



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



20th December 2020 [Cycle B Year 1]

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-16 | Psalm 88 (89)

Romans 16: 25-27 | Luke 1:26-38

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see [Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9](#)).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see [Isaiah 7:13-14](#)). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the "daughter Jerusalem," called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty saviour (see [Zephaniah 3:14-17](#)).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High"—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see [Genesis 14:18-19](#)).

He will fulfil the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see [Daniel 4:14; 7:14](#)), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see [Exodus 19:3](#)), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see [Isaiah 2:1-5](#)).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we too must respond to this annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

Originally published by the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, Steubenville, Ohio

Attending Christmas Masses

Christmas is the most popular time in the year to attend Mass. This year the numbers at each Mass will be restricted. Although we do not have a booking system, you may wish to advise Fr Anthony when you would like to attend a Christmas Mass during the Octave. It would be helpful if you sent him an email identifying the Mass and the number of persons you expect to bring with you. This will not amount to a definite reservation but we will use this information to report the Masses that are likely to be over-subscribed in next week's newsletter and on our website. Please send Fr Anthony an email at this address: carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk



Hope, Love, Joy & Peace. This is also Sea Sunday!

Mass Intentions and Diary for the Week

Saturday 19	9.30am 5pm 6pm	Louis Sanchez Devotion to Our Lady Joseph Elias (RIP)
Sunday 20 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Psalm Wk 4	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Fr Kevin Pelham (RIP) Nan Cantillon (Thanksgiving) Obdula D'Souza Bento & Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)
Monday 21 <i>St Peter Canasius</i>	9.30am	The Hill Family
Tuesday 22	9.30am	Louis Sanchez (Success)
Wednesday 23	9.30am	Paul Jones (RIP)
Thursday 24	9.30am 5pm 7pm 11pm	Tokunbo Mitchell (birthday) Children of the Parish Padovan Family Parishioners over 70 years
Friday 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Parishioners below 70 years Parishioners below 40 years Youths of St Margaret's
Saturday 26 <i>St Stephen's Day</i>	10am 6pm	Altar Servers Zanelli Family
Sunday 27 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Wyn Davis (RIP) The Parish Augustus Ezebuiri (RIP)

Fr Anthony will be saying 16 Masses during the Christmas Octave, so it should be possible for everyone who wishes, to attend a Mass (between Dec 24th and Jan 1st). 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 Scotlandrcarshalton Surrey' Angelcam Live Video at <https://st-margarets.click2stream.com/>



180 CLUB



This Month's Winning Numbers (December)

1st Prize **£50** Winning Number: **136**
 2nd Prize **£25** Winning Number: **39**
 3rd Prize **£10** Winning Number: **121**
 PLUS
 Quarterly Prize **£50** Winning Number **98**

Postscript to Christmas Offering

Arising from last week's piece on making a Christmas Offering to Fr Anthony, a question has been raised by some on whether bank card payments made via the SumUp machine can be topped up with Gift Aid. The short answer is Yes, but how?

GiveALittle works with SumUp to achieve this. Initially one has to make a donation to St Margaret's using the GiveALittle website. In doing this one can select the Gift Aid option and fill in the Gift Aid necessities. Thereafter, one can donate via SumUp or via *GiveALittle*, and so long as you use the same bank card, the donation will be automatically recognised as a Gift Aided donation. The starting point is to visit *GiveALittle* at: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/fddd3732-9ee4-4333-a983-3f5ffe4a8158>

[Note: Of course, you can make a donation easily and simply using the SumUp machine without adding Gift Aid.]

Covid-19 and Vaccination

Concern has been expressed by some Catholics, and others, about the potential sources of a new vaccine since some vaccines have been developed in cell-lines which have their origin in tissues taken from human foetal tissue. In response to this, Catholic Bishops have provided guidance and some reassurance to those wishing to be vaccinated. You can read their view at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/covid-19-and-vaccination/>

Within this article, it states "A vaccine will seek to protect the whole of society from this virulent virus. Individuals should welcome the vaccine not only for the sake of their own health but also out of solidarity with others, especially the most vulnerable."

Over 300,000 people facing Covid-19 bereavement

Christmas 2020 is likely to be very different this year as Covid-19 safety restrictions will limit church celebrations and family gatherings. But also - more than 300,000 people in the UK will be suffering with bereavement - due to Covid-19, with communities in Essex, Kent, Lancashire, Birmingham and Surrey the most affected, according to research by the charity crisis bereavement service *Sudden*.

The charity is highlighting the importance of immediate support to help people deal with the unexpected death of a loved one, to help them cope, stay safe, deal with urgent practical and financial challenges and reduce the risk of mental health issues including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

[An extract taken from *Independent Catholic News*]



Papal Visit to Iraq in 2021

Iraq's Christians have welcomed news that Pope Francis is set to go to Iraq next Spring - the first time any pontiff will have visited the country.

Syriac Catholic Archbishop Nizar Semaan of Hadiab-Erbil warmly greeted the announcement made recently that Pope Francis will visit Iraq from 5th-8th March 2021 - including Erbil, Mosul and Qaraqosh in the Nineveh Plains where Christians were forced from their homes by Daesh (ISIS).

In the Recent Apostolic Letter entitled 'Patris corde' Pope Francis has proclaimed a special 'Year of St Joseph' beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to that same feast in 2021.

Francis wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

The Home Secretary, Priti Patel, has said that she will be looking at the possibility of introducing buffer zones around abortion centres across the UK. Two previous Home Secretaries looked into this, in the last couple of years and both felt that it would be wrong to introduce such legislation. If you would like to write to the Home Secretary, you can receive a template letter, with more details by emailing: info@goodcounselnetwork.com or telephone 02077231740.

A Christmas Prayer from the Church of England

God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always. Amen.

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.

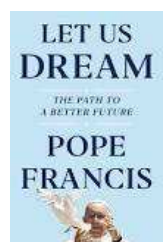
Anniversaries: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur this month. The Anniversaries are now listed on the front page of the website and on a poster in the meeting area.

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

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!



* **CAFOD 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

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