



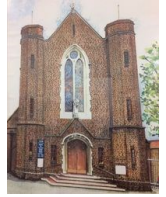
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

2ND / 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 60

(Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27)

September is a time of new beginnings and a return to normality even for those who aren't involved in education. It's become the traditional time for clergy moves in our diocese: as I give thanks for my first year here, let us also pray for Fr Linu and Fr Mark who begin their new ministries in the two parishes in Hornchurch this weekend.

In church, even though our 'new year' (Advent Sunday) is still three months away, many of the things we do are shaped by the academic year. The autumn 'term' is particularly significant for our parish in this centenary year as we look forward to our parish mission week in a month's time, and all that will flow from that in terms of new impetus for our mission to the world, and our own personal journeys of faith. Over the coming weeks I will not only share more details of the week's programme, but also something of the vision that underpins this very special moment in the life of our parish.

Today's gospel contains two crucial words: 'follow me'. We are all called to follow Christ. Our faith is meant to make a difference to our lives. A key part of that difference is a different mindset that allows us to look beyond our present circumstances to see that we are made for something infinitely greater than what we experience here and now. Something that has 'communion' at its very heart, for it is a share in the life of God himself, the perfect communion of love that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow him: when we think of the cross we naturally focus on the negative – its connotations of suffering and death. But it is also a sign of victory, and love. Love that is measured by a readiness to make sacrifices for another. In God's kingdom there will be no more pain or sadness, but there will also be no more of the self-centredness that makes us resistant to giving of ourselves to others.

St Thomas Aquinas expressed it in this way: if we wish to be perfect (which is indeed our destiny) then we must desire what Christ desired on the cross and disdain what Christ disdained on the cross. What Christ desired above all was the will of his Father, a desire motivated purely by love. What he disdained was all that the world holds dear: material possessions, power, status and honour. On the cross we see every virtue exemplified very clearly for us – love, patience, humility, obedience, detachment from earthly things. If we wish to grow in these things, then we must strive to imitate Christ even in his acceptance of the cross. We must learn to see things as God sees them and not as the world sees them.

The way of the cross is not an easy path. It is demanding and challenging. But we are never alone: he has gone before us and journeys alongside us now. To be his follower is not just a matter of imitating his example, but living in him, deeply united with him through prayer and the sacraments, open to the working of God's grace in us, the grace that brings patience and fortitude and above all the gift of heavenly joy. There is no better example of what being a

faithful follower of Christ involves than his own mother, who was privileged to share his cross in a unique way. We celebrate Mary's birthday on Friday. Her greatest wish is that we might truly know her son and be close to him. The best birthday present we can give her is to assure her that we too want nothing more than this, and ask her to help us imitate her generous 'yes' to God in everything. Hopefully we will soon have a new space to meet Mary in prayer, in the prayer garden that is being created between the church and school to mark our centenary year. The plan is for Bishop Alan to bless this space, including a new statue of Our Lady, when he visits later this month.

I began by referring to the new academic year. I wish all young people, parents, and staff a very blessed new year at school, college or university. Next Sunday is Education Sunday and I am inviting you to contribute to a special appeal for our parish primary school. The education department of the Bishops' conference have launched a new programme for religious education in Catholic schools in England and Wales. A key text for pupils to become familiar with is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and schools are expected to have copies of the youth edition known as 'YouCat' available for classes to work through together. Individually its not that expensive at £13 a copy, but a year-group set is more than £800. Given other budget pressures schools face, I would like us to fund this as a parish, and to that end there will be a special collection next week. Perhaps you would consider donating the equivalent of one copy?

God bless, Fr Matthew.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Bishop Alan will be making a pastoral visitation on Sunday 17th September. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at the 11am Mass and due to the number of candidates there will be limited space for those other than candidates, sponsors and family; others who normally come at 11 are encouraged to come to one of the other weekend Mass instead. It is expected that the Bishop will also preside at the 9am Mass.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH: To celebrate the centenary of our parish and the conclusion of our mission week all are invited to a parish lunch at St Peter's Catholic Centre on Front Lane in Cranham on Sunday 8th October. We hope that those who can will bring a dish to share – the more variety the better! All are welcome.

RUN WITH YOUR DOCTOR: Take the first steps in your road to fitness by joining BHRUT doctors for a 30-minute walk, jog or run. Saturday 16th September, 3pm, Barking Park. Email bhrut.runwithyourdr@nhs.net to register/for info.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: From next Sunday this will be taking place once again during the 9am Mass, for children old enough to be left in the care of our catechists up to first communion age. Parents should take children directly to the Social Centre on St Mary's Lane before the start of Mass (registration open from 8.45) and then come to church for Mass. Alternatively there are usually a couple of children's liturgy leaders in the porch just before Mass who can take your child round. The children will be brought into church at the offertory and sit at the front for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to be collected by parents at the end of Mass. If you are interested in helping please speak to one of the leaders or contact the parish office.

ULEZ: St Joseph's church and a large part of our parish is now within the Ultra Low Emission Zone that has, as of last week, been extended to cover the whole of Greater London. Our parish includes the only part of ULEZ outside the M25 (North Ockendon), as well as a significant area outside the zone whose residents are therefore ineligible for assistance such as the scrappage scheme. Whatever one's views regarding the decision to extend the zone, there is now an additional burden on many parishioners who cannot easily replace their vehicles, affecting many aspects of daily life including coming to Mass (the charge still applies on Sundays when there is less public transport). Car sharing may ease the impact – if you are in a position to offer a lift to Mass or would appreciate a lift please contact the parish office. We fully understand if the ULEZ fee affects your ability to support the parish financially, and would rather you came to Mass without putting anything in the collection than not come!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents of children moving into year 3 or above hoping to make their first holy communion next summer are asked to sign up online at tinyurl.com/stjfhc There will be an initial meeting early in October, and details will be sent to those who have signed up as well as being announced in the newsletter nearer the time.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: We meet again after summer break on **Tuesday 5th September 2023** at **2pm** in the social centre.

RIP MICHAEL HEALY: The funeral of Michael Healy will take place at Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church, Rayleigh on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 11am. May Michael rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

RESTARTING 5TH UPMINSTER RAINBOWS: We are delighted to announce we are restarting Rainbows for girls age 4-7 years. We will be meeting on Thursday evenings 4.30pm-5.30pm at St Peters, Front lane Canham. Activities will include craft ,cooking and lots more. For waiting list please register your daughters interest on the Girl Guide website and if you require more information contact Sharon (shazza31281@hotmail.com) We are also looking for help with the Rainbows, so if you can help, contact Sharon

BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 7th September, from 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral: Pizza & refreshments in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, with a chance to catch up with those from pilgrimages this Summer or perhaps find out more if you are thinking about joining the BCYS Lourdes or World Youth Day Pilgrimages in the future. Youth Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book!

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB: The Wednesday lunch club reopens on Wednesday 6th, September at 12noon in the social centre. It will be good to welcome back old friends and lovely to meet new ones. If you cannot make lunch please feel free to come for tea and coffee any time after 10am. Date for your diary, the Macmillan coffee morning in the social centre Friday 29th, September. More details nearer the date.

PARISH MISSION NEWS: The Sion Community mission team will be leading a week entitled 'Reconnect, Rediscover, Rejoice!' to help us all live and share our faith. The mission week runs from **Saturday 30th September to Sunday 8th October**, finishing with a bring-and-share lunch. You don't need to come to everything, but hopefully everyone will come to something, and ALL are welcome. There will be times of prayer and opportunities to meet the mission team each day. Weekday evenings will follow a set timetable (again, come to what you can, when you can).

6.15pm Daily Mission Mass with music and input from the mission team (*nb this is instead of the usual 9.15am Mass*)

7pm Supper, open to all, in the social centre

7.45pm Mission Event on the day's theme in Church (most evenings finishing 8.45pm)

The daily themes are:

Monday 2nd: Exploring the Word

Tuesday 3rd: Exploring the Eucharist

Wednesday 4th: Reconciliation Service

Thursday 5th: Healing Service

Friday 6th: Living in the Holy Spirit

Saturday 7th (4.30pm): 'What's your story?' faith sharing workshop

We are also planning a family picnic on Sunday 1st, an event later in the week for young people especially those in year 7 and 8, and an event with the primary school mission team for St Joseph's School parents. Look out for more information in the newsletter and online.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 2nd Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Rose Powell RIP 100th birthday (Margaret)

Sun 3rd Sept

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

People of the parish

11.00am

Suresh Salian RIP (Family)

Mon 4th Sept

9.15am

James Hayes RIP (McEaney)

Tues 5th Sept

9.15am

Bernard Brady RIP (Green)

Wed 6th Sept

9.15am

Nimmy Henry RIP (Family)

12 noon—1pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 7th Sept

9.15am

Beatrice Gritten RIP (Sheridan)

Frid 8th Sept

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.15am

Michael Healy RIP (Pat & Alex Duffey)

Sat 9th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 10th Sept

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

James & Emily Holden RIP (Margaret)

11.00am

Ernie Hazelwood RIP 1st Anniv. (Stella)

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS: Saturday evening 5.30-6.15pm and Wednesday 12 noon-1pm. Confessions also available on request when Fr Matthew is available or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm (except Wednesdays).

St Joseph's School - School office 01708-220277

Sacred Heart of Mary School - School office 01708-222660

Baptisms & weddings - please speak to Fr Matthew after Mass

Repository: Saturdays before & after Mass, and Sundays after the 9am Mass until 10.55am

Queen's Hospital: If someone staying in the hospital would like Holy Communion, please contact the lay chaplaincy coordinator Helen Miranda on 01708 477890. In an emergency ask the ward staff to request the on-call Catholic priest via switchboard.

Facebook: [stjosephschurchupminster](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster) **Web:** www.stjosephschurchupminster.com

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE
EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH, AND PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL
MOBILE TELEPHONES ARE SILENCED BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS**