



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



6th December 2020 [Cycle B Year 1]

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 | Psalm 84

2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

Our God is coming. The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see [Exodus 23:20](#)). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see [Malachi 3:1, 23-24](#)).



John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to

this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

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Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You in to my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



God of truth, help us to prepare for the coming of your Son and to share the message of your love with others. Amen

Mass Intentions and Diary for the Week

Saturday 5	9.30am	Catherine Squires & Family
	11am	First Holy Communion Mass
	5pm	Devotion to Our Lady
	6pm	Riney Family (Personal Int.)
Sunday 6 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am	Emily, Paul & Diane Jones (RIP)
	10am	John Ryan (RIP)
	11.30am	Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)
Monday 7 <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am	Paul & Diane Jones (RIP)
Tuesday 8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	9.30am	Serena Stening (Private Int.)
	9.30am	Iman Alsoof (Thanksgiving)
Wednesday 9	8pm	Bible Study via zoom
	9.30am	Catherine Squires & Family
Thursday 10	8pm	Intercessory Prayer via zoom
	9.30am	Muriel Parnell (RIP)
Friday 11	9.30am	TBD
Saturday 12	9.30am	Devotion to Our Lady
	5pm	TBD
	6pm	TBD
Sunday 13 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am	TBD
	10am	Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)
	11.30am	TBD

Our Church is now open to You for Mass.

Of course, social distancing must be observed, masks must be worn, attendance forms completed and you should sanitize your hands before and after Mass.

You can also participate in Masses via one of the internet viewing methods listed below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2KUNCgNkREz3TWGBy2qzw>

On Facebook at 'St Margaret of ScotlandrcCarshalton Surrey' 'angelcam' Live Video at <https://st-margarets.click2stream.com/>

Southwark Advent Reflections 2020

Over the weeks of Advent, the Archdiocese of Southwark's Spirituality Commission will send daily reflections by email featuring thoughts, Scripture and prayer. Sign up at:

<http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv> .

The Significance of the Christmas Octave this year

Whilst you will be aware of the 12 days of Christmas, (Christmas Day to Epiphany), maybe you will be less aware of the Christmas Octave, (Christmas Day to January 1st the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God). There are no Christmas Carols that celebrate this period!

There are two octaves in the liturgical calendar: Easter and Christmas. These octaves give us time to impress upon our souls the mysteries, joys and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year.

This Christmas you will be able to attend Mass but numbers will be restricted because of the social distancing rules. As a solution to the normal high attendance at Christmas, Archbishop John Wilson has asked us to encourage making the full use of the Christmas Octave, so that as many as possible will be able to come to a Mass. Thus, you will be most welcome to celebrate the mystery of Christmas with the same sense of joy and solemnity, at any of the Masses during these 8 days.

Another measure recommended is that family groups and households should plan to come together for a Christmas Mass. This will allow the best use of the permitted seating.

Lastly, Fr Anthony is aiming to say additional Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. See below:

EARLY NOTICE of Our Christmas Octave Masses

Thursday 24th **Christmas Eve:** 9.30am, 5pm, 7pm, 11pm

Friday 25th **Christmas Day:** 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am

Saturday 26th **St Stephen's Day:** 10am, 6pm

Sunday 27th **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph:**
8.30am, 10am, 11.30am

Monday 28th **Holy Innocents:** 9.30am

Tuesday 29th **St Timothy & St Titus:** 9.30am

Wednesday 30th 9.30am

Thursday 31st **St Thomas Beckett:** 9.30am

Friday 29th **Mary, Holy Mother of God:** 9.30am



World Youth Day deferred to August 2023

World Youth Day (WYD) is an event for young people initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985. The next WYD was due to take place in Lisbon in 2022. Pope Francis has now moved the date

back by a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Set Your Captives Free is a recent report by Aid for the Church in Need (ACN) on Christians unjustly detained for their Faith. It highlights how, in many countries, people's lives are overshadowed by authoritarian regimes and militant groups, leading to the constant threat of kidnap or arrest – simply for professing their Christian faith.

Religious persecution affects more than our fellow Christians. There are, for example, shocking reports about the treatment of Uighurs in China; the threatened detention of Muslims in the Assam state of India; the targeting of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Bangladesh; and the plight of Yazidi in Iraq.

Find out more at: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/set-your-captives-free-report/>

Advent Food Collections for Purley Food Hub - a food bank to help local people in crisis. Please bring your donations to our church. More information on our website.

Desperate Times in Bethlehem

As debate rages around what shape our Christmas celebrations might take in the UK this year, the situation in the place where the Nativity story began is clear cut and desperate, Friends of the Holy Land has warned. Around 80% of Bethlehem's residents are dependent on tourism for their income, from hotel workers, taxi drivers and tour guides to the artisans who make souvenirs and the shop workers who sell them. Find out more about the charity at: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk.



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



Pray for the repose of the souls of: John Ryan, Beryl Palmier, Obdulia Emilia D'Souza Bento & Nicos Demetriades.

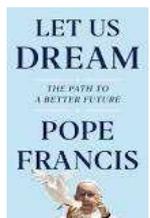
Anniversaries: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month. The Anniversaries are now listed on the front page of the website and on a poster in the meeting area.

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

Please share the information in this newsletter with other members of the parish with whom you have contact. With prayerful best wishes. Keep safe. *Fr Anthony*

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

* **Let Us Dream** is a new book from Pope Francis (and biographer Austen Ivereigh) outlines Francis's vision of a more economically and environmentally just post-coronavirus world where the poor, the elderly and weak are not left on the margins and the wealthy are not just consumed only with profit. This is a highly recommended gift for Christmas!



* Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. We even have a virtual Advent Calendar.

Visit www.cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. We can also stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at www.cafod.org.uk/advent

* CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Visit www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

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

"Only through Love can we attain to communion with God" *Albert Schweitzer (1875 – 1965) French physician*