



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, 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 5.15 - 5.45pm & at call

A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors



1st January 2023 [Cycle A Year 1]
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27, | Psalm 67
Galatians 4: 4-7 | Luke 2: 16-21

Pastoral Letter for the Sunday after Christmas

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

It is a great joy to be able to greet you in this Christmas season and at the beginning of the new calendar year of 2023. I extend to you, and your families and loved ones, every blessing and good wish as we continue to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. I also assure you of my prayers and warm best wishes as a new year unfolds. Towards you, from my heart, I make my own the ancient words given by God to Moses: 'May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and give you his peace.' (cf. Num 6: 24-26)

Today, we unite ourselves, in a special way, to the Mother of God, Mary most holy. In the small chapel at Archbishop's House there is a very beautiful statue of Our Lady. It is carved according to the Eastern Christian tradition of icons, the holy images of Our Lord, his Mother and the saints. There is a particular style of icon of Our Lady called the Hodegetria. This Greek name carries the meaning of 'Our Lady who points the way.' Our chapel statue is based on this. Our Lady holds the Christ Child tenderly in one arm. She looks out towards us, while pointing with her other hand to the Lord Jesus. Through her loving gaze, she draws us close, but only so that she can direct us to Christ. This is her vocation as Mother of God, Mother of the Church and Mother of every disciple: to point us to Christ.

St Paul recalls that we have each been adopted into a new life in Christ. We are sons and daughters of God, in and through God's Son. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing one Heavenly Father. In a related sense, Mary is also spiritually our heavenly Mother. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have God as our common Father. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we also share one holy Mother. There are no orphans in Christ.

What might it mean for Mary our Mother to point the way for us to the Lord Jesus? Of many possible answers, here are three simple responses.

First of all, Mary points the way to the Lord Jesus by showing us what it means to be disciples. By her own example, she teaches us to trust that all things are possible for God. Through her faith, she shows us how to allow God's plan and purpose for our life to unfold, just as she did for her own life. At Cana she told people to do whatever Jesus said. She could only do this because she believed he was the Son of God. She continued to believe in times of joy and in times of sorrow, always walking the pathway of hope. Mary points the way to the Lord Jesus by her own pattern of discipleship.

Second, Mary points the way to the Lord Jesus by teaching us to treasure the things of faith and to ponder them in our heart. She knows the importance of the inner life, of prayer and of contemplation. She invites us to know the Lord Jesus personally in our heart and to consider prayerfully the words of Scripture. How can we really be disciples unless the external practice of our faith is rooted in our interior living relationship with Christ? Mary points the way to the Lord Jesus by witnessing to the needy to prayerfully reflect on the things of life in the light of faith.

Thirdly, and finally, Mary points the way to the Lord Jesus because she is our spiritual Mother. She prays with us and for us. She is our friend in heaven. We can ask her to pray for us, for our needs and our worries. And, while certainly praying for us, she always invites us to come to her Son with confidence. Mary only ever points beyond herself to the Lord Jesus. She helps us to find him, to know him, love him and serve him.

Dear friends, as the New Year opens we look to Christ, the beginning and the end of all things, to whom all time belongs. Whatever this year brings, we will face it with Christ. For her part, Our Blessed Mother points the Church, and each disciple, to her Son so that we can name him Jesus, the one who saves; so that we can name him Lord, brother and friend. With great faith, we step forward along the way towards the future, united with Christ and with Our Lady. Like her we are called to be disciples of joy, disciples who by their witness point the way to the Lord Jesus who always needs to be born anew through us to our waiting world.

With my prayers and every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year.

*Yours devotedly in Christ + John Wilson,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark*

Calendar of Liturgical Events

The Liturgy sub-group of the PPC have prepared a 2023 calendar of liturgical events for our parish. This is displayed in the Meeting Area or can be found in the 'Welcome' section of Documents on our website at:

<https://www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk/documents>

Southwark Catholic directories 2023

Yes they have arrived and are available in the Meeting Area.

Christian Unity Service

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th to 25th January 2023. A service will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Carshalton Beeches on Wednesday 18th January beginning at 7.30pm. The theme will focus on Racial Justice and raise awareness of the issue in our times. More information to follow in the New Year.

World Cup 2022

Argentina walked away with the FIFA World Cup that left two of our lucky parishioners with sweepstake winnings.

World Day of Peace 2023

Pope Francis has released his message for the World Day of Peace, that is to be celebrated on 1 January 2023. In this, he explains: "we can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests, (...) instead we must think in terms of the common good." We cannot, however, ignore one fundamental fact, he continues: "Many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another." And he calls on all those in positions of responsibility and on all men and women of goodwill "to revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all"; "to promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death"; "to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change"; "to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty... The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound." The full text can be found at: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46144>

Taken from Independent Catholic News

Subsequently, addressing the Curia, Pope Francis declared "War and violence are always a catastrophe. Religion must not lend itself to fuelling conflicts. The Gospel is always a Gospel of peace, and in the name of no God can one declare a war to be 'holy'."

You can also view or read the Pope's Christmas Message at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-francis-christmas-urbi-et-orbi/>

Outgoing Nuncio's farewell address

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the outgoing Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, gave this farewell address in Westminster Cathedral on Monday, 19 December 2022. It included: "I visited Catholic schools, an extraordinary resource, despite the present difficult times, for teaching a reason to live and to die, which goes beyond the myths that last one day and then die out." "I have maintained cordial relations with those who belong to the Anglican Communion, other confessions and religions. I greet them with respect and affection that has its foundation in faith. We often forget what importance faith has as a sure foundation of a healthy and honest civil life." The farewell address can be found in full at: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46171>

Applying to start primary school

Children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 are due to start primary school in September 2023. Applications opened on 1 September 2022 and close on 15 January 2023. National offer day will be on 17 April 2023. You can apply on-line at: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

Warm Spaces

In addition to Sutton's public libraries, some churches in the borough are offering refreshments and a warm space manned by volunteers. You can find out more using the website <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/> This website's mission is to support organisations that open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter. Already there are over 3000 registered organisations that have free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter.

Wishing all of our readers a very happy New Year

Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 30	9.30am	Mass
The Holy Family		
Saturday 31	9.30am	Mass
New Year's Eve	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
		Gailor Kessi (TG)
Sunday 1st	9am	Clara Senghore (BT)
[Psalm Wk 2]	11am	Castelino & Sykes
Mary Holy Mother of God		Families (SI)CC
Monday 2	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday 3	9.30am	Nelezinha De Lima RIP
Wednesday 4	9.30am	Mass
Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese	6pm	Youth Choir Practice
	7pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 5	9.30am	Mass
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 6	9.30am	Mass
Epiphany of the Lord (+ First Friday)	12.30pm	Mass for the Sick
	7.30pm	Mass
Saturday 7	9.30am	Mass
St Raymond of Penyafort	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Mass
Sunday 8	9am	Daniel Domingo (BT) FC
Baptism of the Lord	11am	Fionzinda & Josef Kurowski 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.

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

A Prayer for the New Year ahead

[aka The Reverse St Francis Prayer]

Lord make me a channel of your disturbance.
 Where there is apathy, let me provoke.
 Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
 Where there is too much comfort, and too little action,
 Grant disruption.
 Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,
 Grant me the willingness to listen.
 When laws dictate and pain is overlooked,
 Grant me the willingness to speak out.
 When tradition speaks louder than need,
 Grant me the willingness to object.
 Disturb us, O Lord, teach us to be radical.
 Grant that I may seek rather to do justice
 Than to talk about it;
 To be with, as well as for, the poor;
 To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;
 To touch the passion of Jesus in the pain of those we meet;
 To accept responsibility to be Church.
 Lord make me a channel of your disturbance. Anon