

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 15th MARCH 2026 |

First reading

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In those days: The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel John 9:1-41

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 936|224|752|934

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday, 14 th Saturday of the Third Week of Lent	5.00 pm	Confessions	St Margaret's	10.00 Baptism Preparation Class
	6.30 pm	Annie Marie Williams - RIP John Marley - RIP Jerry Reynolds - RIP	St Margaret's	
Sunday, 15 th Fourth Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Lydia Da La Cruz & Family - INT	Convent Chapel	
	12.00 pm	Theresa Zerafa - RIP Pawla Farrugia - RIP	St Margaret's	
	6.00 pm	Folarins - INT Rafel, Carlos, Fabio Osbalda - INT	St Margaret's	
Monday, 16 th Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9.30 am	Adele Bruce - RIP (F)	Chapel in the Convent	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank <u>NO PARISH SURGERY</u> 18.30 - Adult Confirmation Class
Tuesday, 17 th St Patrick, B, Patron of Ireland	9.30 am	Edwardo Dela Cruz - RIP	St Margaret's	12.00 - 2.00 - Nifty Fifties
Wednesday, 18 th Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9.30 am	Ben Margie Nenet - INT Noreen Feeney - INT	St Margaret's	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 19 th St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7.00 pm	Eddie Bedier - INT Victor & Eileen Terry - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
	7.30-8.30	Confessions & Adoration		
Friday, 20 th Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9.15 am	Howard Dudfield - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margarets	18.00 Legion of Mary 19.00 STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday, 21 st Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent	5.00 pm	Confessions	St Margaret's	12.00 Baptism
	6.30 pm	Chiemecie Odoeme - TG Imade Ojefua - TG	St Margaret's	
Sunday, 22 nd Fifth Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	Burcheri Family - INT	Convent Chapel	
	12.00 pm	Paul Kudahe - RIP Ray Livermore - RIP	St Margaret's	
	6.00 pm	Wagner, Irley, Ito Dwalyn Family - INT	St Margaret's	
Other Sunday Masses	09.00 am	Romanian Mass (Latin Rite)1	St Margaret's	
	12.00 pm	Romanian Mass (Greek Catholic)	Convent Chapel	
	5.00 pm	Latin Mass (Extraordinary Rite)	Convent Chapel	

MEDITATION

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

WEEKLY NOTICES

FATHER JOHN NEEDS YOUR HELP!! – Due to the increased number of people seeking to know more about the Catholic faith and to be received into the Catholic Church, we need to recruit from the people from the parish who will act as catechist for the sacramental preparations of our children and young people and also catechists to help with the groups preparing adults for Baptism or being received into the church, If you are a teacher or have experience of being a catechist and would be interested in helping, please speak to Fr John or email the office for more information., Training is available for new catechists, and this is a position in the parish which will require a DBS check for safeguarding.

THANK YOU FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND - Thank you for your remarkably generous support of the recent *Friends of the Holy Land* appeal. Through your kindness and compassion, a total of £2,169.11 was raised. Your generosity will help support Christian communities in the Holy Land who continue to face great hardship. These funds contribute to vital humanitarian aid, education, and pastoral support for families in the region. We are very grateful to everyone who contributed and for the continued generosity of our parish community. Please keep the people of the Holy Land in your prayers.

EASTER DUTIES: At Easter, we are asked to go to confession and receive Holy Communion between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. Confession Thursday night 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm and Saturday 5 pm – 6 pm

CONFIRMATION 2026 The next Confirmation Group will meet on **Friday; 20th March at 18.30 in the Parish Centre.** Please note that the **CONFIRMATION RETREAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH** We shall be leaving from St Margaret's at 10.00am and return by 1.00pm

ADULT CONFIRMATION – The next meeting will be on **Monday, 23rd March, in the Parish Centre at 6.30 pm.**

MAIN CONFIRMATION GROUP – The next meeting will be **Friday 20th March at 6.30, in the parish centre. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE BY 6.30 PM.** Confirmation Day of retreat will be on **Saturday 28th March, we will meet at 10am at St Margaret's and we will be back by 4pm.**

LECTIO DIVINA: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 25th March, at 7 pm in St Margaret's Convent.**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 23rd May 2026: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come please contact the parish office.

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 March 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.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30 pm 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 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30 pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – March sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 14th March, 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.**

LAST WEDNESDAY CLUB – Will unfortunately will not take place on Wednesday 25th March, but will resume for St George's Day celebration on Wednesday 29th April between 2pm-4pm.

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

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 for our Diocese.

THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT FEBRUARY 25 - THE MARCH 50/50 DRAW IS NOW OPEN.

Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass.

FEBRUARY DRAW 1st PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 05857, 2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 06232, 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 05246. The total amount raised in February was £844.00, £422.00 will be prize money, and £422.00 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!

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 £820.92 | Envelopes £669.80 | Digital Plates £455.00 | Total **£1945.72**

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