

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 03rd MAY 2026 |

First reading

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith..

*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you,
O Lord.*

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you,
O Lord.*

The word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you,
O Lord.*

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

*May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you,
O Lord.*

Second reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.
Alleluia

Gospel John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 821|271|761|807

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday, 02 nd St Anthanasius, Bp, D	5.30 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Julio Pedro Neves - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday, 03 rd Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Fola Shade Akanji - TG Isobel & Isadore - INT Theophilus Ackah - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Monday, 04 th The English Martyrs, Mm	9.30 am	Jospeh Garingarao - RIP	Chapel in the Convent	NO PARISH FOOD BANK NO PARISH SURGERY
Tuesday, 05 th Tuesday of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.30 am	Douglas Bedier - RIP Charlie Zerafa - RIP	St Margaret's	12:00 - 2:00 - Nifty Fifties
Wednesday, 06 th St John Payne, Pr, M	09.30 am	Mrs. I. Biubor - RIP Mrs M.N Monyer - RIP	St Margaret's	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 07 th Thursday of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Confessions John & Josie Hayden - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Friday, 08 th Friday of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	09.15 am	Carmenu & Thersa Zerafa - RIP Lorna Lee - RIP	Convent Chapel	18.30 Confirmation Group Meeting 19.00 Arise Young Adults Group
Saturday, 09 th Saturday of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	05.00 pm 06.30 pm	Confessions Aida Graham - RIP	St Margaret's St Margaret's	10.00 - Baptism Preparation 12.00 - First Communion 1 st Confession
Sunday, 10 th Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Elisangela Leitao - INT Halario Ramos - RIP Sally Foody - 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 readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

WEEKLY NOTICES

Fr John will be away in Lourdes until Thursday. We would like to thank Fr Stewart for his help over the next week.

THANK YOU to all those who turned up for the Parish 150th Anniversary Meeting on Saturday. In the next few weeks, we will begin to announce the various events to celebrate this great milestone in the life of our Parish.

CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – We need volunteers to help clean the Convent Chapel on Saturday mornings from 9.30 am. If you can spare some time, please see Vida at the Convent Chapel after mass or email the Parish Secretary.

CLEARING THE COVENT GROUNDS – We will be clearing the ground on Saturday, 16th May from 10 am, if you have offered to help, please bring a pair of heavy-duty gloves if you have them. If you also have any heavy-duty garden equipment, that would help please also bring along.

CONFIRMATION 2026 The next Confirmation Group will meet on Friday, 8th May at 18.30 in the Parish Centre. The Confirmation date with Bishop Alan will be on Sunday 31st May at 3pm in the Convent Chapel. The rehearsal for the Mass will take place on Saturday 30th May at 10.00 in the Convent Chapel

ADULT CONFIRMATION – The next Adult Confirmation Group will be on Monday, 11th May at 6.30 in the Parish Centre. The Confirmation date with Bishop Alan will be on Sunday, 31st May at 3pm in the Convent Chapel. The rehearsal for the Mass will take place on Saturday, 30th May at 10.00 in the Convent Chapel

ARISE | THE PARISH GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS. This group is for young adults between the ages of 18 and 35. It meets every other week on a Friday night upstairs in the Parish Centre. The next meeting will take place on **Friday, 8th May 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 .

LECTIO DIVINA: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 6th May, at 7 pm in St Margaret's Convent.

LAST WEDNESDAY CLUB – Will run every last Wednesday of the month in the parish hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION – The last session for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion will be held on Saturday, 16th May 10am in the parish centre. This is only for the parish group and **NOT** for the children from St Helen's. First Confessions for the Parish Group will be held in St Margaret's Church on Saturday 9th May at 12.00pm

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 23RD MAY 2026: Please sign up after Mass, as the seats are going fast!! 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. Please sign up on the list that is at the back of the Church. Good news, the tickets are cheaper than last year!

GIFT AID: The new financial year has begun. Please discard all old envelopes and pick up your new ones if you have not done so already. Over 20 boxes of issued envelopes remain uncollected! If you do not find yours, please leave your name and envelope number, and the Gift Aid organiser will get back to you as soon as possible. Please note that some numbers have been reallocated, so it is important to only use envelopes marked for the 2026/27 financial year. Thank you very much for your continued generosity.

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.



MARCH DRAW 1st PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 04573, 2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 06485, 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 06786.

TICKETS FOR THE MAY DRAW WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM SATURDAY, 2ND MAY – YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

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 £827.05 | Envelopes £649.19 | Digital Plates £470.50 | Total £1946.74

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 on Tuesdays 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