



St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.uk

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Sat), 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am

Parochial Administrator: Fr Anthony Uche, OP

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



3rd January 2021 [Cycle B Year 1]
Second Sunday of Christmas
Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12 | Psalm 147
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18 | John 1:1-18

My brothers and sisters, our experiences this year are enough to precipitate doubt and loss of hope. In fact, the deprivation of the celebration of the source and summit of our Christian life and the sustenance of faith via preaching and sacramental actions of our priests have almost deadened the faith and commitment of some brethren. Yes, we are suffering the pain of spiritual disconnection because in the Mystical Body the faithful and priests are ordered toward one another.

But, the Word of God today reminds us that Wisdom has *pitched his tent in our midst* because we are God's inheritance. Thus, the fact that Emmanuel is with us cannot be overshadowed by any virulent pandemic. The fact that Christ is in His temple, and that we are living stones of that temple ensures our hope of deliverance and redemption.

Thus, as *living stones built into a spiritual house* enlightened by the Light of the world, we believe that those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith would encounter the mercy and eternal peace of God. We believe also that as members of the pilgrim community of Christ, we have enough *spiritual blessings of heaven* to weather the storms of the Year 2021.

May those blessings radiate from your homes. May the Lord of peace, love, joy, wellness, and thanksgiving remake and use us in the new year as instruments of renewal and hope. **I thank you for your prayers and gifts in 2020.** God bless you all. **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Fr Anthony



Pope Francis gave his traditional Christmas message and Urbi et Orbi blessing, offering words of hope and consolation, saying a birth is always a source of hope, and "this Child, Jesus, was born 'to us'" – reminding us without any borders, privileges or exclusions.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols' Pastoral Letter for last Sunday can be listened to (in 7 minutes), or the full text read at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pastoral-letter-holy-family-of-jesus-mary-joseph/>

It's not too late! If you have not had the opportunity to make a Christmas offering to Fr Anthony, there is still time. Cash or cheques can be posted into the parish house. (Cheques should be made out to 'St Margaret's Church'.)

Or a direct bank transfer can be made to the parish bank account: 'RCAS St Margaret's Church Carshalton Beeches' Account Number: 11064145 Sort Code: 60-22-20. (Abbreviate the reference, e.g. 'G. Brown Xmas Off'.)

Mass Intentions and Diary for the Week

Saturday 2	9.30am	Nnanna Arua & Ogonna Nwokeji (RIP)
<i>St Basil & St Gregory</i>	6pm	Gailor Kessi
Sunday 3	8.30am	Beatrice Wilkinson (Wellbeing)
<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	10am	Nan Waldron (RIP)
Psalm Wk 2	11.30am	Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)
Monday 4	9.30am	J. P. Murtagh
Tuesday 5	9.30am	Theresa Flood (RIP)
Wednesday 6	9.30am	Allan Hurley
<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8pm	Bible Study by zoom
Thursday 7	9.30am	Peter Lucas (Birthday)
	8pm	Intercessory Prayer by zoom
Friday 8	9.30am	The Thomson Family
Saturday 9	9.30am	Nuala Doherty (RIP)
	5pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	TBD
Sunday 10	8.30am	Nelezhinha De Lima (RIP)
<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	10am	Ivo Padovan Snr (RIP)
	11.30am	Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)

Our church is open to you for Mass and private prayer. You can also participate in Masses via one of the internet viewing methods listed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2KUNCgNkREz3TWGBY2qzw>

On Facebook at 'St Margaret of Scotlandrcarshalton Surrey'

Angelcam Live Video at <https://st-margarets.click2stream.com/>

Please pray for Ben and Sophie Thomson whose baby son Albie, is now peacefully in the Lord's arms.

Other prayer requests: Rosie Lopez, Paul Harris, Irma Foster, Laura Bannon, Yvonne Wyatt and Margaret Fox.



Pray for the repose of the souls of: Ivo Padovan Snr, Augustus Ezebuiri, Nan Waldron, John Ryan & Beryl Palmier,

Anniversaries: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month. The Anniversaries are now listed on the front page of the website and on a poster in the meeting area.

Editor's note: Please email me with the name of any additional person to be prayed for, at: carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk

From St Margaret's Parish Pastoral Council:

As 2020 draws to a close, if someone had asked us a year ago to predict what 2020 would bring, no one at all would have imagined that this year would have turned out the way it has. How would we have responded if someone had told us that we would be participating in Easter and Christmas ceremonies online rather than in a packed church with our fellow parishioners?

The year started off with the arrival of Fr Anthony. Thanks to his inspiration and drive, he has managed to steer us spiritually through these difficult times. As a result of his efforts, he has set up a range of facilities online and via social media to enable parishioners to still participate fully in the spiritual life of the parish. But none of this would have been possible without the continued generous financial support from parishioners during this period, which has helped the parish purchase the equipment required to broadcast services online. As, during other difficult times, so many people have contributed to ensuring that the parish can continue to operate. The importance of the role of stewards at Masses has emerged, ensuring parishioners' safety when they come to the church.

Parishioners have been generous in making donations of food and other items for people who have been badly affected by the consequences of the pandemic. Others continue to serve the parish at this time in their ministries, with a special mention to the efforts to keep parishioners informed online, whether it be through sending the newsletter via email or publishing information on the parish's website. The parish is so grateful to everyone who has contributed to maintaining parish life during this year.

But most of all, the parish has been sustained by people's prayers. This has enabled us with God's grace and help to get through this difficult year. As we look ahead to 2021, there is a glimmer of hope with the new vaccine starting to roll out. Let us pray that God will continue to bless and protect us and that it won't be too long until our church is packed again with our voices raised in praise and thanksgiving.

We would like to wish everyone all God's blessings and the best of health and happiness for 2021. *Gerry McGinley, co-chair*

Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.



Helpline: 08457 90 90 90 (open 24 hours).



Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse. Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (Open 24 hours).



Ryan being pulled by Two Reindeer, Banksy 2019 © Pest Control / Christian Art

Finding comfort and motivation in the new year ahead:

- Consider the words of the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). It is a call to action in the name of the Lord.

'My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name.

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.....' [Courtesy of Theresa]

- Howard Thurman, (theologian, educator and civil rights leader in America), wrote:

'When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal those in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart, And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins.' [Courtesy of Paula]

- Consider these New Year's resolutions with a difference, from CAFOD.

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/New-Year-s-resolutions>

[Courtesy of Estella]

Send your advert by email to: carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk

* **Assisted suicide.** Right To Life UK warn: "The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide." Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking him/her to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

* **Angel Tree** is a programme run by the Christian charity Prison Fellowship, in which Christmas gifts are sent to the children of prisoners to help strengthen the bond between prisoners and their families. It is a wonderful picture of God's unconditional love for all. Each year, Prison Fellowship volunteers work alongside prison chaplains to invite incarcerated men and women to participate in Angel Tree. If you would like to find out about Prison Fellowship visit: www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

* **Arundel Cathedral** Christmas video: 'Unto Us A Child Is Born. Handel's 'For Unto Us A Child Is Born' is the soundtrack of Arundel Cathedral's stunning Christmas video this year. For the soundtrack they liaised with the acclaimed Ansan City Choir of South Korea. Watch the film at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNtyX3csk6A

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, send an email request to: carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk

Your contributions to this newsletter are very welcome.

"If you want to give God a laugh, tell Him your plans" Heard recently on BBC Radio 4 Thought for the Day