



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



3rd March 2024 [Cycle B Year 2]
 3rd Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 20:1-17 | Psalm 18
 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 | John 2:13-25

Christ, the power and the wisdom of God

In the First Reading, God speaks to the people of Israel after their release from slavery in Egypt. The Ten Commandments show his people how to freely live in service of the One who has liberated them.

The Psalm speaks of the gifts the law of God brings in terms of wisdom, truth and life.

St Paul reflects on the way in which those who are called to follow Jesus see the crucified Christ. For those early Christians, and ourselves, this is not a sign of God's foolishness or weakness, but a demonstration to the world of God's power and wisdom. (Second Reading)

In this week's Gospel, we see Jesus sweep away the buyers and sellers from the Temple, which should be revered as the house of God. We are reminded that it is through Christ's suffering and death that salvation will come, and the power and wisdom of God will be revealed.

This week, perhaps we can pray for all those areas of the world where places of holiness and sanctuary are debased and devalued. We pray too, for all people who are prevented from worshipping openly, and from practising their faith in freedom.

Taken from St Beuno's Outreach

Community Outreach

As part of our Ongoing plan, St Margaret's will be praying for the residents on Stanley Park Road (even numbers 50 to 136) during the month of March. Cards will be put through residents' letterboxes informing them of this.

Cafod's Big Lent Walk aims to raise £350,000.

More than 100,000 schoolchildren have signed up to take part in Cafod's Big Lent Walk. They have pledged to walk 200km over Lent to raise money via sponsorship for people tackling extreme poverty around the world. More than 400 schools are involved in the initiative, and more than 100 parish groups have signed up.

#GivePrayerAGo prayer videos

During Lent, the Archdiocese of Southwark is releasing a prayer video each day across social media promoting much loved prayers within the Catholic Church as part of its campaign to encourage people to "Give Prayer a Go". It's already been a huge success on social media, with over 1.5 million people seeing the campaign on Facebook alone since it began on Ash Wednesday. The campaign's aim is simple: to help people connect with Christ through prayer by offering content which enables them to do that in their everyday life. The videos can be found on Facebook. The most popular one is the Nicene Creed. View it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseOfSouthwark/videos/777452650597090/>



Mass Intentions and Diary for the week

Friday 1	9.30am	Uche Family TG
St David + First	12.30pm	Mass for the Sick
Friday + World	7pm	Wholehearted Choral Adoration
Day of Prayer		
Saturday 2	9.30am	Nwozuzu Family TG
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 3	9am	Begley Family TG (YMG)
3rd Sunday	11am	Mass (CC)
(Psalm Week 3)		
Monday 4	9.30am	Patricia-Mary Obadagbonyi BT & Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
Tuesday 5	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 6	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	6pm	Youth Music Group Practice
	7.30pm	Central Choir Practice
	8pm	Bible Study
Thursday 7	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	7.30pm	Folk Choir Practice
Friday 8	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
Pray for Peace in the Holy Land		
Saturday 9	9.30am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP
	5.15pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10	9am	Mass (FC)
4th Sunday	11am	Anthony Obadagbonyi GP (CC)

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: Pope Francis, Michael Begley, Elizabeth Margaret Cuffy, Michelle Caley, Paul Ford, Michael Colairo, Richard Neal, Paula Seradi, Maria Luisa Mappley, Sheila Sharp, Michal Pacala, Michael Rowback, Kristine Harvey, and Margaret Fox.

Alexei Navalny RIP

In BBC Radio 4's recent "Thought for the Day", the Rev David Wilkinson, described the role that faith played for Navalny in his activism and opposition to Putin, and the fact that he had become a Christian. Wilkinson highlighted how Navalny when addressing the court, had quoted the words of Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." You can listen to the broadcast at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hct605>

Gaza Ceasefire

Cardinal Vincent Nichols echoed the words of Pope Francis calling urgently for a ceasefire and the release of all hostages. Cardinal Nichols has also called for a special time of prayer for peace in the Holy Land on Friday 8 March as a vital part of our observance of Lent.



Prayer for Migrants by Pope Francis (abbreviated)

Merciful God, we pray to you for all men, women and children who have died leaving their homelands in search of a better life. Though many of their graves bear no name, to You each one is known, loved and cherished. May we never forget them, but honour their sacrifice with deeds more than words.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centredness. Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters. Amen

Government extends stay for Ukrainians in the UK.

This week, the Home Office announced that it would extend temporary visas for Ukrainian refugees by 18 months. The Catholic Union has been working closely with Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in this country to highlight the need to provide certainty to people displaced by the war. There are about 280,000 Ukrainian refugees – most of them women and children – who have arrived in the UK since the war began. At the beginning of Lent, Nowakowski, explained the need for small acts of support and mercy in the face of seemingly powerlessness against the forces of war, and of the need for all Christians to reflect during Lent on the war and all its terrible consequences.

Time Marks the Candle by Bernie Jacobs*

Faces hidden by cowls, habits rustling,
the choristers enter the candlelit halls,
their procession to the chapel casting
giant shadows, that flicker on frescoed walls.
The singers robed in black will sing plainchant;
in white, the polyphonic melody.
Marking the Hours, the voices will incant
the Divine Office's ageless liturgy.
First the Matins vigil, then Lauds at dawn.
The 'Little Hours' mark the day to twilight.
Vespers tapers light the candles borne
to the night office - Compline ends the rite.
The hours we share our memories define
to weave the tapestry of life's design.

* Taken from his book 'In Light and Shade'

As Pope Francis tells us, arms alone will never achieve the peace that Israelis and Palestinians deserve.

The Church and Ethnic Diversity

Going by the statistics, the contemporary Catholic Church in England and Wales enjoys a reputation for ethnic and racial diversity but as yet there is a dearth of black and ethnic minority believers in positions of influence and authority within the Church. If Christianity in Britain is to have a future, it will be as a faith community embracing ethnic minorities of different races and cultures. Gains from the cross-fertilisation of different types of Catholic spirituality could be enormous.

It is in this context that the announcement of an award of the title of a "Saint of Southwark" to St Margaret's Catholic parish in Carshalton Beeches, is a hopeful sign ... The Saints of Southwark programme was launched by the Archbishop, John Wilson, last month, and is the brainchild of Nigerian-born Canon Victor Darlington, episcopal vicar ... a Church open to the experiences of ethnic minorities would also be a Church open to the obligations of the Gospel.

Based upon an article in The Tablet

Caritas Southwark 1 Year Anniversary

The first anniversary of Caritas Southwark will be celebrated on 16th March 2024 with Mass in St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm. You are warmly invited to this Mass and a gathering afterwards in Amigo Hall. This will be an opportunity to hear from Caritas Social Action Network, the national picture as well as from parishes, schools and partner groups in our diocese. Archbishop John Wilson will be the principal celebrant at the Mass while Raymond Friel, the CEO of Caritas Social Network England and Wales, will be the principal speaker.

Catholics urged to have their say on General Election.

The Catholic Union is urging Catholics across the country to have their say on what matters most to them ahead of the next General Election. Express your views at:

https://catholicunion.org.uk/2024/02/catholics-urged-to-have-their-say-on-election/?mc_cid=5da4e3d2a9&mc_eid=bf68dd70c2



A 'Day with Mary' Pilgrimages 2024

Further information on 'A Day with Mary' 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at:

www.adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com.

Stanley Park Children's Centre

Children's Centres provide a range of services for local families with children under five who live within the London Borough of Sutton. Councillor Moira Butt has written to Fr Anthony alerting him to the imminent closure of Beddington Park, Victor Seymour and Muschamp Children's Centres. She wants to make sure that our parents are aware of what goes on locally so that our nearest centre at Stanley Park is well used. Mini Explorers and Chill sessions on Fridays at Stanley Park are free. You can find out all that is on offer at: <https://www.sutton.gov.uk/w/book-a-session-at-a-children-s-centre>