

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARGARET ALL SAINTS

St Margaret's Church, Barking Road E16 4HB | St Margaret's Convent Chapel, Bethel Avenue E16 4JU

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Parish Priest: Monsignor John Armitage

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 2025: THE HOLY YEAR OF HOPE

First reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

*What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
we thought we were dreaming.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

*What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

Then they said among the nations,
'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!'

What great deeds the Lord worked for us!

Indeed, we were glad.

*What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

*What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

*What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.*

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Second reading

Philippians 3:8-14

Brothers and Sisters: I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith – that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. **Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God**

Gospel John 8:1-11

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.

FEASTS | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS
Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 846|936|607|801

| Date & Feast | Time | Intention | Location | Parish Events |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | All in Parish Centre |
| Saturday, 05 th St Vincent Ferrer | 5.00pm 6.30pm | Confessions Imade & Francesca Ojefua – INT | St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | 10.00 Parish First Communion Group |
| Sunday, 06 th Fifth Sunday of Lent | 10.00am 12.00pm 06.00pm | Evelyn Wickens – RIP Isabel & Family – Thanksgiving People of the Parish Gregorio Da Gum – INT | Convent Chapel St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | |
| Monday, 07 th | 09:30am | Michael & Margaret Freeman – RIP | Chapel in Convent | 10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank 17.30 – 18.30 Parish Surgery |
| Tuesday, 08 th | 9.30am 10.00 – 12.00 | Paul – RIP Michael & Mary Feeney RIP Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | |
| Wednesday, 09 th | 9.30am | Catalino & Emiliana Tabula – RIP | St Margaret’s | 10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 – AA Meeting |
| Thursday, 10 th | 7.00pm 7.30pm | Theresa Zerafa – RIP Confessions | St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | 11- 12 Coffee Morning 18.00 – 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets |
| Friday, 11 th | 9.15am 1.00pm 7.00pm | Noreen Feeney – Thanksgiving Requiem Mass- Catherine Amoako Stations of the Cross | Convent Chapel Convent Chapel St Margaret’s | 18.00 Legion of Mary |
| Saturday, 12 th | 5.00pm 6.30pm | Confessions Francesca Ojefua – INT | St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | 10.00 Parish First Communion Group 10.00 Polishing Saturday |
| Sunday, 13 th Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The Lord | 10.00am 12.00pm 06.00pm | Rosa During - Thanksgiving Emmanuel Chimi – INT Cecilia Ndirangu – Thanks Kit – INT People of the Parish | Convent Chapel St Margaret’s St Margaret’s | Blessing of Palms at all Masses |
| Other Sunday Masses | 09.00am 12.00pm 5.00pm | Romanian Mass (Latin Rite) Romanian Mass (Greek Catholic) Latin Mass (Extraordinary Rite) | St Margaret’s Convent Chapel Convent Chapel | |

MEDITATION

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death. In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus. Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in [Mark 12:13-17](#). Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus. Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote. We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See [Luke 18:9-14](#)). Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin. Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

WEEKLY NOTICES

FROM OUR BISHOP

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. Right to Life is also distributing postcards to parishes for the faithful to send to their MPs on this subject.

I have also been approached by the Care Not Killing Alliance advertising their work in defeating the proposed legislation on Assisted Suicide. If you would like more information, please see: www.carenotkilling.org.uk A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

GIFT AID The new financial year has started. **Please discard all old Gift Aid envelopes and only use those for the current year.** Some numbers have been reallocated, so it is important collect your current envelopes. Many issued envelopes have not been collected! Please collect them from the back of our churches after Masses at the weekend or from the parish centre during office hours. If you have used the Gift Aid envelopes in the past and cannot find yours, please leave your name and envelope number - the Gift Aid organiser will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY Please note to only take one palm per family, if there are extras at the end of the last Mass, people can ask for other members of the family and friends.

POLISHING SATURDAY WITH CAKES!! Next Saturday staring at 10.00 we shall have our annual Polishing of the Parishes, silver and brass. All will be provided, brasso and clothes, tea and cakes! Come any time between 10.00 and 12 Noon.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 24th May 2025: All spaces are now full, payment for the trip can be handed in in an envelope clearly marked with your name and Walsingham Pilgrimage Please give it to one of the Ushers at the back of the Church

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS Stations of the Cross will begin on Friday 7th March at 7pm in St Margarets

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE I would like to meet with the Parish Finance committee could we meet on the 26th April at 10.00 in the Presbytery? Please let Fr John know if you are free.

PARISH COFFEE MORNING Every Thursday 11am - 1pm. Come along for a chat and meet new friends, drinks and light refreshment available. All are welcome

ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th April at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

LECTIO DIVINA led by Sister Agnes (FMM) – The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th April at 5.30pm in the Convent.

PIPE ORGAN IN ST MARGARETS Next year we shall celebrate the 75th anniversary of the reopening of St Margarets **when** the Church we rebuilt after the war damage of 1941. The Pipe organ in St Margarets was put in the Church at this time and I have been informed that it will need to be rebuilt as it is coming to the end of its working life. The work will take two months, and the organ will be taken to the Organ builder's workshop. The estimate for the work is £14,000. As the saying goes, all contributions gratefully received!

GETTING MARRIED If you are planning to get married this year, you must make contact with Father John as soon as possible,

SIX MONTHS notice is required to get the necessary paperwork and preparation completed. This is especially the case if you are getting married abroad. Please come to the Parish Surgery and we can start the process.





PARISH CATHECHISTS We are blessed to have excellent Catechists in our Parish who help with the preparation of First Holy Communion for children attending non-Catholic schools, and Confirmation. We also work closely with St Helen who prepare the children in the school for their First holy Communion. We are however sometimes presented from time to time with older children who wish to be baptised and to receive the other sacraments and we need some extra help for these children and teenagers. If you are a teacher or have been a catechist in another Parish and think you might be able to help, please contact Fr John or Linda Balaga. It is possible to undertake a Certificate in Catechesis see lightoftruth.uk/certificate

LAST WEDNESDAY CLUB will run every last Wednesday of the month, 2pm-4pm, ground floor, Parish Centre.

RED BOXES Thank you to all the people who took Red Boxes for the Mission Appeal. When your boxes are full, please empty the box of the money, **KEEP THE BOX** and return the money to the Church with your name attached.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Catherine Amoako and Terry Prendergast whose funerals will take place this week, may they rest in Peace. Amen

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT

| Donate £3.00 | Donate £5.00 | Donate £10.00 | Donate £20.00 |
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WEEKLY COLLECTION

Plate Collection £1078.46 | Envelopes £677.87 | Digital Plates £357.00 | Total £2113.27

Thank you for your generous support of the Parish

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| WEEKLY PARISH SURGERY | If you wish to speak to Fr John about Baptism, Marriage, the signing of forms or any other matters please come to the Parish Surgery each Monday between 5.30 and 6.30 in the Parish Centre |
| PARISH OFFICE | THE PARISH OFFICE is open 5 days a week from 9am until 1pm. All normal enquiries can be made by phone 0207 476 4129 or email canningtown@brcdt.org . All enquires made after 1pm will be answered the next working day. |
| ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? | If you are considering becoming a Catholic or would like to know more about the Catholic faith then please have a word with Fr John. You may like to go online and have a look at the following websites. www.catholic.com/tract/how-to-become-a-catholic https://mycatholic.life/rcia/ |
| REPOSITORY | The Repository Shop for the sale of religious articles is open from 10.00 – 12.00 Noon, seven days a week, and after the 12 Noon Mass on Sundays. |
| BAPTISM | Baptisms are celebrated on the First and Third Saturday of the month at 12.00 apart from August. Registration for Baptism should be made on any Monday at the Parish Surgery between 5.30 and 6.30pm in the Parish Centre behind St Margarets Church. Baptism Preparation takes place on the Second Saturday of the month at 10.00 in the Parish Centre. |
| FIRST HOLY COMMUNION | The preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion take place each year. There are two Groups: St Helens Group, for children attending the Parish School, and the Parish Group for children attending Catholic schools outside of the Parish and children attending Non-Catholic Schools. Registration for both groups take place in October each year. The next First Communion registration will take place in October 2025. The minimum age is 7 years old. |
| CONFIRMATON | The Preparation for Confirmation is now underway. The next Preparation Class for Confirmation will take place later in the Year. |
| MARRIAGE | Couples who wish to get Married must give at least SIX MONTHS notice. This is vitally important for those who are getting married abroad. Please see one of the priests. |
| ANOINTING OF THE SICK | People wishing to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, who are housebound or in hospital should contact one of the priests. If you are in hospital, ask the nursing staff to call for the Duty Catholic Chaplain or call the Parish phone number 0207 476 4129 |
| FUNERALS | If a family member or friend, had died please let us know so that we may remember them at Mass. In regard to the Funeral arrangements please contact a local Undertaker who will liaise with the Parish to arrange your requirements for the funeral. If you need to find an Undertaker, please speak to one of the priests. |

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Secretary: Marie O’Hanlon

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR)

St Helen’s School

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish Sister:

St Bonaventure’s Boys School;

St Angela’s Girls School

Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm 020 7476 4129

Sister Agnes, St Margaret’s Convent Bethell Avenue, E16 4JU 020 7511 3463

Father Tansi, St Fidelis Friary Killip Close E16 1LX 020 7474 0766

Headteacher: Claire Doherty Chargeable Lane, E13 8DW 020 7476 1785

Mary West 0207 476 4129 – canningtown@brcdt.org

Sister Barbara 020 8525 4229

Headteacher: Chris McCormack Boleyn Rd, Forest Gate, E7 9QD 0208472 2749

Headteacher: Mark Johnson, St George’s Rd, Forest Gate E78HX 020 8472 3844