

# 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 IN ORDINARY TIME | 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 |

## First reading

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him – for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength – he says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

## Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

### ***Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

### ***Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

You delight not in sacrifice and offering, but in an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

### ***Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: 'I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me.'

### ***Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

Your uprightness I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

### ***Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.***

## Second reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called by the will of God to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia, alleluia,** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God. **Alleluia.**

## Gospel John 1:29-34

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

**FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS**  
**Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 865|598|830|821**

| Date & Feast   | Time                            | Intention   | Location  | Parish Events in Parish Centre                             |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup><br>St Antony, Ab   | 5.00 pm<br>6.30 pm              | Confessions<br>Cosme Cruz Leitao - RIP<br>Henry Nowak - RIP   | St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's                    |  |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup><br>Second Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time<br><b>PEACE DAY</b>                     | 10.00 am<br>12.00 pm<br>6.00 pm | Sean Reilly - RIP<br>Peduru Arulanandam - RIP<br>Avril Tighe - Get Well Intentions<br>The Harkin Family - INT       | Convent Chapel<br>St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's  |  |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup><br>Feria   | 9.30 am                         | John & Vera Bolter - RIP<br>Joseph Reginold - RIP   | Chapel in the<br>Convent                          | 10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank<br><b>NO PARISH SURGERY</b> |
| Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Feria   | 9.30 am                         | Rose Moran -<br>Victoria Getty - INT  | St Margaret's                                     | Nifty Fifties – 12 pm – 2 pm                               |
| Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup><br>St Agnes, V M   | 9.30 am                         | Sr Ethel FMM - INT  | St Margaret's                                     | 10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank<br>19.00 – AA Meeting       |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>St Vincent, De, M   | 7.00 pm<br>7.30-8.30            | Mark & Kelly Delaney - INT<br>Confessions & Adoration   | St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's                    | 18.00 – 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets                          |
| Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>Feria  | 9.15 am                         | Tracey Flynn - RIP  | Convent Chapel                                    | 18.00 Legion of Mary                                       |
| Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup><br>St Frances de Sales, Bp, D   | 5.00 pm<br>6.30 pm              | Confessions<br>The O'Callahan Family - INT  | St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's                    |  |
| Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup><br>Third Sunday in<br>Ordinary Time<br><b>Sunday of the Word of<br/>God</b> | 10.00 am<br>12.00 pm<br>6.00 pm | Gillian McEvoy - RIP<br>Rosa Maria Silva - RIP<br>Ayodele's Birthday Intention<br>Connolly & O'Neill Families - INT | Convent Chapel<br>St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's  |  |
| Other Sunday Masses  | 09.00 am<br>12.00 pm<br>5.00 pm | Romanian Mass (Latin Rite)<br>Romanian Mass (Greek Catholic)<br>Latin Mass (Extraordinary Rite)                     | St Margaret's<br>Convent Chapel<br>Convent Chapel |  |

**MEDITATION**

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

## WEEKLY NOTICES

**FATHER JOHN** will be away from 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January on his post-Christmas break. I am grateful to Canon Foster and the Friars for covering the masses during this period.

**THE PARISH SURGERY** The Parish Surgery takes place on most Mondays between 5.30 and 6.30 in the Parish Centre. If it is not on a particular week, it will be notified in the Newsletter. So if you want to book a wedding, baptism, speak about a funeral, get a school form signed or have any issues you wish to discuss just come along, you will be most welcome.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS** – January sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 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, 11<sup>th</sup> January, in the Convent Chapel**. The Parents' meeting on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January has been **CANCELLED**, the new date of the meeting will be Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 10 am in the Parish Hall.

**CONFIRMATION 2026** This year, the Bishop will be coming for Confirmation. We are awaiting a final date from the Bishop, and once we have this, we shall then be able to work out the timetable for the Confirmation programme for this year. The first meeting of the Confirmation Group will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 in the Parish Centre**.

**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 next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 18.30** in the Parish Centre

**ROAD WORKS IN BETHEL AVENUE** Please be aware of road works in Bethel Avenue by Thames Water starting from Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January. Diversions will be in place!!!

**THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT DECEMBER 25** - The January 50/50 Draw is now Open. Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass. **1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02952, 2<sup>nd</sup> PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 02866. The total amount raised in December was £1102.00, £551.00 will be prize money, and £551.00 go towards the maintenance of the churches.** 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!

**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, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 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** Will resume in February.

**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 John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer.** If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August or 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Later this month our diocese will host the relics of St Gerard Majella at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint. Please see posters on the notice board.

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 £816.56 | Envelopes £660.80 | Digital Plates £483.00 | **Total £1960.36**

*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, <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.  |
| CONFIRMATION                               | 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 <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                               | <b>BAPTISMAL AND CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES.</b> 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](mailto:canningtown@brcdt.org)

Parish Sister:

Sister Barbara 020 8525 4229/07591016649

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](mailto:smctyouthcouncil@gmail.com)