

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

Tel: 0207 476 4129 | Email: canningtown@brcdt.org | Website: www.smct.church

Parish Priest: Monsignor John Armitage

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 30th November 2025 |

First reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as it is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. There were set the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray, 'May they prosper, those who love you.' May peace abide in your walls, and security be in your towers.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For the sake of my family and friends, let me say, 'Peace upon you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek good things for you.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second reading

Romans 13:11-14a

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 92|88|84|91

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday 29 th Feria	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Sebastian Ukegheson - RIP Tracy Flynn - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday 30 th First Sunday of Advent	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Judy Lobo - TG Les Fehily - RIP Gillian McEvoy - RIP Patricia Alice Beck - RIP Annabella Franfa De La Cruz - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Monday, 1 st Monday of the First Week of Advent	09:30 am	Mary Power - RIP - F Alphonse Joseph - RIP Percy Miranda - RIP	Chapel in Convent	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank NO PARISH SURGERY THIS WEEK
Tuesday, 2 nd Tuesday of the First Week of Advent	9.30 am	Aurea Cardena - TG	St Margarets	Nifty Fifties - 12 pm - 2 pm
Wednesday, 3 rd St Francis Xavier, Pr	9.30 am	Patrick & Katie Ramsey - INT Myles & Jan Walsh - INT	St Margaret's	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 4 th St John of Damascus, Pr, D	7.00 pm 7.30-8.00	Mary Ann Ellul - RIP Maria Emilia De Sousa - RIP Confessions & Adoration	St Margaret's St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday, 5 th Friday of the First Week of Advent	9.15 am	Elaine & Peter - INT Imogen Lobo - TG	Convent Chapel	18.00 Legion of Mary
Saturday, 6 th St Nicholas, Bp	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Mark Solomon - RIP Antonio Leandro Bettencourt - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday, 7 th Second Sunday of Advent	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Tracy Flynn - RIP Gillian McEvoy - RIP Eileen & Alan Pratten - RIP Maria Emilia De Sousa - RIP Aurora, Maze, Mendes, Concalbes Centenacum Joaquim & Manuel Dias - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Other Sunday Masses	09.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Romanian Mass (Latin Rite)1 Romanian Mass (Greek Catholic) Latin Mass (Extraordinary Rite)	St Margaret's Convent Chapel Convent Chapel	

MEDITATION

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory. The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be. The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming, even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

WEEKLY NOTICES

Bishop Thomas McMahon RIP. The death of our former Bishop was announced this week. He died peacefully at home. He served the Diocese as a priest and Bishop for over 50 years. Please pray for him, as we give thanks to God for a life dedicated to the care of the parishes and people of this Diocese. May he rest in peace. Amen

WELCOME TO MARY'S MEALS. Today, we shall have a presentation for the wonderful Charity Mary's Meals. We welcome our two speakers to tell us about this inspirational Catholic Charity.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION – Registration took place on Friday, 28th November. Thank you to those who attended. If you have not registered to join the Confirmation Group for 2026, please see Fr John after Mass or attend the Parish Surgery on a Monday evening.

THE CHRISTMAS SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER – The Christmas Dinner is next Saturday, **6th December, in St Helen's School.** The list is now closed. The doors will open at 12.00 Noon, and the entrance to the school is the back entrance on Falson St.

ARISE | THE PARISH GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS. This group is for young adults between the ages of 18 and 40. It meets every other week on a Friday night upstairs in the Parish Centre. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 5th December, from 7 pm. If you are new to the Parish, you would be very welcome to come along and meet some new local friends.

LECTIO DIVINA led by Sister Agnes (FMM) – The next meeting will take place **on Wednesday, 10th December at 7.00 pm** in the Convent

DBS – Can all catechists, eucharistic ministers who make home visits and anyone who works with children and vulnerable adults within the parish please confirm with the parish office that your DBS is up to date and supply the up-to-date DBS numbers and date of issue at your earliest convenience.

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - RECEPTION 2026 ADMISSIONS - If you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, please come along to our Reception 2026 Open Day and Tour on the following dates: **20 Nov 2025, 27 Nov 2025 and 11 Dec 2025.** There are two slots available for you to choose from: 9.00am or 2pm. Please arrive at the main entrance, where you will be collected to look around the school and see our grounds and provisions. You may contact the school office for more information on 0207 476 1785.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – November sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday 15th November and Saturday 29th November in the parish centre. (This is only for the parish group, not the children in St Helens. The mass for all children registered will take place on Sunday, 30th November, in the Convent Chapel. **ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC** If you, or someone you know, is considering becoming a Catholic, or wants to know what it might entail, the Parish Group meets each Tuesday at 6.30 pm in the Parish Centre, all are welcome.

LEGION OF MARY BRENTWOOD AREA ANNUAL REUNION will take place on Saturday, 6th December from 2 pm – 4 pm in the parish centre, all welcome.

THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT OCTOBER 2025 - The October 50/50 Draw is now Open. Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass. **October Update:** The total amount collected for October **was £1223.00! £611.50** will go toward the maintenance of the Churches, and £611.50 will be prize money, **2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 01735 (White Ticket) 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 00815 (White Ticket).** If you have one of the winning tickets, please write your name and contact details on the back of the ticket, and please email the parish office to arrange a convenient time to discuss payment options. Congratulations to the winners!

SEA CADETS CHRISTMAS FARE – Saturday 13th December 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm in the parish hall, there will be raffles, refreshments, games and a Santa's grotto. There are limited tables for hire at £10 each, for the sale of new or handmade goods. For more info, please email Nicola westhamscc.co@gmail.com


FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING – We need a few people who attend Mass regularly to act as a fire marshal if ever needed. The training is supplied by a short video online. If this is something you could help us with, please see Fr. John or email the parish office.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT ST HELEN'S SCHOOL - entrance via Falcon St E13 8DD Saturday 20th Dec 12:00-3:00 pm - £2 entry per person (under 2's free) cash & cards accepted - Tokens on sale for activities Visit Santa's grotto - Meet Fr Christmas & receive a Gift Hot & cold drinks, snacks & hot dogs on sale Music, arts & crafts, games, activities, bouncy castle & much more All money raised goes to Charity - HCPT Group 84 Registered Charity England & Wales (281074)

LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE: Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes next summer: Friday 17th - Friday 24th July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

THERE IS NO PARISH PRIEST SURGERY ON MONDAY, 1ST DECEMBER.

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
			

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Plate Collection £677.10 | Envelopes £617.33 | Digital Plates £685.00 | Total £1979.43

Thank you for your generous support of the Parish

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/ Meeting every Tuesday at 6.30pm
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 can be made on any Monday at the Parish Surgery between 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Parish Centre behind St Margaret's Church. Baptism Preparation usually takes place on the second Saturday of the month, at 10.00 in the Parish Centre, when the date of the baptism will be confirmed.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	The preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion takes 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 takes place in October each year.
CONFIRMATION	REGISTRATION FRIDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER 6.30 PM PARISH HALL
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 Fr. John
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 has 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.
CERTIFICATES	BAPTISMAL AND CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES. The Parish issues these certificates are an important document. Please make sure you keep them safe. We are experiencing a high demand of requests for Copies of the original certificates. This presents a great demand on a very small Parish Office. So, in the future, if you wish to have a copy, there will be an administrative fee of £5.00

PARISH CONTACTS	
Parish Secretary: Marie O'Hanlon	Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm 020 7476 4129
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)	Sister Agnes, St Margaret's Convent Bethell Avenue, E16 4JU 020 7511 3463
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR)	Father Francesco, St Fidelis Friary Killip Close E16 1LX 020 7474 0766
St Helen's School	Headteacher: Claire Doherty Chargeable Lane, E13 8DW 020 7476 1785
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mary West 0207 476 4129 – canningtown@brcdt.org
Parish Sister:	Sister Barbara 020 8525 4229
St Bonaventure's Boys School;	Headteacher: Chris McCormack Boleyn Rd, Forest Gate, E7 9QD 0208472 2749
St Angela's Girls School	Headteacher: Mark Johnson, St George's Rd, Forest Gate E7 8HX 020 8472
Youth Representative	smctyouthcouncil@gmail.com