# 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
**Tel:** 0207 476 4129 | **Email:** canningtown@brcdt.org | **Website:** www.smct.church
**Parish Priest:** Monsignor John Armitage | **Deacon:** Rev. Jonathan Burden

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 29th NOVEMBER 2026**

**First reading** **Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8**

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. O that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence. You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

***Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse up your might and come to save us.

***Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the stock your right hand has planted, the son you have claimed for yourself.

***Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

May your hand be on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have confirmed as your own. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.

***Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

**Second reading** **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia**

**Gospel Mark 13:33-37**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore, stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'

# FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

## Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 91|88|84|92

| Date & Feast | Time | Intention | Location | Parish Events in Parish Centre |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Saturday, 28th**<br>**Feria** | 05.00 pm<br>6.30 pm | Confessions<br>Adolph Lobo RIP | St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's | **10.00 Parish Group FHC Class** |
| **Sunday, 29th**<br>**First Sunday of Advent** | 10.00 am<br><br>12.00 pm<br><br>6.00 pm | Don & June Storrie – RIP<br>Holy Souls<br>Francesca Ojefua – TG<br>Jimmy & Kathleen Harkin – INT<br>Rita Oladele Ojetayo – RIP | Convent Chapel<br>St Margaret's<br><br>St Margaret's | |
| **Monday 30th**<br>**St Andrew, Ap**<br>**Patron of Scotland** | 9.30 am | Judy Lobo – TG<br>Susie & Patrick McKinney – INT | Chapel in the Convent | **10.30-12.00 PARISH FOOD BANK**<br>**NO PARISH SURGERY** |
| **Tuesday, 1st**<br>**Tuesday of the First week of Advent** | 9.30 am | Mary Power – RIP (F)<br>Lorenza & Valentina Tabula – RIP | St Margaret's | **18.30 ABC Meeting** |
| **Wednesday. 2nd**<br>**Wednesday of the First week of Advent** | 09.30 am | Aurea Cardenas – TG<br>Kay & PJ O'Toole – INT | St Margaret's | **10.30 – 12.00 Parish Food Bank**<br>**19.00 – AA Meeting** |
| **Thursday 3rd**<br>**St Francis Xavier, Pr** | 7.00 pm<br><br>7.30 pm | John & Madeline Tan – RIP<br>Nora McCarthy – RIP<br>Confessions | St Margaret's<br><br>St Margaret's | **18.30 - West Ham Sea Cadets Installation of Bishop Timothy** |
| **Friday, 4th**<br>**St John Damascene, Pr, D** | 09.15 am | Imogen Snow Lobo – TG<br>Annie Doherty – INT | Convent Chapel | |
| **Saturday, 5th**<br>**Saturday of the First Week of Advent** | 5.00 pm<br>6.30 pm | Confessions<br>Mary Ann Ellul – RIP<br>Mark Solomons – RIP | St Margaret's<br>St Margaret's | |
| **Sunday, 6th**<br>**Second Sunday in Advent** | 10.00 am<br>12.00 pm<br><br>6.00 pm | Paul Cunningham – TG<br>St Joseph – INT<br>Olaitan Anthonys – INT<br>Betty Desmond – RIP | Convent Chapel<br>St Margaret's<br><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

**Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.**

**Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.**

**Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.**

**Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.**

**Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.**

# WEEKLY NOTICES

**ADVENT PRAYER BOOK On sale after Mass today £1. It gives the readings and prayers for the time leading up to Christmas. Available after Mass today.**

**THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CARD SALES. The Catholic Children's Society works with children and families across the Diocese and started here in Canning Town. Please buy some of the Cards for Christmas, which are for sale after Mass this weekend and support their work for families and children in need.**

**BISHOP TIMOTHY'S INSTALLATION - Thursday 3 December | The installation will be live-streamed via the diocesan website, allowing everyone to share in this significant celebration from home. Watch live at: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop-timothy. Please keep Bishop Timothy and our diocesan family in your prayers as we begin this new chapter together.**

**INVITATION TO A MASS OF THANKSGIVING – As we can't get everyone in the Diocese into the Cathedral for Bishop Timothy's Installation, so the Bishop is coming to meet us here in Newham. All are welcome to the Mass on Tuesday 8th December,** to welcome our new Bishop at St Anthony's, Forest Gate at 7.30pm. All are welcome. On Sunday 20th December, Bishop Timothy will be coming to Canning Town to celebrate the 10.00 and the 12.00 Mass. Join us as we gather in prayer and thanksgiving to welcome our new Bishop and seek God's blessing upon his ministry. All are welcome.

**ST MARGARETS CANDLELIT ADVENT CAROL SERVICE on the** 11th December in the Convent Chapel at 7.00 pm. This promises to be a very special occasion. We will be joined by guests from **Your Place at Anchor House** and the choirs from St Helens and St Anthony's schools, and of course our own wonderful **Parish Choir,** to celebrate the run-up to the great celebration of Christmas. It starts at 7 pm, and all are welcome. Please bring your family and friends.

**SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS DINNER** – Saturday 12th December from 12 noon in St Helen's School. Please sign up by using the list at the back of the church.

**ABC (About Becoming Catholic): There will be no ABC Group on the 2nd December.** The next event for the ABC Group will be at St Anthony's Church, Forest Gate on Tuesday 8th December for the Mass of welcome for our new Bishop. Mass begins at 7.30pm

**TEENAGE CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** The first session for the teenage confirmation class will be on **Friday 22nd January at 6.30 pm.** A group for adults who have not been confirmed will meet early in 2027

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** – December sessions for the Parish Group will be Saturday 5th December & Saturday 12th December at 10 am in the Parish Centre. The children's Mass for both groups will be Sunday 13th December at 10 am in the Convent Chapel.

**POLISHING THE SILVER:** I am looking for a few people who would regularly polish the Mass vessels and from time to time the candlesticks in St. Margaret's and the Convent Chapel. See Father John.

**ARISE | THE PARISH GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS.** The 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, 4th December 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:** Lectio Divina is a prayerful practice of reading, meditation, and reflection on Holy Scripture, aimed at deepening our relationship with God. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 2nd December 2026 at 7 pm in St Margaret's Convent. All welcome. This will be the last meeting for 2026.**

**THE PARISH 50/50 OCTOBER DRAW RESULT-** 1st PRIZE TICKET NUMBER **10041**, 2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER **09954**, 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER **10100**. TICKETS FOR THE **NOVEMBER DRAW** ARE AVAILABLE AFTER MASS – The total amount raised in October was £366; £183 will be prize money, and £183 will go towards the maintenance of the churches. Thank you for your support. If you have a winning ticket, please contact the parish office. **REMEMBER YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT**

**TO MAKE A DONATION, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE AND ENTER THE AMOUNT YOU WISH TO DONATE**

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Plate Collection £678.42 | Envelopes £436.98 | Digital Plates £537.00 | **Total £1652.40**

***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 9 am until 1 pm. All normal enquiries can be made by phone 0207 476 4129 or email, canningtown@brcdt.org. All enquiries made after 1 pm 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/**. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Jonathan if you wish to join our **About Being Catholic Group** |
| **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.<br>**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.<br>**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. |
| **CONFIRMATON** | REGISTRATION for 2027 has closed if you still wish to register please contact tge parish office or attend the parish priest surgery. |
| **MARRIAGE** | **COUPLES WHO WISH TO GET MARRIED MUST GIVE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS' NOTICE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY 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 and they 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**

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| **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 Charles, 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 |