

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

PALM SUNDAY | 29th MARCH 2026 |

Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning, he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me; they curl their lips, they toss their heads: 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him, for in him he delights.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

For dogs have surrounded me; a band of the wicked besets me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet; I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name to my kin, and praise you in the midst of the assembly; 'You who fear the Lord, give him praise; all descendants of Jacob, give him glory; revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

SEE SEPARATE FOR THE PASSION READING.

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 230|249|226|229

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday, 28 th Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Neil McDonagh - INT	St Margaret's St Margaret's	12.00 Baptisms
Sunday, 29 th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Lisa Albery - INT Joesph Thevarajah - RIP Aidan & Admim - RIP Boniface Pangawe - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Monday, 30 th Monday of Holy Week	9.30 am	Kit Hayburn - INT	Chapel in the Convent	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 5.30-6.30 pm PARISH SURGERY 18.30 - Adult Confirmation Class
Tuesday, 31 st Tuesday of Holy week	9.30 am	Isabel De Sousa - TG	St Margaret's	12.00 - 2.00 - Nifty Fifties
Wednesday, 1 st	11.00 am	CHRISM MASS - Brentwood Cathedral Ezinne Monica Mallo - RIP		10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 2 nd Maundy Thursday	8.00 pm	Catalino & Emiliana Tabula - RIP Confessions After Mass	St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday, 3 rd Good Friday	12.30 pm 3.00 pm 7.00 pm	Outdoor Stations of the Cross People of the Parish STATIONS OF THE CROSS	St Fidelis Friary Convent Chapel St Margarets	Starts at St Fidelis Friary
Saturday, 4 th Holy Saturday	12.00pm 7.00 pm	Confessions Ojefua & Odoeme Family - INT	St Margaret's Convent Chapel	THE EASTER VIGIL
Sunday, 5 th Easter Sunday	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Evelyn Wickens - RIP Gregoria Dagum Da Silva Family - TG Maurice Mithcell Matteo Leone - 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

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father. Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: ". . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

WEEKLY NOTICES

HOLY WEEK is a time of Retreat for all Catholics. Retreat is not about running away but taking time in the midst of our busy lives to step back and reflect on what God is calling us to do with our life. The three great celebrations of the Retreat are; **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, where we focus on our service and care of others | **GOOD FRIDAY** when we focus on the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross and seek the strength to carry our own crosses in life, | **EASTER** when the crosses we carry help us to understand that they lead to new life of the Resurrection not to darkness. Remember this is a **HOLY WEEK** not just one day.

EASTER DUTIES: At Easter, we are asked to go to confession and receive Holy Communion between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. Confessions in Holy Week: Maundy Thursday after Mass; Easter Saturday 12.00 Noon

READERS NEEDED FOR WEEKLY MASS - We are looking for new readers—especially younger parishioners—to help proclaim the Word at our weekly Masses. If you'd like to get involved and serve in a meaningful way, this is a wonderful opportunity. Guidance and support are provided. Interested? Please speak to Fr John after Mass or email the Parish Office.

CONFIRMATION 2026 The next Confirmation Group will meet on **Friday; 17th April at 18.30 in the Parish Centre.**

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.

GIFT AID NOTICE - The Gift Aid envelopes for the 2026/27 financial year are now available for collection after Masses at the weekends. You may also collect them from the parish office during office hours. Please note that envelopes have only been issued to those who used them in the current financial year. If you do not find yours, please leave your name, envelope number and contact number for the Gift Aid organiser to get back to you.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

ADULT CONFIRMATION – The next meeting will be on **Monday, 20th April, in the Parish Centre at 6.30 pm.**

LECTIO DIVINA: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 8th April, 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, 10th April 2026, from 7-9 pm** (arrive when you can) - You can join the WhatsApp group chat on the notice board at the back of the church via QR code or for more information speak with the priest. If you are new to the Parish, you would be very welcome to come along and meet some new local friends.

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - NURSERY APPLICATIONS - If you have a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, and would like to apply for a place at St Helen's Nursery, please visit our [website here](#) for application forms and more information or visit the school office. Posters with a QR Code are also displayed at the back of the Church. If you would like to visit the Nursery for a tour, please come along on a Wednesday at either 9am or 2:30pm.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – April sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 18th April, 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, 19th April, in the Convent Chapel at 10 am. THE NEXT PARENTS' MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS WILL TAKE PLACE 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

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 £852.85 | Envelopes £521.59 | Digital Plates £485.00 | Total **£1859.44**

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