

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 14th DECEMBER 2025 |

GAUDETE SUNDAY

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

Come, Lord, and save us.

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

Come, Lord, and save us.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 110|106|103|115

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday 13 th 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 th 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 Marie Kelly - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Monday 15 th Monday of the Third Sunday of Advent	11.00 am 11.00 am	FMM Jubilee Mass Philip Tay - INT	Convent Chapel Convent Chapel	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank
Tuesday, 16 th Tuesday of the Third Sunday of Advent	9.30 am	The Anniversary of Mgr Patrick O'Donnell - (F)	St Margarets	Nifty Fifties - 12 pm - 2 pm
Wednesday, 17 th Weekday of Advent	9.30 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm	Peter Gosney - RIP Requiem Mass - Sister Theresa O'Neill Requiem Mass - Christine Gray	St Margaret's Chapel in Convent Convent Chapel	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 18 th Weekday of Advent	11.30 7.00 pm 7.30-8.00	Requiem Mass - Benedicta Bennett Bridget Huxtable - RIP (F) Souls in Purgatory Confessions	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday, 19 th Weekday of Advent	9.15 am	Maria Da Conceicao Rodrigues - TG	Convent Chapel	18.00 Legion of Mary
Saturday, 20 th Weekday of Advent	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Sebastian Ukegheson - RIP Souls in Purgatory	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday, 21 st Fourth Sunday of Advent	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Kevin Lobo - TG Anna-Maria - TG Carlos & Fabio Rosario - INT Pachal Hayden - 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

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

WEEKLY NOTICES

DON'T MISS THE 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)

FMM SISTERS JUBILEE MASS – **Monday 15th December at 11 am in the Convent Chapel.**

BISHOP THOMAS MCMAHON. The Requiem Mass for our former Bishop will take place this Tuesday in Brentwood Cathedral. Please keep him in your prayers. He was Bishop of our Diocese for over 30 years and had a special affection for Canning Town. May he rest in Peace. Amen

A VERY BIG THANK YOU. To all who helped to organise last week's Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, especially the teachers at St Helens school and their wonderful Cook, Carol, the West Ham Sea Cadets, the generous donation of the food by T Cribb and Sons, and the donation of the wine by a parishioner. All joined together, it was a wonderful occasion.

THE REQUIEM MASS FOR MRS CRISSY GRAY will take place in the **Convent Chapel at 13.00 on Wednesday, 17th.** THE REQUIEM MASS FOR Sr Theresa O'Neill will take place on **Wednesday, 17th at 11.00 am** in the chapel in the convent. THE REQUIEM MASS for Benedicta Bennett will take place in the Convent Chapel on **Thursday, 18th at 11.30.** May they rest in peace, Amen

T CRIBB AND SONS CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE. Each year, Cribbs holds a Memorial Service in their Beckton Offices where we remember all those who have died and whose funerals were conducted by Cribbs. It is a beautiful service followed by light refreshments; all are welcome. It takes place on **Wednesday 17th December at 18.00**

THE FILIPINOS SIMBANG GABI at St Margaret's Canning Town will be on **Saturday, 20th October at 2 pm.** Refreshments to follow in the parish centre after Mass, All Welcome.

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection **on Saturday 20 December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm** at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

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.

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, 19th 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 in the new year dates to be confirmed.

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.





FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – December sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 13th 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, 14th 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, **2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02064 (White Ticket) 3rd 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!

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. **We have two people volunteering so far, we need a few more.**

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 £777.06 | Envelopes £672.80 | Digital Plates £282.00 | **Total £1731.86**

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.
CONFIRMATON	REGISTRATION has now taken place anyone wishing to make their confirmation please see Fr John.
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

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

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

smctyouthcouncil@gmail.com