

# 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 07<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 |

## First reading

### Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples, of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

*In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.

*In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

*In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.

*In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

*In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

## Second reading

### Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

**Alleluia, alleluia,** Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel Matthew 3:1-12** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." ' Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 94| 100| 101| 102

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday 06 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the First Week of Advent	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Mark Solomon – RIP Antonio Leandro Bettencourt – RIP	St Margaret’s St Margaret’s	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> 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	
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	09:30 am	Mary Tay – TG	Chapel in Convent	10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank NO PARISH SURGERY THIS WEEK
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent	9.30 am	Victor Terry – RIP Bella Dela Cruz – RIP	St Margarets	Nifty Fifties – 12 pm – 2 pm
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent	9.30 am	April Jen Abella – TG	St Margaret’s	10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 – AA Meeting
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	11.00 am 7.00 pm  7.30-8.00	Funeral – Violeta Tanalega Elizabeth Latani – RIP Esther Joseph – RIP Confessions & Adoration	St Margaret’s St Margaret’s  St Margaret’s	18.00 – 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the Second Week of Advent	9.15 am	Melvin Peter & Sunitha Alphonse – TG Wedding Anniversary St Joseph – INT	Convent Chapel	18.00 Legion of Mary
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> St Lucy, V, M	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Sebastian Ukegheson – RIP Souls in Purgatory	St Margaret’s St Margaret’s	
Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday	10.00 am 12.00 pm  6.00 pm	Isobel Wilson – RIP Howard & Emma Dadfield – INT Lyn Philips – INT Ntoukam Elizabeth Latani – RIP Marie Kelly – 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

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11). In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: “. . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals” (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

## WEEKLY NOTICES

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO MARY'S MEALS LAST WEEKEND:** We are delighted to share that through your kind donations to Mary's Meals, over £1000 was raised, we are grateful to all who helped make this possible through prayer, generosity, and continued support.

**GIFT AID NOTICE** - Please ensure you fill in your details correctly when using the Digital Collection Plates and want your donation gift-aided. A few instances have arisen where the address details have not been correctly filled in. The door number and postcode are essential. We will not be able to claim a tax refund if the details are not correct. Please respond if you get an email from the Parish Gift Aid Organiser requesting more details to correctly enter donations on the system. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION** – Registration took place on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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: **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** – December sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 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, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

**THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT NOVEMBER 2025** - The December 50/50 Draw is now Open. Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass. **NOVEMBER Update:** The total amount collected for November **was £1239! £619.50** will go toward the maintenance of the Churches, and £619.50 will be prize money, **1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02125 (White Ticket)** **2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02064 (White Ticket)** **3<sup>rd</sup> PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02031 (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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE & CO MAYO – LED BY BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS.** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from London Stansted, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).



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 £829.15 | Envelopes £820.25 | Digital Plates £578.00 | **Total £2227.40**

*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, <a href="mailto:canningtown@brcdt.org">canningtown@brcdt.org</a> . 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. <a href="http://www.catholic.com/tract/how-to-become-a-catholic">www.catholic.com/tract/how-to-become-a-catholic</a>   <a href="https://mycatholic.life/rcia/">https://mycatholic.life/rcia/</a> 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.
CONFIRMATON	REGISTRATION FRIDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 6.30 PM PARISH HALL
MARRIAGE	Couples who wish to get married must give at least <b>SIX MONTHS'</b> 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

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

Youth Representative

Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm 020 7476 4129

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

Father Francesco, 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](mailto: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 E7 8HX 020 8472

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