



# 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:

tel: 0208 669 6483

mobile: 0737 635 0370

email: [carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk)

web: [www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.co.uk)

Safeguarding Officer: Andrea Fernandes

Saturdays 10.30-11.00am & 5.15 - 5.45pm & at call

email: [carshaltonbeechessg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:carshaltonbeechessg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

*A warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors*



17th December 2023 [Cycle B Year 2]

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 | Psalm Luke 1:46-50-, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28

*'Rejoice! The Lord is near.'*

The readings on this Gaudete ('Rejoice!') Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God's Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people.

Isaiah (First Reading) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people.

Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives.

Mary's Magnificat is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. (Psalm)

St Paul (Second Reading) encourages us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do; we are to give thanks for all things to God, and to pray constantly. Paul urges us to be happy always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us.

The focus of the Gospel is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light': Jesus himself.

John answers the priests' questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces that the Saviour they seek, Jesus, is already amongst them, though 'unknown to them'.

As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. Let's pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.

*Taken from St Beuno's Outreach*

## Our parish safeguarding procedures

If any parishioner suffers, or is aware of, any incident of abuse within the parish, this should be reported to the parish Safeguarding Officer, Andrea Fernandes.

This applies to any kind of abuse - whether it be physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, bullying, or racial abuse or discrimination. All reports will be treated in strict confidence and any necessary support will be provided. The email address for reporting is [carshaltonbeechessg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:carshaltonbeechessg3a@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

## Meeting on use of church facilities

There is a meeting for Sacristans and leaders of relevant ministries at 6.30pm on Thursday 14 December to clarify arrangements for the use of our church facilities.

The meeting will discuss arrangements for access to the church, the use of keys, use of the kitchen, using the sound and audio-visual systems and arranging substitute ministers when necessary.



## Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

<b>Friday 15</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Doroszkiewicz's Family RIP</b>
<b>Saturday 16</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>
	<b>5.15pm</b>	Devotion to Our Lady
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Grace Singarajah's Family and Grandchildren WB</b>
<b>Sunday 17</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>(Psalm Week 3)</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Francis Ikpoh-Akah RIP (YMG)</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Eric Mulholland RIP (CC)</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	Carol Service
<b>Monday 18</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 19</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>John Studznsky (BI)</b>
<b>Wednesday 20</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Fr Kevin Michael Pelham RIP</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	Youth Music Group Practice
	<b>7.30pm</b>	Central Choir Practice
	<b>8pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Thursday 21</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	Folk Choir Practice
<b>Friday 22</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 23</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>The Flood Family RIP</b>
	<b>5.15pm</b>	Devotion to Our Lady
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Mass</b>
<b>Sunday 24</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Cornelius Walshe RIP (FC)</b>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Francis Ikpoh-Akah RIP (CC)</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Children's</b>
	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Victor De Lima RIP</b>

FC= Folk Choir, YMG= Youth Music Group, 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.**

**Prayer requests:** Peter Thompson, Michael Begley, 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.

## You never know when the time will come.

This is what Advent reminds us. Advent renews and deepens the hope and expectation of Christmas – and every day of our lives. When the time comes, we will be lifted out of time into an eternal present, in the presence of God. Advent is faith-refreshing: the Word is made flesh, visible in a vulnerable child. It also reminds us of judgment, but wrought by one who knows humanity from within, and who rose from death to sit at the right hand of the Father. God became human to reassure us of his love. Advent gives us an opportunity to renew our faith and trust in his love.



### Final words from poet Heba Abu Nada

"Gaza's night is dark apart from the glow of rockets, quiet apart from the sound of the bombs, terrifying apart from the comfort of prayer, black apart from the light of the martyrs. Good night, Gaza."

### A Prayer

We pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. We long for peace and for an end to violence and destruction of every kind. We unite our hearts with all who are suffering, with those who have lost loved ones, and with all who cry out in anguish.

### Pope Francis commends Bethlehem song

There will be no Christmas tree or traditional festivities in the place of Jesus Christ's birth this year in response to the thousands killed in the conflict in the Holy Land. Instead, the focus in the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square in Bethlehem will be on praying for peace.

One Bethlehem resident, Youstina Safar, a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song, Hear Angels Cry. The song resonates with the belief that hope for a better future, born in the hearts of humanity. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has not only heard about the song, but has sent a message to Cardinal Vincent Nichols commending it for drawing attention to "the sublime significance of the city where Jesus Christ was born."

### The blessings of an international community

ICN reports that Canon Rob Esdaile, Parish Priest of Woking & Knaphill, has written in his parish newsletter:

"At a time when much political discourse seems to regard the presence of migrant workers and refugees in this country as a problem to be fixed, and seeks to play on people's economic and social anxieties, our parish family stands as a witness to the many blessings we receive through the presence of those born overseas. Dear brothers and sisters, we are so grateful that you are here in our community and for your powerful witness to the faith we share. You enrich our lives, just as your work enriches our country. Thank you!"

### Sex in Scottish schools

The Scottish Government released new draft guidelines on the delivery of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood education to be applied in Scottish schools. Of particular concern is the removal of paragraphs 38-41 under the sub-heading "Denominational Education" which explicitly protects the rights of Catholic schools to provide sex education in line with the Catholic ethos.

**Christmas at St Margaret's**  
*Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us*

Monday 11 December - Reconciliation Service after 7.30pm Mass  
Sunday 17 December - Carol Service at 4pm  
Sunday 24 December **Christmas Eve** - Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am  
Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 6pm  
Midnight Mass at 11.30pm preceded by carols from 11pm  
Monday 25 December **Christmas Day** - Masses at 9am and 10.30am  
Tuesday 26 December **Feast of St Stephen** - Altar Servers' Mass at 10am  
Sunday 31 December **New Year's Eve** - Masses at 9am, 11am and 11.30pm  
Monday 1 January 2024 **New Year's Day** - Mass at 9.30am

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www.stmargaretscatholics.co.uk

### New Migration rules affect clergy

Plans unveiled by the Home Secretary, James Cleverly, state that skilled workers coming from overseas must be paid a minimum of £38,000 and there will not be any exemption given for clergy.

### Church lockdown closures

The closure of Catholic churches during the 2020 lockdown contributed to widespread mental and physical suffering, according to the results of a new survey carried out by the Catholic Union. It found 62 per cent of people reporting that their mental and physical wellbeing were adversely affected directly as a result of not being able to go to church. The poll of 1,000 Catholics also found that 90 per cent believe places of worship should be treated as "essential" services alongside food shops and healthcare facilities in any future pandemic, meaning they would not be forced to close.

### London: Day of Action for COP28

On Saturday a large demonstration for Climate Justice was held in London that involved many Christian groups. Prayers were led outside BP's headquarters by CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund who used the 'Prayer for our Earth' from the Laudato Si' encyclical. And behind the Laudato Si' Movement banner were Columban, Jesuit and Salesian priests. Religious sisters represented included the Columban Sisters and Sisters of St Joseph of Peace. (Note BP has recently agreed with Israel, to carry out gas exploration off the coast of Gaza.)

### Celebrating 90 years of the Catholic Worker Movement

Anna Blackman, a lecturer at the University of Glasgow, will give a talk on Catholic social teaching, followed by a free dinner, with live music. The event takes place on Saturday 16 December in Haringey. More details and book your place through eventbrite, at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/769607255017?aff=oddtcreator>.

### Wintershall's Nativity Journey

Discover the true meaning of Christmas with an unforgettable event for all the family. It's a Nativity like no other, placing you in the middle of an immersive theatre experience. It's the perfect festive event for kids, parents and grandparents. More information at: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-journey-0>



1 Jan: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God & World Day of Peace

6 Jan: Epiphany

18-25 Jan: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

27 Jan: Holocaust Memorial Day

### Lord, In this time of such conflict around the world,

remind us that we can live, work and enjoy community together. Help us build more bridges and fewer walls. Help Christians around the world to be bringers of peace, and agents of reconciliation. in Jesus' Name, Amen.