



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



Wishing all our readers a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas and praying that early in 2021, we will see an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.



25th December 2020 [Cycle B Year 1]

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10 | Psalm 97

Hebrews 1:1-6 | **John 1:1-18**

Sunday 27th December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | Psalm 104

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | **Luke 2:22-40**

My Brothers and my Sisters, what will Christmas be like this year? It is likely that we will miss out on some family gatherings, carol services and the opportunity to share some of the normal Christmas joy with others.

While the way we celebrate Christmas may indeed be different this year, the reason we celebrate remains steadfastly and reassuringly the same. God has sent His Son to live among us, to guide us and to know intimately the pain of human suffering.

Thank you for all you do, for your kindness and generous support in what has been a most difficult year for me and I'm sure for all of you.

God bless you. I warmly wish you a very joyful Christmas. Keep safe. *Fr Anthony*

Which Christmas Mass should you go to? To maintain the necessary social distancing, the 'straw poll' indicates the weekday 9.30 Masses during the Octave will be less well attended.

To attend Mass please remember social distancing must be observed, masks must be worn, attendance forms completed and you should sanitize your hands before and after Mass. **Also please leave the car park area immediately after mass and avoid all social interaction, even if outdoors.**

You can also participate in Masses using|:

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

On Facebook at 'St Margaret of Scotlandrcarshalton Surrey'

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

Mass Intentions and Diary for the Week

Thursday 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	9.30am 5pm 7pm 11pm	Tokunbo Mitchell (birthday) Children of the Parish The 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</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 Ezebuoro (RIP)
Psalm Wk 1		
Monday 28 <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.30am	Helen Ian Broek
Tuesday 29 <i>St Timothy & St Titus</i>	9.30am	Nick Heard (birthday)
Wednesday 30	9.30am	Rosemary Obike & James Obike (RIP) Imogen Heard (birthday) Thanksgiving Mass
Thursday 31 <i>St Thomas Beckett</i>	9.30am 7.30pm	
Friday 1 st Jan <i>Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	10am	The Obike Family (Octave Day)
Saturday 2 <i>St Basil & St Gregory</i>	9.30am 6pm	Nnanna Arua & Ogonna Nwokeji (RIP) TBD
Sunday 3 <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	8.30am 10am 11.30am	Beatrice Wilkinson (Wellbeing) Nan Waldron (RIP) Augustus Ezebuoro (RIP)

Saint Stephen, First Martyr of Christianity.

(Feast Day 26th December)

Stephen was a Greek-speaking Jew (Hellenist) who lived in Jerusalem and converted to Christianity. He is described in Acts as a man “full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5), “full of God’s grace and power, who performed great miracles and wonders among the people” (Acts 6:8) and with a face like that of an angel (Acts 6:15). He was one of the first seven deacons of the early Church, ordained by the Apostles to assist them by carrying out charitable works, after complaints from the Greek-speaking Christians that the care of their elderly widows was neglected by the Hebrew-speaking Christians (Acts 6:1-5). He engaged in religious discussions with the Jewish Diaspora and spoke with great wisdom. Stephen revered the Law of Moses, but he was opposed to the Temple in Jerusalem and its sacrificial cult. He considered the building of the Temple a form of idolatry comparable to Aaron’s golden calf. “The Most High God does not live in houses built by human hands” (Acts 7:40-42;48).

His teachings angered some members of the synagogues and as the number of Jewish converts grew, his success provoked jealousy and hatred among fellow Jews, who slandered and



Stoning of SAINT STEPHEN by Tintoretto

distorted his words. Because they could not argue with the wisdom with which Stephen spoke, he was dragged before the Sanhedrin and charged with speaking against the Law and the Temple. There he gave a speech summarising the history of Israel (Acts 7:2-47) and accusing them of having an idolatrous spirit like that of their ancestors and of betraying and murdering Jesus Christ (Acts 7:51-53). The Sanhedrin became enraged at this (Acts 7:54). Stephen, however,

in a moment of rapture looked up to heaven and said “I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right-hand side of God (Acts 7:56). At this, he was dragged out of the city and stoned to death (Acts 7:57-60). It is worth noting that the title “Son of Man” is used in the New Testament only by Jesus himself, with this exception. It is also significant that Saul of Tarsus, later renamed Paul, was present at Stephen’s stoning and would later go on to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles including Stephen’s own people, the Greeks. Stephen died in 36AD. His death signalled the persecution of the Christians in Jerusalem spurred on by Saul (Acts 8:1-3).

Stephen died looking up to heaven with a vision of God before his eyes and with words of forgiveness on his lips (Acts 7:60). It’s a death that mirrors Jesus’ (Luke 23:34). Stephen dies as Jesus did: falsely accused and brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. As the Christian author Tertullian says “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the ...

Church”. So Stephen, by dying in this way, as the first Martyr, sets the example of bravery, forgiveness and absolute trust in God. Stephen died so that faith could live. In this he emulated Christ himself. His blood watered St Paul’s seed of faith.

Devotion to St Stephen was probably immediate. He became an icon of Christian sacrifice throughout Roman Times and beyond. He is the Patron Saint of deacons, altar servers, stonemasons and headaches. *Our Parish Evangelical Group*



The Crib has been made ready to receive Jesus.

Thanks to Yumna and her team of helpers. Please come and say a prayer. It is sited where our choir normally sings.

A Prayer from Stella Maris

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who sacrifice their home and family life, to work as seafarers....

Bring them safely home to shore, and at the end of their contract, return them into the loving arms of their families and friends. We ask this in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Prayer requests: Baby Albie Thomson and his parents Ben & Sophie, Rosie Lopez, Paul Harris, Irma Foster, Laura Bannon, Yvonne Wyatt and Margaret Fox.



Pray for the repose of the souls of: Nan Waldron, 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

Suggestions for New Year Resolutions

CAFOD Just one world CAFOD has a number of suggestions for ‘New Year’s resolutions with a difference. These include writing to your MP, volunteering, take time to reflect and pray, etc.. Take a look at:

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

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

* **BBC Christmas Religious Programmes** are especially good this year. Discover more at:

www.bbc.com/mediacentre/mediapacks/christmas-religion

* **Shop early for next Christmas?** Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) have managed to source a small selection of olive wood products directly from craftsmen in Bethlehem. As you may be aware the souvenir shops are currently closed and these craftsmen are out of work so your orders are much appreciated.

FHL also have a selection of Christmas cards that help spread awareness of their mission to your friends and family. Find out more at:

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Pages/Shop/Default.aspx>

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