

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR | 15th FEBRUARY 2026 |

First reading

Sirach 15:15-20

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his decrees! With all their hearts, they seek him.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept. May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Lord, teach me the way of your statutes, and I will keep them to the end. Grant me insight that I may keep your law, and observe it wholeheartedly.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him' – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.'

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.'

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn." But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS
Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 466|872|714|769

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday, 14 th St Cyril, M & St Methodius, B	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Burton Steel - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday 15 th Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Day for the Sick)	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	John & Mary Ellue - RIP Mick Tighe - RIP (F) Vince Tighe - RIP Patrick Murphy - RIP (F)	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	12 pm Christian Mothers Thanksgiving
Monday 16 th Feria	9.30 am	Sally Foody - RIP	Chapel in the Convent	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank NO PARISH SURGERY
Tuesday, 17 th Feria	9.30 am	Howard Dudfield - INT	St Margaret's	12.00 - 2.00 - Nifty Fifties
Wednesday, 18 th Ash Wednesday	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Victoria Gettie - INT People of the Parish	St Margaret's St Margaret's	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday 19 th Thursday after Ash Wednesday	7.00 pm 7.30-8.30	David Scott - RIP Confessions & Adoration	St Margaret's St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday 20 th Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.15 am	Theresa Walshe - INT	Convent Chapel	18.00 Legion of Mary
Saturday, 21 st Saturday after Ash Wednesday	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Francisco Oliveira - RIP Sally Foody - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday, 22 nd First Sunday of Lent	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Henry Nowak - RIP John Storey Cesaria Freitas - TG Paulina - INT Roy Aldridge - 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

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three-part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom, none of scripture will be done away with. Instead, it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

WEEKLY NOTICES

A BIG THANK YOU to all who have bought tickets for the Parish 50/50 Draw. It has made a real difference in addressing the need to care for our buildings. The Draw takes place once a Month and 50% is prize Money and 50% goes to the upkeep of the Church. So please support the 50/50 Draw, as it is making a real difference, and you may win a prize. **The more tickets sold, the bigger the prizes. Since August, we have raised £7,813. Which means £3,589 has been prize money and £3589 has gone to Parish Maintenance.**

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES- Both masses for Ash Wednesday will take place at St Margaret's Church, due to the road closures around the Convent Chapel, Masses will take place at 9.30am and 7pm.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm. The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?"

This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe..." Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith. 7.30pm

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK - On Thursday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org

CONFIRMATION 2026 The Confirmation Group met for the first time on Friday. The date of the next Confirmation Group is Friday, 20th February. This will be the **last time** it will be possible to register for this year's Confirmation. **The Bishop will be visiting the Parish for Confirmation on Sunday 31st May**

ADULT CONFIRMATION Adults who have not been confirmed and would like to be confirmed when the Bishop visits, should come to a meeting after the 7 pm Mass on Ash Wednesday, **February 18th, in the Parish Centre**

REPOSITORY SHOP We now have a Repository Shop in both Churches. The shops sell rosaries, statues, cards, medals, and candles. And many other religious items. The Shop at St Margaret's is open daily from after Mass until 12. Noon, and the shop at the Convent is open after Mass

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, 27th February 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.

ST HELENS SCHOOL | HEALTHY SCHOOL ZONE TIMES Please be aware of the new traffic arrangements around St Helens School in Chargeable Lane, Falcon St and Bethel Avenue. **NO ACCESS BY CAR** is allowed between 8.15 and 9.15. and 2.45 and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday during Term Times. This will come into action on 2nd March 2026. Do not apply at weekends and holidays

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – February sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 28th February, 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 15th March, in the Convent Chapel at 10 am. The next Parents' meeting for all parents will take Saturday, 18th April, 10 am in the Parish Hall.**

BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS Bishop Alan will be 75 in March, and this is the age for retirement for Bishops. So let us remember him at this time and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the appointment of a new Bishop of Brentwood.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF Rosina Salmon and David Scott, may they rest in peace. Amen

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. **Please check in the Newsletter if the Surgery is not open on a particular Monday.**

THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT JANUARY 25 - The February 50/50 Draw is now Open. Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass. **1st PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 05132, 2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 03962, 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 04967. The total amount raised in January was £753.00, £376.50 will be prize money, and £376.50 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!

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.

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 £894.84 | Envelopes £639.82 | Digital Plates £539.00 | **Total £2073.66**

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 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

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 4229/07591016649

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