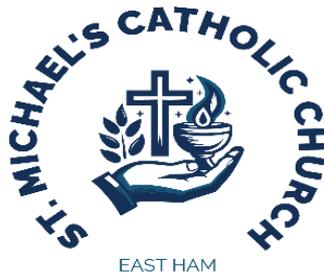


Issue 857

21st / 22nd March 2026

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**PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Canon Bob Hamill**  
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## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (A)

Dear Parishioners,

### LENTEN PRAYER

“Dear Lord,

We try our hardest to walk in Jesus’s footsteps and to achieve excellence in everything we do, especially in Lent because Lent is a time to reflect on our sins and repair our relationship with God. Like Joel said in chapter 2 verse 12 “but even now says the Lord repent sincerely and return to me with fasting and weeping and mourning. Amen (Written by Dominic - Year 5 St Michael's School)

As we enter the final weeks of Lent, you may notice that the crucifix and statues in our church are covered. In the Catholic Church, this is a meaningful tradition that helps us prepare our hearts more deeply for the suffering and death of Jesus. At first, the covered images may feel strange or even a little empty, because we are used to seeing them and finding comfort in them. But this quiet change invites us to pause, reflect, and pray more sincerely. It reminds us not to depend only on what we can see, but to grow stronger in our faith and trust in God. This time can be like a “fasting of the eyes,” helping us focus on what truly matters—our relationship with Christ. As we continue this journey, we are gently led to think about His sacrifice and love for us. At the same time, there is hope in this practice, because what is hidden now will not remain hidden. As we approach Easter, the coverings will be removed, and we will celebrate with joy, remembering that after the sorrow of the Cross comes the new life and light of the Resurrection.

**PALM SUNDAY** Next weekend is Palm Sunday, when we commemorate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, entering on a donkey to shouts of “Hosanna!” “Save us now!” This will be reenacted at the 9am and 11am Masses. Our celebration will start in St Michael’s School, with palms being distributed, and together we will then process into Church joyfully proclaiming Jesus as our Messiah. We will also join in with the reading of Jesus’ passion account, marking the start of Holy Week and the upcoming Holy Triduum.

**God Bless you all,**

*Fr. Saji Thomas Rcj*

**DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE Saturday 24th May.** Coach leaves from Market Street Bus stop at 7:30am and returns at approximately 7:30pm. For tickets (£25), please contact: Stanley 07529419985 or Mary Stanley 07529412964

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 2026:** In order to help us ensure the safety of everyone attending this year's Good Friday Service, the following arrangements have been made. As the maximum number of people we can have safely have in Church is 450, once this has been reached anyone who arrives will be ushered into St Michael's School Hall, which will be set up with a live stream of our Good Friday Service. If you are seated in St Michael's School Hall, Altar Servers and Ushers will guide you back into Church when it is time for Veneration of the Cross and to receive the Blessed Sacrament (Communion). We kindly ask for your understanding and patience as we make every effort to ensure your safety and the sacredness of our Good Friday Service.

**YOUTH LED STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

There will be a meeting after the 11am Mass next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March to prepare for a special Youth Led Stations of the Cross, which will take place on Good Friday evening. Please come along and get involved in this unique opportunity to add to the solemnity of Good Friday. If you would like to find out more please speak to Johnny or Leo.

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE & CO. MAYO LED**

**BY BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026.** 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price of ?799.00 per person Package includes: Return flight from Lon Stansted – 10kg check in bag. 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative.

Single room supplement £250.00. Maximum 3.

Contact: Patricia Tel:01268762 278 / 07740 175 557 [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU** from Brentwood Catholic Children' Society (BCCS) – for the crib offering of £1,603.35 which will go towards the work they do with children, young people and their families in the Diocese and beyond.

**EASTER FLOWERS** there will be a collection for the Easter flowers after all Masses this weekend.

**ROLE OF OUR USHERS** We are very blessed to have members of our parish family volunteering as Ushers during our Mass and other Services each week. I would like to remind you that their role is to help keep everyone safe whilst in Church and participate in our celebrations, paying close attention to make sure that our aisles and walkways are kept clear in case of emergency aid being needed. Please ensure that you listen to our Ushers who give their time and energy to care for us all.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY** in order to keep everyone safe in case of emergencies, can you kindly ensure that prams and buggies are kept in the Christ the King chapel at the back of the Church. If you need any support or the area is full, please speak to our Ushers who will be on hand to support and assist you.

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Fr. Victor Camilleri	Aryia Tony	Andre Scafe	Colin Smyth
Baby Lila Brincat	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	Gemma Faulkner	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

PARISH FINANCE 15th MARCH 2026

Envelopes	£	883.93
Plate	£	1197.99

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

- Sun 22nd** Communion to the Sick/Housebound - 1.30pm
- Mon 23rd** Funeral of Maria de Lourdes Simoes Tomaz Casimiro,  
City of London-10.30am  
Rebecca Cheetham Nursery school, Church visit – 1.00pm  
St. John’s School, meeting – 4.30pm
- Tue 24th** Rebecca Cheetham Nursery school, Church visit – 1.00pm
- Wed 25th** Rebecca Cheetham Nursery school, Church visit – 1.00pm  
Finance meeting – 7.00pm
- Thu 26th** St. John’s School Mass – 2.00pm  
Reconciliation, Wanstead – 6.30pm
- Fri 27th** Funeral of Anita Bajade - 9.30am  
Stations of the Cross – 6.30pm followed by Mass – 7.00pm
- Sat 28th** Parish Council meet – 11.15am  
FHC Children meet, Church – 9.15am
- Sun 29th** Communion to the Sick/Housebound - 1.30pm

**COMING EVENTS**

Parish Reconciliation Service, Monday 30th March  
Deanery meeting, Tuesday 31st March

**Sat 21st First Mass of Sunday**

6.00 pm Thanksgiving (Maribel Canoes)

**Sun 22nd FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (A)**

7.30 am Parish Family

9.00 am Peter & Jenova Angelese Anniv.

11.00 am Omobalanle Akuwudike. (Bart Akuwudike)

4.00 pm Syro Malabar Mass

**Mon 23rd**

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Oscar Alphonso RIP (Hilda)

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00 pm Poulose, Tracy & Lissy RIP

**Tues 24th**

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Fr. Saji Int. (Stanley & Mary)

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00 pm Mary Stellus RIP (Family)

**Wed 25th**

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Prashanth Dasan Anniv.

7.00 pm Anna Maria Balde

**Thu 26th**

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Betty Morgan RIP (Sr. Monica & Sr. Margaret)

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00 pm Holy Souls

**Fri 27th**

**NB 7.30 am** Amelia & Jade (Sr. Patricia & Sr. Immaculata)

9.30 am Funeral Mass of Anita Bajade

6.30 pm Stations of the Cross

7.00 pm Ronnie Byrne (Hayes Family)

**Sat 28th**

11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and  
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

11.45 am Mid-day Prayer, Benediction and Angelus

12.00 noon Esther Simpson RIP (Mary & Family)

**Sat 28th First Mass of Sunday**

6.00 pm Mary & Roger Int.

**Sun 29th PALM SUNDAY (A)**

7.30 am Stellus Philip & Beatrice Vincent RIP (Family)

9.00 am Beena Varghese Anniv. (Rani Varghese)

11.00 am Parish Family

3.00 pm Malayalam Mass

7.00 pm Syro Malabar Mass