oscar Romero. The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org. The Archbishop warmly invites everyone to the book launch on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6pm for 6.30pm at Amigo Hall, adjacent St George's Cathedral, Southwark, SE1 7HY.

CPT allocates £385,000 for 'agents of joy'

The Charles Plater Trust (CPT) has launched its 2025 large grants programme with £385,000 available in large grants to plant seeds of hope in England and Wales. Inspired by Pope Francis' dedication of 2025 as a Jubilee Year, with its theme of "Pilgrims of Hope," CPT is reaching out to charities of all kinds who want to make Catholic Social Teaching values come alive in their practice, and to act as agents for hope for those in need. CPT is committed to using its resources to build social justice in the UK.

'None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice.'

Pope Francis

Sutton Deanery Pastoral Council

Its mission is to promote an inter parish community through faith, fellowship and friendship within the Sutton Deanery. It organises annual days of reflection for Eucharistic Ministers and readers, Retreat days and adult formation courses. If you are interested in representing your parish at the Deanery Pastoral Council, please speak to your parish priest in the first instance. The Council aims to meet 4 times a year at rotating venues throughout the Deanery. Some meetings will include a guest speaker on a topic of importance to our mission.



Statue of St Margaret of Scotland

Last year we were pleased to install a statue of our parish patron saint, St Margaret of Scotland. She is depicted holding a quill and a book of the gospels. She was very learned and devoted to the study of scripture. Her husband King Malcolm could not read and trusted and followed her wise counsel. Her book of the gospels once fell in the river but was recovered undamaged. It is now in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

CYMFED Flame 2025 will be on Saturday 15 March

The CYMFED Flame Congress will be held at Wembley Arena this year. It will be a day of talks, Eucharistic Adoration, music and much more. Flame is open to everyone aged school Year 9 (usually 14 years old) through to university age. Typically, there are large numbers of Year 10s, 11s and sixth formers, as well as university students. More information at: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

Palliative and End of Life Care Commission

The Commission, established last year, is keen to hear from doctors, hospitals, hospices, charities, disability rights organisations, and those with experience of palliative and end of life care, as they look at the significant challenges facing the sector, including financial difficulties, shortfalls in provision and access and problems in recruiting and retaining staff. You can find out more from:

Secretariat@palliativecarecommission.uk

Church consecrated at the site of Jesus' baptism in Jordan



A new church, shrine and monasteries at the baptism site of Jesus have just been inaugurated near the river Jordan. The Catholic church development at Al-Maghtas, known as Bethany Beyond the Jordan, will be one of the largest Christian centres in the Middle East, comparable to the Church of the Annunciation, the Church of the Nativity, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.