ISSUE 11/26 SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2026

ST. MICHAEL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH EAST HAM



Charity No. 234092 Diocese of Brentwood Private Circulation

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A)

(Youth Sunday)

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians15: 20-26,28 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Theme: "He will sit on his glorious throne and he will separate people one from another."

Mass Book: Page 158

KNOW YOUR FAITH CORNER

Why Does the Priest Kiss the Altar?

One of the first things the priest does when Mass begins is to reverently kiss the altar. Before leaving the sanctuary at the end of Mass, he kisses it again. This is not simply a gesture of respect or tradition; it is a profound act of faith rich in biblical and spiritual meaning.

The altar is the most important place in the church because it is where the Sacrifice of the Eucharist is offered. The Church teaches that the altar is a symbol of Christ Himself, who is both Priest and Victim. Just as Christ offered Himself on the Cross for our salvation, the one sacrifice of Christ is made sacramentally present on the altar at every Mass. By kissing the altar, the priest is expressing love, reverence, and devotion to Christ, whose sacrifice is celebrated there. It is a silent prayer of love directed to Christ before the celebration begins.

Traditionally also, many Catholic altars contain relics of saints sealed within them. This ancient practice recalls the early Christians who celebrated the Eucharist over the tombs of the martyrs. When the priest kisses the altar, he also honours the saints who gave their lives for Christ and now share in His heavenly glory.

Therefore, the priest's kiss reminds us that the Mass is first and foremost an encounter with Jesus Christ. As the priest reverences the altar, we too are invited to approach the Eucharist with faith, love, and gratitude, recognising that Christ Himself is truly present and offers Himself for us. – **Fr. Jude**

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!

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY there will be a second collection today for world youth Sunday.

MISSION APPEALS Next weekend the Spiritans will be having their Mission Appeal collection at all the Masses.

NOVEMBER ENVELOPES FOR THE DEAD: You can still bring in your November Holy Souls envelops and photograph of your loved ones if you have not yet done that. We will continue to celebrate Masses for them throughout the month of November. **On Thursday the 26th of November at 7:00pm,** we will gather as a parish family to celebrate a memorial Mass for all our deceased loved ones. Everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle for them during the Mass. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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

FORMATION DAY FOR READERS: There is a Formation Day for Readers at **St Francis church on 28th November** from 10:00am to 4:00pm. All Readers are expected to attend.

RCIA GROUP will meet on **Tuesday 24th November** in the Upper Room at 7.00pm.

FHC: The next lesson for children preparing for first Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 28th November, while their first reconciliation will take place on the 2nd December at 7:00pm.

CONFIRMATION SESSION THIS THURSDAY: The session for those preparing to be confirmed by our new bishop, Bishop Timothy Menezes will continue this Thursday, 26th November. Please arrive for 6:20pm in St Michael's School Hall. If you have not handed in your letter yet and would like to be confirmed next year, please come along on Thursday.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA - SOCIAL EVENING: The Knights of St Columba's annual social evening will take place on **Saturday 28 November 2026**, in the hall of Our Lady of Compassion, Green Street, from 5pm until 10pm. Tickets: Adults = £15 and

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.

Children up to 14 years = £8 (includes food and soft drinks). Please see the posters on the noticeboards.

ST MICHAEL'S QUIZ EVENING: will be on **Friday 27 November 2026** in St Michael's School Hall. Doors will open at 7pm, for a 7:30pm start. Entry = £5. Teams of up to six people.

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 CAROL SERVICE – FARM STREET CHURCH, MAYFAIR

Join us on Tuesday, 1 December, from 7:30–8:30pm for an uplifting evening of carols, reflection and fellowship, with special guests including Archbishop Moth. Free entry, with donations welcome, followed by light refreshments.

To book, visit svp.org.uk.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI – St. Michael's, East Ham

Join us on Saturday, 12 December 2026, for a Tagalog Mass at 3pm, followed by a reception in St. Michael's School Hall.

Raffle prize donations are warmly appreciated!

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

15th November 2026	Amount £
Offertory Envelops	828.65
Offertory Loose Plate	974.09

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	21st Nov.	**6.00pm**	Kathleen Hegarty Our November All Souls List	Special Int. RIP
Sunday Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. ***Youth Sunday***	22nd Nov.	**7:30am**	Stanley & Mary	Thanksgiving
		9:00am	Our November All Souls List	RIP
		11:00am	Anton Weeralcone John McEnroe	Anniv. RIP Anniv. RIP
Monday	23rd Nov.	**9:00am**	Pacita Bunag Ria Cado Our November All Souls List	Special Int. Special Int. RIP
Tuesday St.Andrew Dung-Lac, Pr & Comps Mm	24th Nov.	**9:00am**	A. Vincent Our November All Souls List	RIP RIP
Wednesday	25th Nov.	**9:00am**	Kun Jamma Joy Teresa Rozario Our November All Souls List	RIP RIP RIP
Thursday	26th Nov.	**9:00am**	Jeanette Merciaca Gilbert Rozario Our November All Souls List	RIP RIP RIP
Friday	27th Nov.	**9:00am**	Aurora Boado William Gerry Our November All Souls List	RIP. Anniv. RIP RIP
Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary	28th Nov.	**11:00am**	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		11:00 - 11:45am	*Confessions*	
		11:45am	Midday Prayer and Benediction	
		12:00 noon	Deceased Members of Andam Family	RIP
Vigil Mass		**6.:00pm**	Winson Francis Our November All Souls List	Anniv. RIP 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

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.