ISSUE 12/26 SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

ST. MICHAEL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH EAST HAM



Charity No. 234092 Diocese of Brentwood Private Circulation

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17;64:1,3b-8 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Gospel: Mark13: 33-37
Theme: "Stay awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come."
Mass Book: Page 82

KNOW YOUR FAITH CORNER

Why Do Catholics Prepare for Christmas with Advent?

The season of Advent is a special time in the Catholic Church when we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

The word **Advent** comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, meaning *coming* or *arrival*. It is the four-week season during which the Church prepares us spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Advent is not simply about preparing our homes, buying presents or decorating Christmas trees; it is about preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

During this season, the Church invites us to reflect on three things: **Christ's first coming in Bethlehem, his coming into our lives today, and his glorious return at the end of time.**

The four Advent candles remind us of hope, peace, joy and love, while the liturgical colour purple encourages prayer, repentance and spiritual renewal.

This Advent, let us make room for Jesus through prayer, forgiveness, reconciliation, acts of kindness and participation in the Sacraments.

Remember: *Let us not become so busy preparing for Christmas that we forget to prepare for Christ!* – **Fr. Jude**

THE INAUGURATION OF ADVENT: will take place today, Sunday 29th November at 4pm, celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams, sm at Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. This is always a beautiful Service to begin the Advent Season, with lessons and Advent Carols, and other beautiful music. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – SATURDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2026: Our Parish Christmas Bazaar is fast approaching! We warmly invite parishioners to support this event by donating bottles of wine for the tombola, biscuits, and unwanted gifts in good condition.

All donations will be gratefully received and will help make our bazaar a wonderful celebration for the whole parish community. Thank you for your generosity and continued support. We look forward to seeing you there!

MISSION APPEALS This weekend the Spiritans will be having their Mission Appeal collection in all the Masses.

INVITATION TO A MASS OF THANKSGIVING: All parishioners from across the diocese are warmly invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving to be Celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes following his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Brentwood. 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. Masses will be celebrated in three locations:

Tuesday 8th Dec: 11:00am – Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT

Tuesday 8th Dec: 7:30pm – St Antony of Padua Church, St Antony's Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9QB

Wed 9th Dec: 7:00pm - St James the Less and St Helen Church, Priory Street, Colchester CO1 2QB

RCIA GROUP will meet on **Tuesday 1st December** in the Upper Room at 7.00pm.

FHC: children preparing for first Holy Communion will receive their first reconciliation on **Wednesday 2nd December** at 7:00pm.

CCONFIRMATION MEETING: Our next Confirmation session for young people who would like to be confirmed will be this **Thursday, 3rd December at 6:20pm** in St Michael's School Hall. Please don't forget to bring your Bible and a pen with you. If you want to find out more please speak to Johnny or Leo for more information.

CONFIRMATION INITIATION MASS: This Sunday at the 11am Mass is our special Initiation Mass for our Confirmandii, parents and sponsors. Please keep all our Confirmation group and Catechists in your prayers.

CAROL SERVICE will take place on **Sunday 20th December 2026**, at St. Michael's School Hall. The carol service will begin at 4.30pm to 9.30pm. Tickets are available at the back of the church, they cost £10, £5, £1 Please see poster in the porch for more information.

SVP: You are invited to the **St Vincent de Paul Carol Service** at Farm Street Church, Mayfair on Tuesday 1st December 7.30pm to 8.30pm for an uplifting evening of carols, reflection and fellowship. Archbishop Moth, Georgina Duchess of Norfolk and Alex Macqueen will be participating. The event is free to attend, though donations are most welcome, and the service will be followed by light refreshments. To book your place, please go to the homepage of the SVP website; **svp.org.uk**

Baptism: Please contact the parish office to get the paperwork. The process takes at least 4 weeks.
Marriage: Couples are required to give 6 months notice of marriage before the wedding. Please contact the parish office to set up a meeting with the parish priest to start the necessary paperwork.

DIOCESE PREPARES TO WELCOME ITS NEW BISHOP: The Diocese of Brentwood is preparing to welcome Bishop Timothy Menezes, who was appointed by Pope Leo XIV as the eighth Bishop of Brentwood on 10 October 2026. His Episcopal Installation will take place on Thursday 3 December at 12 noon at Brentwood Cathedral. Parishioners are invited to keep Bishop Timothy in their prayers as he prepares to begin his new ministry among us.

FILIPINO SIMBANG: Join us on Saturday**,** 12 December 2026, at St Michaels East Ham for a Tagalog Mass at 3pm, followed by a reception in St. Michael's School Hall. Raffle prize donations are warmly appreciated!

PHOTOGRAPH OF OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES: Those who submitted the photograph of their deceased loved ones that were placed in front of the altar all through the month of November can start collecting them from Tuesday the 1st of December 2026 from the sacristy.

PARISH FINANCES: You can make a payment into our bank account, either as a one off, by a regular Standing Order or by using the Contactless payments terminal available at the back of the church or by scanning the QR Code. The details are as follows:

Account Name: Catholic Church East Ham St Michaels
Account Number: 31017586
Sort Code: 40-13-22

Thank you for your donations

22nd November 2026	Amount £
Offertory Envelops	799.08
Offertory Loose Plate	786.69
Youth Sunday	412.06

Please pray for all who are sick, including: Fr. Victor Camilleri, Aryia Tony, Andre Scafe, Colin Smyth, Bernadina Santy, Andy Brett, Davey Jose, Cora Bantog, Berthilia Riviere, Anne Flynn, Enzo Zechariah Riley, Gemma Yao, Callista Hudson , Anthony Kearney, Francis Seaman, John Maughan , Maria Ramos, Chidera Harvey, Gillian Pepper, Madonna Beupierre, Ireneo Oreiro, Gilbert Jacob, Jeanette Steele, Mary John, John Peppard, James Towns, Joe Fitzgerald, Ranjith Mendes, Loly Antonio, Louise Simmons , Lassyhani Janahan, Seamus Peppard, Mary Fitzgerald, Natalie Williams, Natalie McCarthy,Thomas John, Myrna Gonzales, Olympia Pahati, Stephen Laviniere, Tom Morgan, Nia La Foucade, Onat Sarmiento, Joy Pereira, Ullrick Scafe, Regina Peppard , Paula Joseph , Veronica Scafe, Bridget Tully, Piper Phelan, Philip Crangle, Bernard Fredrick, Lurdhamma Flinton, Mary Fernandez, Chidindu Amaechi, Rakshiya Ranjithkumar.

Prayer After Receiving Holy Communion

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment dine. **(to be said 3 times)**

Jesus, I love you. All I have is yours. Yours I am, and yours I want to be. Do with me whatever you will. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all other evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

If you would like the latest newsletter delivered right to your screen every week, simply email eastham@brcdt.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

MASS INTENTIONS & DAILY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Saturday Vigil Mass	28th Nov.	**6.00pm**	Winson Francis Our November All Souls List	Anniv. RIP
Sunday First Sunday of Advent (B)	29th Nov.	**7:30am**	Frances Jones &Family	Special Int.
		9:00am	Mark Flynn	RIP
		11:00am	Our November All Souls List	RIP
Monday St. Andrew, Ap, Patron of Scotland	30th Nov.	**9:00am**	Joaquin Nebrija Our November All Souls List	F.M RIP
Tuesday	1st Dec.	**9:00am**	Veronica Nwachukwu Karleen Bastian	Anniv. RIP Anniv. RIP
Wednesday	2nd Dec.	**9:00am**	Ivy Joseph Ona Sinkevichute-Bestavashvili	Birthday Thanksgiving Anniv. RIP
Thursday St. Francis Xavier, Pr	3rd Dec.	**9:00am**	Bernard & Noufical Bellarmou	Anniv. RIP
Friday	4th Dec.	**9:00am**	Alphonse Pathrose	Anniv. RIP
Saturday	5th Dec	**11:00am**	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		11:00 - 11:45am	*Confessions*	
		11:45am	Midday Prayer and Benediction	
		12:00 noon	Varghes Gabriel	Anniv.RIP
Vigil Mass		**6.:00pm**	Betty Nnumduma	Special Int.
Sunday Second Sunday of Advent (B)	6th Dec.	**7:30am**	Parish Family	Special Int.
		9:00am	Joshua Taylor Varghes Roberts	Special Int. Anniv. RIP
		11:00am	Scolastica	Special Int.

The Church is open every day from 8:00am to 6:00pm

Newsletter items received after 12 noon Thursday may not be included that week.