



St Margaret

of Scotland

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fir Tree Grove, Carshalton, SM5 4NG

www.stmargaretcarshaltonb.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

Parish Newsletter

No: 13/20

For Sunday 29th March 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR:	Father Anthony Uche, OP
PHONE NO:	0208 647 7748. FAX: 0208 869 6483. In emergency ONLY, if Father Anthony is not available, ring 0208 547 5079 or 0208 647 0022
OFFICE E-MAIL:	carshaltonbeeches@rcaos.org.uk
PPC E-MAIL:	carshaltonbeechesppc@rcaos.org.uk
SUNDAY MASS:	9.30 am and 11.00am. Also Saturday (Vigil) at 6.00 pm.
WEEKDAY MASS:	Weekdays at 9.30 am. Saturday morning at 10.00 am
HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:	10.00 am and 7.30 pm.
CONFESSIONS:	By appointment. Please contact Fr Anthony
ANNOINTING OF THE SICK	Please contact Fr Anthony
VARIATIONS:	Please see the Weekly Diary for any changes to the above times.
MARRIAGES:	Six months' notice is ordinarily required
BAPTISMS:	On second Saturdays of the month

CORONAVIRUS

In line with the latest advice from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, public acts of worship in the Parish will be suspended until further notice.

Our church building will be closed to parishioners and the general public until further notice.

However, the celebration of Sunday Masses and day by day will take place without the Congregation being present.

For as long as these emergency circumstances last, the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed.

All Masses already booked to date will be said as intended. Those who wish to offer Masses can continue to do by emailing or phoning the Parish Office. Mass offering contributions can be made directly to the bank.

Dear Parishioners

St Margaret's Parish and the Coronavirus

The Bishops of England and Wales have instructed parishes to cease the public celebration of Holy Mass and other public acts of worship until further notice.

Together with representatives of the Parish Pastoral Council, I have considered what further steps we should now take to assist parishioners with their spiritual and material needs in the current situation and, in particular, the needs of those who are having to isolate themselves.

With this aim we are taking the following actions:

- We have suspended First Communion classes and we will postpone the First Communion Mass (which was to be held on 13 June) to a date later in the year. The provisional new date is Saturday 21 November.
- The church building will be closed to the public until further notice.
- I will continue to celebrate daily Mass in the church in private. You can follow the service on;
 - Facebook livestreaming (please use **Uche Tonycarshalton**) or
 - YouTube channel (please search for "**St Margaret of Scotland-RC-Carshalton**").
- The Reconciliation Service planned for 30 March will not go ahead. Please contact me at any time if you wish to have Confession.
- We are forming a Rapid Response Team to provide assistance where necessary to parishioners who are self-isolating because of the coronavirus outbreak. Please refer to the note from the PPC in this Newsletter.

The absence of the Sunday Collection will inevitably reduce the parish's income. If you normally contribute to the church by envelope or cash in the collection, we hope that you will instead feel able to give your contribution by bank transfer. (Details below).

Account: St Margarets Catholic Church RC Diocese of Southwark,
Reg Charity No 23568
Branch: Natwest, Wallington
Sorting code: 60-22-20
Account No: 11064145

Above all, we ask all our parishioners to remain unceasing in prayer for deliverance from the coronavirus and, in particular, for the welfare of the most vulnerable in our community.

May God bless you all and keep you safe at this time.

Father Anthony Uche

POPE FRANCIS has decided that his daily 7 am (6 am GMT) Mass in the Casa Santa Marta guesthouse where he lives will be broadcast live, so as to be close to all those who are suffering from the current coronavirus epidemic. To date, the Pontiff has never permitted transmission of this morning Mass, wishing to preserve its intimate, familial character. You can watch live, or catch up later in the day on www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta, (which is accompanied by an English translation). Note: when you reach the link, you need to scroll down to the bottom of the page to reach the televised Mass. The Mass is recorded, so you can watch it any time.

Diary for the Week STARTING Sunday 29th March 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Day	Mass Time		Mass Intention
SUNDAY Mass	6.00 pm Saturday (Vigil)		
	9.30 am Family Mass		Maureen McCarthy RIP
	11.00 am Holy Mass		
MONDAY	9.30 am	Feria Morning Prayer & Holy Mass	
TUESDAY	9.30 am	Feria Morning Prayer & Holy Mass	
WEDNESDAY	9.30 am	Feria Morning Prayer & Holy Mass	
THURSDAY	9.30 am	Feria Morning Prayer & Holy Mass	
FRIDAY	9.30 am	Feria Morning Prayer & Holy Mass	
SATURDAY	10.00 am	Feria Holy Mass	

Prayers for When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly, prepared by the Bishops' Conference.

Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul

So that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen

A Reflection by Paul Ford, PPC Lead for Parish Strategy

His Grace, Most Reverend John Wilson, has asked us to comply fully with the directive from of our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, who has asked us to stay at home. We are to leave only to complete essential shopping, daily exercise, obtain medical care and undertake absolutely necessary work. Thus, "until further notice", the doors of our church will be closed to public. "This is an essential component of our contribution to fighting the Coronavirus and living out the Lord Jesus' commandment to 'love our neighbour' (MK12:31)". Nonetheless, we hope to offer care and support to the vulnerable within our local community when the need arises.

In order to strengthen our relationship with Christ and to protect the bond between the Head and the Mystical Body of Christ, the Archbishop has asked us to use social media for live streaming of Mass and devotions. Thus, we started last week live-streaming of Mass Facebook (Username: Uche TonyCarshalton), and we also created a YouTube channel (St Margaret of Scotland-RC-Carshalton) which would be used for live-streaming in the coming days. We are also currently working on acquiring CCTV cameras for security and live streaming of our celebrations. Thus, financial donations are much needed at this time to support our parish's alternative means of delivering services. Donations can be made through bank transfer listed above. Furthermore, some parishioners have donated non-perishable food items for those who might need. Again, we thank you for your support and we pray the Lord protect us all.

My reflection this week concerns the power of prayer and I share with you my thoughts. I am not an expert in prayer. Nobody is. We are all beginners in the life of prayer, and will always be so, because God is so vast, and God's gift of prayer has infinite dimensions for exploration. Teresa of Avila said, "no one is so advance in prayer that they do not often have to return the beginning". "Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1)

"But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

So, is there any specific instruction from the Lord to those of us who are anxious? Paul tells us in the second part of Philippians 4:6 to take everything to the Lord in prayer.

The next step to overcoming worry is to pray. Pray about everything.

We conquer worry by taking everything to the Lord in prayer.

Prayer in everything is the antidote to worrying about anything.

Prayer is conversation with God and is the means through which we draw on the resources of heaven for our pain and struggles here on earth.

Prayer, then, in all of life, is one of the most effective, precious, life-transforming, and God-honouring means of grace that our heavenly Father has placed at our disposal. To be able to talk to our heavenly Father is one of the greatest privileges we have on earth! Prayer is conversation with God and is the means through which we draw on the resources of heaven for our pain and struggles here on earth.

Prayer was a vital part of Jesus' life. Even on the cross while enveloped in darkness, before He bowed His sacred head, breathed His last, and voluntarily yielded up His spirit in death, prayer was on His sinless lips: "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Our Lord demonstrated to us that no matter how dark it gets; prayer is still appropriate and necessary. It is quite possible that in our digital, high-tech, and secular world, with all of its scientific advances, we may underestimate the place and power of prayer in our lives as followers of Christ. Today, if we have a pandemic, an economic crisis, or some major technological setback, as a culture, we call on technocrats, scientists, or other experts to solve the problems of the environment and the human condition. The big ideas of twenty-first-century life is to work the problem until we find a solution. God is not even a part of the problem-solving equation. In the ancient world, people called on God or idols, but twenty- first-century secular culture and mindset does not consider prayer to be a major part of a solution on earth. And because we live in a culture with this worldview, this mindset can seep into us and shape how we think about prayer.

In our world where people are once, twice, or perhaps three times removed from the presence of God through the so-called laws of nature, science, and digital technology, we may neglect the place of prayer in our lives as Christians. But if we take the Bible seriously, it is clear that prayer should hold a big place in our lives today. It is key to the conquest of worry.

Our all-knowing heavenly Father wants us to trust Him and depend on Him. The fact that our Father already knows our needs and cares is a major incentive for believing prayer and trusting in Him (Matt. 6:32-33).

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR: Connie Harrington, (Lynn Pougher's mother), Angel Bridi, John Ryan (Richard Thomson's brother-in-law), Steven Conroy, Paul Field (Father Kevin's Nephew), Mike Nolan, Laura Bannon (Mia's Mother), Stephen Martin, Joe Ryan, Juliana Amaral, Nina Greenoak & Lauren Horwood (Juliana's granddaughters), Jackie Sweeney & Ray Sweeney (Ita Haines' sister-in-law's sister-in-law & son-in-law), Liz Beddoe (Lynn Pougher's sister-in-law), Nora Chapman, Margaret Fox, Angela Kelly and Roger & Adrienne Stokes (Peter's brother and sister-in-law), Catherine Roberts, Phil Quigley (Mike's brother), Carla Doran (Rosanna Mason's mother) and Theresa Fox.

LATELY DEAD: Archbishop Peter Smith

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Noleen Coulter (Richard Johnston's aunt), Joseph Musa (Alison Ajayi's family friend)

ANNIVERSARIES: Saint Pope John Paul II, Francis Fahy, Ray McConnell, Annie Cheeseman, Ronald Allen, Irene Graham (June Verri's mother, Francis Coni (Ann Milton's sister), Frederick Crilly, David Savan, Dr Richard O'Farrell, John Vaughan, Ivy Leins, Mabel Pratt, Eileen Egan, Rosetta Boxall, Reginald Howick (Pauline McCran's father), Michael Kelly, Maureen Nowers, Sidney Ratcliff.

NEW PILGRIM PATH (www.newpilgrimpath.ie) is inspired by Pope Francis's enthusiasm for the internet. He urges Christian to "walk the streets of the digital highways in order to dialogue with people today and to help them encounter Christ". Each week they feature a website which may be of interest to fellow Christians Church services have been suspended in many places across the world. Social life has changed dramatically and countless people have been quarantined or are self-isolating. At times like this, there is a great longing for community. Across these islands and across the world, many church services from different Christian denominations are being streamed online. Anyone participating in an online service, from their desktop or laptop or mobile device, in the solitude of their home, is - for that space of time - a member of an online worship community. There are links to a number of these resources on the website, which will be refreshed as time goes on. Some services can only be watched live; others are recoded and can be listened to at any time.

Online Prayer Resources During Mass Suspension

[Universalis](#) (Available free online or as a paid app)

[Magnificat](#) is providing complimentary access to its resources during this time.

Apps including Laudate, [iMissal](#) and [iBreviary](#)

[Prayers during a time of 'flu and illness](#), prepared by the Liturgy Office.

[Click to Pray](#) is the home of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and provides three brief moments of prayer each day as well as allowing you share your own prayer intentions for all to pray.