



# St·Margaret·of·Cortona·&·All·Saints·Catholic·Parish

www.stmargaretsct.com

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Parish·Priest:·Mgr.·John·Armitage—Assistant·Priest:·Fr·Jijo·George—Pastoral·Assistant:·Fin·Allen

79·Barking·Rd,·Canning·Town,·E16·4HB

## **Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)** **21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit. It is not one of many gifts, but rather the fundamental Gift. The Spirit is the gift that Jesus had promised to send us. Without the Spirit there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father, because the Spirit opens our heart to God’s presence and draws it into that “vortex” of love that is the very heart of God. We are not merely guests and pilgrims journeying on this earth; we are also guests and pilgrims in the mystery of the Trinity. We are like Abraham, who, one day, welcoming three wayfarers in his own tent, encountered God. If we can truly invoke God, calling him “Abba — Dad”, it is because the Holy Spirit dwells in us; he is the One who transforms us deep within and makes us experience the soul-stirring joy of being loved by God as his true children. All the spiritual work within us towards God is performed by the Holy Spirit, this gift. He works within us to carry Christian life forward towards the Father, with Jesus.

The Catechism, in this respect, says: “Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action” (n. 2670). This is the work of the Spirit in us. He “reminds” us of Jesus and makes him present to us — we might say that he is our Trinitarian memory, he is the memory of God in us — and he makes it present to Jesus, so that he is not reduced to a character from the past: that is, the Spirit brings Jesus to the present in our consciousness. If Christ were only far away in time, we would be alone and lost in the world. Yes, we will remember Jesus, there, far away, but it is the Spirit that brings him today, now, at this moment, in our heart. But in the Spirit everything is brought to life: the possibility of encountering Christ is open to Christians of every time and place. The possibility of encountering Christ, not only as a historical figure, is open. No: he attracts Christ to our hearts; it is the Spirit who makes us encounter Jesus. He is not distant, the Spirit is with us: Jesus still teaches his disciples by transforming their hearts, as he did with Peter, with Paul, with Mary Magdalene, with all the apostles. But why is Jesus present? Because it is the Spirit who brings him to us.

This is the experience of so many people who pray: men and women whom the Holy Spirit has formed according to the “measure” of Christ, in mercy, in service, in prayer, in catechesis.... It is a grace to be able to meet people like this: you realize that a different life pulsates in them, their gaze sees “beyond”. Let us not think only of monks and hermits; they are also found among ordinary people, people who have woven a long history of dialogue with God, sometimes of inner struggle, which purifies faith. These humble witnesses have sought God in the Gospel, in the Eucharist received and adored, in the face of a brother or sister in difficulty, and they safeguard his presence like a secret flame.

The first task of Christians is precisely to keep alive this flame that Jesus brought to the earth (cf. Lk 12:49); and what is this flame? It is love, the Love of God, the Holy Spirit. Without the fire of the Spirit, the prophecies are extinguished, sorrow supplants joy, routine substitutes love, service turns into slavery. The image of the lighted lamp next to the Tabernacle, where the Eucharist is reserved, comes to mind. Even when the church empties and evening falls, even when the church is closed, that lamp remains lit, and continues to burn; no one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord. This is how the Spirit, in our heart, is always present like that lamp. POPE FRANCIS

### **Lenten Retreat**

This Monday will be the last of the Lenten Retreat talks. It will take place at 7pm followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **FORMED**

FORMED | our catholic Netflix! Join in and sees an amazing range of films talks and books on the Catholic Faith. Let this be part of your Lenten journey. Go to Formed.org, the to sign up, then choose our parish, St Margaret’s Canning Town, give you name, and email and you will be signed in. You only have to do this once.

### **WHEN RECEIVING COMMUNION**

Please consume the Body of Christ in front of the Priest or Minister of Communion NOT in your seat.

## **A big thank you for your generous offerings**

### **14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Offertory: Envelopes – £523.31; Loose Plate – £654.48**

### **Useful Information**

#### **Secretary**

Maria Da Silva

#### **General Enquiries**

Contact the Parish Office

#### **Parish Office:**

Mon., Wed. and Fri. (10am to 2pm)

#### **Convent Chapel:**

Bethell Avenue, E16 4JU

#### **St Helen’s School:**

020 7476 1785

#### **Hospitals Co-ordinator:**

Rosa During

020 7476 4920

#### **Parish Safeguarding:**

Please contact the Parish office

#### **Sister Barbara:**

020 8525 4229

#### **FMM Community:**

020 7511 3463

#### **SVP:** Please contact the

Parish Office

#### **Franciscan Friars of the**

#### **Renewal (CFR):**

020 7474 0766

#### **Repository:** Mon. to Fri.

(10am to 12pm) and

Sun. (10am to 1pm)

Pop in for First Holy

Communion and

Confirmation gifts,

cards and many other

Religious items. We

accept card payments

(including contactless),

for payments over £5.



*Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in the main church on Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30pm,  
Saturdays 5 – 6pm and by appointment.*

*Marriages (6 months’ notice) and baptisms (2 months’ notice) are celebrated by appointment.*

*The Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 234092*



**Priests' Surgery:** Please note the next surgery is on **Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March** from **5:30 to 6.00pm**. Please call at the Presbytery.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Anniversary of the **Re-dedication of England** as the Dowry of Mary. **Mass will be at 7.00pm** in St Margaret's to celebrate this the first Anniversary

**If you need any help or assistance** at this time, please get in touch with the Parish Office or the Presbytery on 0207 476 4129.

**Stations of the Cross** every Friday in Lent at 7pm St Margaret's followed by Confessions. Led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

**New Parish Website:** the new website will be launched in this coming week and we shall give out the details next week.

**Livestreaming:** Over the next few weeks, Livestreaming will be installed in the Convent Chapel, which means all of our Sunday masses and celebration Masses First Holy Communions, Confirmations will be Livestreamed. So, your family who are unable to join you in the future will be able to take part.

**Living Simply Group:** If you would like to know more about the group, you can join the Parish WhatsApp Group for more details (please email the Parish with your name and phone number).

**The Global Catholic Movement** invites you to "Global Healing". Can you please go to the registration page and register to attend Global Healing: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/UjvcOuuqzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhvwy0hcgvoEb>

**Food Bank:** Please note that home deliveries of food is for people who are unable to leave their home and have no one who can collect the food for them. Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday **from 10:30am to 1:00pm**.

**Hospital Visits:** If you go into hospital or a member of your family, inform the Parish Office so that the priest can visit you in hospital.

**Repository:** If you require a copy of the MAGNIFICAT April 2021 please let us know and we will order it for you.

**Mass intentions:** Please note that **Mass intentions** for the month of **April, May and June are now fully booked**. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Funerals:** Because of the Pandemic we have had over 40 funerals since Christmas. I want to mention a few points; many families want to have Livestreaming, and just to remind you that this is freely available in the Church, so you do not have to pay for someone to come in to do the Livestreaming. Also note that there is great pressure on the undertakers and Cemeteries and Crematoriums and time is limited. So please note that only ONE eulogy may be given in Church, and further tributes may be read in crematorium or the around the grave. I have written a new set of Guideline for Funerals, and these will be available on the Parish Website.

**Baptism Dates:** I will be starting with those families who have already filled in the forms and handed them in. The dates for Baptism for the next two months are as follows: **10<sup>th</sup> | 17<sup>th</sup> | 24<sup>th</sup> April | 8<sup>th</sup> | 15<sup>th</sup> | 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. Baptisms will be at **11.30am and 13.30**. Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. Each family will be able to bring with them 10 people, not including the baby! As we cannot hold, baptism classes parents are asked to watch this video in preparation: <https://watch.formed.org/reborn>.

**First Holy Communion Arrangements for 2021:** Because of the present restrictions, it is not possible to organise the classes for those children who will make their First Holy Communion this year. I am delighted to announce that St Helens School will run a class for children who have not yet made their Communion. This will include the children who are in the age group and any children who may have missed last year. Children attending Non-Catholic Schools will be invited to join a group that will meet as soon after Easter as possible in the Parish Centre. All things being equal we should be able to hold our celebrations at the normal time in the early summer. I am very grateful to Clare Doherty our Headteacher and her staff for agreeing to help us out. Forms for St Helens Pupils for those who have not already registered will be given out this week in the school.

**Confirmation:** I will be inviting the young people who wish to be confirmed to a meeting that will take place in the Autumn. This will be the first part of our preparation for the confirmation that will take place in 2022. I shall be holding a retreat day and all who wish to be confirmed will be invited.

**Registration for First Holy Communion, Confirmation Programmes and Baptisms 2021:** Forms are available on the Parish Website (<http://www.stmargaretsct.com/services> – scroll down). Please fill in the form, and if you are unable to submit it online, post it through the door of the Presbytery 79 Barking Rd (with a copy of the Baptismal Certificate, where applicable). Forms for Baptism can also be access online.

**Gift Aid:** The envelopes for the 2021/22 financial year will be available for collection after Masses at the weekend starting Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. They are to be used from 11<sup>th</sup> April onwards. If you are a tax payer and not a member of our Gift Aid scheme, please consider joining as it helps raise much needed funds for the parish. It costs you nothing and anything back from the taxman can only be a good thing! Please ask for a declaration form if needed. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Westminster Cathedral Choir School:** Each year Westminster Cathedral Choir School, the school for the world's greatest Catholic Choir, offers places to six boys. There are no financial barriers to entry with scholarships up to 100% of fees available on a means tested basis. If you son has a good voice and is in years 2 or 3 then you might consider looking at this further. The website is [www.choirschool.com](http://www.choirschool.com) have a look and book an audition.

**R.I.P.: Please prayer for the following who have died recently and whose funerals will take place in the next few weeks. Marie Burtzoe, John Griffiths, Mary & Fitzroy Long. May they rest in peace of Christ and may all who mourn find consolation Amen.**

### Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

Sat. 20	6:30pm	Mass – Paulo De Jesus, R.I.P. – St Margaret's
Sun. 21	10:00am	Mass – John and Sue Doherty (Ann), R.I.P. – Convent Chapel
	10:00am	Mass – Romanian Mass of the Latin Rite – St Margaret's
	12.00pm	Mass – Pietro Ferrigno, R.I.P.
	12.00pm	Mass – Romanian Mass Greek Catholic Rite – Convent Chapel
	6.00pm	Mass – Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form) – Convent Chapel
Mon. 22	6:00pm	Mass – People of the Parish
	9.30am	Mass – Ijemere Family, Intentions – Convent Chapel
Tues. 23	9:30am	Mass – Mario & Carmina, Intentions – St Margaret's
Thurs. 25	7:00pm	Mass – Marciana De Gagun, R.I.P.
	7:30-8:30pm	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession</b>
Fri. 26	9:00am	Mass – Steve Rodrigues, R.I.P. – Convent Chapel
	7:00pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b> – St Margaret's
Sat. 27	5-6pm	Confessions
	6:30pm	Mass – People of the Parish – St Margaret's
Sun. 28	10:00am	Mass – Blanche Hicks, R.I.P. – Convent Chapel
	10:00am	Mass – Romanian Mass of the Latin Rite – St Margaret's
	12.00pm	Mass – Maria De Lourdes Andrade, R.I.P.
	12.00pm	Mass – Romanian Mass Greek Catholic Rite – Convent Chapel
	6.00pm	Mass – Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form) – Convent Chapel
	6:00pm	Mass – Caetano Vincente Rodrigues (Ann), R.I.P.

<b>Readings</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:31-34</b>	<b>Hebrews 5:7-9</b>	<b>John 12:20-30</b>
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*Resp. A pure heart create for me, O God.*