



# St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

[www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.uk](http://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](mailto: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*



13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 [Cycle B Year 1]

Third Sunday of Advent

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

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



As we draw near to Christmas, the readings for this 'Gaudete' Sunday are full of rejoicing. We light a pink Advent candle to focus our attention on that spirit of joy. Perhaps this year, more than any other, our hearts are longing for news of joy and happiness. Though it may not be possible for us to worship today with those we long to gather with, Christ shares in our longing, standing among us and within us wherever we come to pray.

At this time, we are like the people of whom the prophet Isaiah speaks in the **First Reading**; a people who long for the One who will bring good news and proclaim liberty to captives.

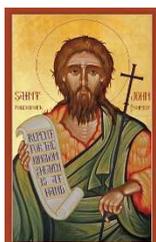
In the **Responsorial Psalm** we pray the words that Mary proclaimed as she rejoiced when visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Her joyful prayer of thanks celebrates God's saving promise to us all.

In the **Second Reading** we are encouraged to pray at all times with a spirit of gratitude, never dampening the flow of the Spirit in our lives.

*Gaudete Sunday Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.*

### Mass Intentions and Diary for the Week

Saturday 12	9.30am 5pm	Paul Jones (RIP) Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
	6pm	Luis Sanchez (Success)
Sunday 13 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Luis Sanchez Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP) Gailor Kessi (Thanksgiving)
Monday 14 <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	Heather Jones (Wellbeing)
Tuesday 15	9.30am	Josephine Stevens (RIP)
Wednesday 16	9.30am	Rosemary Pincombe & Andrew Schembri (RIP)
	8pm	Bible Study via zoom
Thursday 17	9.30am	Ann O'Mahony
	8pm	Intercessory Prayer via zoom
Friday 18	9.30am	Quigley Family
Saturday 19	9.30am 5pm	Luis Sanchez Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
	6pm	Joseph Elias (RIP)
Sunday 20 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Fr Kevin Pelham (RIP) Nan Cantillon (Thanksgiving) Obdula D'Souza Bento & Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)



The **Gospel** introduces John the Baptist as a messenger for the light. Hidden within a challenging dialogue with the priests and Levites, John reveals a deep truth: Christ stands among us and is truly Emmanuel – God with us – even when we are ignorant to his presence.

Let us remember each other, and the needs of the world in our prayer this week. We

remember also that we belong to a loving community of prayer that longs for and trusts in the light of Christ, even in the midst of the dark winter nights and difficult times in which we live.

So may our hearts and lives proclaim with every fibre of our being... *'Rejoice! The Lord is near!'* *St Beuno's Outreach*

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December is:

'For a life of prayer' and you can watch an associated video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJrVAXyKdLk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJrVAXyKdLk)

In the video, Pope Francis says: The heart of the Church's mission is prayer. Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father. Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us. We have a conversation with Jesus. We listen to Jesus and we reply. And this is prayer. By praying, we change reality. And we change our hearts. Our heart changes when we pray. We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer. In silence, everyone, each one in heartfelt prayer.

**Our Church is now open but please remember** 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/>

### Novena Prayer to St Margaret

O God, who didst render the Blessed Margaret truly admirable for her eminent charity towards the poor; grant, that by her intercession and through our following her example, Thy charity may ever increase in our hearts.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

## Christmas Offerings for Fr Anthony

One of the times our parish priest gets something close to a reasonable income is during Christmas. We know the year has been a difficult one for everybody; but let us be as generous as we can. Fr Anthony arrived in January, and suddenly he had to contend with a lockdown; but that did not deter him from offering us the Word and Sacraments everyday via Angelcam, YouTube, Facebook, etc. Let us appreciate his effort by donating generously during this Christmas.

As explained in the last edition, our Archbishop John Wilson has asked us to encourage making the full use of the Christmas Octave, so that as many parishioners as possible can come to Mass in these 8 days. It will be possible for you to give a Christmas gift at any time within the Octave; but unlike normal years, the collection plate will not be passed around, so how do you make an offering?

First of all, recognise that the Christmas Offerings can be 'Gift-aided', which will be of benefit to Fr Anthony. For those of you who have already signed up to Gift Aid money to St Margaret's, it is important that associated with your offering is your surname and the words "Christmas Offering". If you have a supply of the little green envelopes, then be sure it is marked "Christmas Offering".

If you are not signed up for Gift Aid but would like your offering to be Gift-aided then you need to additionally supply your full name and address, and a statement saying you want this offering to be Gift-aided.

Lastly these are the methods by which a payment can be made:

1. Cash or cheques can be posted into the parish house. Cheques should be made out to '**St Margaret's Church**'
2. 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.')
3. A credit or debit card payment can be made on our church SumUp card machine.
4. Or use the *Just Giving* website to make a payment.

The link is:

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmargaretofscotlandcarshaltonbeeches122?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=stmargaretofscotlandcarshaltonbeeches122&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=45d558090375481abfd66dbdc1dcb4bd%2%A0](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stmargaretofscotlandcarshaltonbeeches122?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=stmargaretofscotlandcarshaltonbeeches122&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=45d558090375481abfd66dbdc1dcb4bd%2%A0)

Or more succinctly: <https://tinyurl.com/y4poda57>

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## Our Christmas Octave Masses will be:

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve:** 9.30am, 5pm (for young children), 7pm & 11pm (Midnight Mass)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day:** 8.30am, 10am & 11.30am

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> **St Stephen's Day:** 10am & 6pm

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

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> **Holy Innocents:** 9.30am

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> **St Timothy & St Titus:** 9.30am

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> **St Thomas Beckett:** 9.30am

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> **Mary, Holy Mother of God:** 9.30am

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**Senior's Christmas Lunch:** Sadly, due to the Covid-19 situation we are unable to host our usual annual lunch for senior citizens.

"Condemn the fault and not the actor of it"

## Painting a Madonna

The sun lanced through the clear glass church window,  
An oblique corridor of light, moving ever closer,  
Until it fell on her face and shoulders.

She was oblivious to the effect.

Perhaps a slight smile at the unexpected warmth?

Her hair tumbled to her shoulders,

the light playing with it coquettishly, lighting strand by strand,  
Finding shadows, then the colours, dark, dark and russet  
flame.

The priest continued offering his sacrifice of bread and wine.

The third, rose-coloured, Gaudete Advent candle,  
Flickered in the unseen breeze of spirituality.

Her brown eyes followed the rite, long lash framed,  
Life shining. Her face was beautiful,

As she bent to embrace the child at her side,

Smiled an unspoken familiarity with her man.

And then the sun-shaft was gone.

I will never know who she was, but in that moment

I felt the passion of an artist painting a Madonna.

©Bernard Jacobs

**Purley Food Hub.** We are starting a new food collection point at St Margaret's Church for you to put items in when attending Mass. There will be a large labelled plastic box in which to place your items. This is in the first lobby as you enter or if you are just passing by when the church is open. This will be taken to the collection point at Purley Food Hub at least once a week so please don't be put off by it appearing empty! Non-perishable food and personal hygiene items are requested but no toys please, as these cannot be donated there. There is a list on the parish website of more specific items to donate if you wish to give according to the greatest needs that month.

Fr Anthony and I visited the distribution centre during lockdown and I have had experience sorting items in this well organised and dynamic food bank. Only recipients of food packages that are directed to the food bank by social services, welfare organisations or their doctor surgery are able to access this excellent service and are therefore very deserving of your generosity in providing for this most basic human need with dignity and kindness.

Yumna

**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

**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](mailto: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. *Fr Anthony*

Send your advert by email to: [carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk)

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, send an email request to: [carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk)  
Your contributions to this newsletter are very welcome.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) Playwright and poet