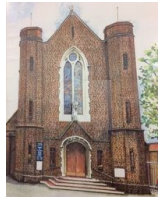




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

16TH / 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 64

(Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35)

This weekend we welcome Bishop Alan for his triennial Pastoral visitation, during which he will celebrate Mass with us and confirm 48 of our young people and one adults. This is his second time with us this year, as he was kind enough to join us for the inauguration of our centenary year in January.

Last week I elaborated on the first word chosen for our mission theme, 'Reconnect' and this week I want to explore the second, 'Rediscover'. During the pandemic, many people longed for the reopening of churches so that they could gather once more for Mass. Others found that they had settled into a new Sunday morning routine and found they didn't miss Mass all that much! Many of us might have moved between the two or felt a bit of both. Some people are reluctant to return for all sorts of reasons, including a feeling (whether justified or not) that the church wasn't there for them. Now we are in many respects back to normal, but 'normal' is different for everyone. We are all at different points in our faith journey, and that journey is not a linear one. Sometimes we move forward, sometimes we stand still, sometimes we might even move backwards, or wander off in a different direction. We might come to Mass because we know that we should, but we might not easily be able to say why it is so important. Sometimes our attendance at mass may feel more like something we do out of duty, and for some it will be one of a number of things that we do at the weekend but not necessarily top of the list.

Wherever we are on our journey of faith, we are called to rediscover the person who is at the centre of our faith. For the answer to the 'why?'s is the answer to the question Jesus asked his disciples in the gospel we heard recently: 'who do you say I am?'. And knowing that our faith is centred on a person, who calls us not only to believe in him, but to live in him, we know that we can never discover all there is to know. That is true of any human friendship: we never reach the point when we can stop discovering who a person is, and even more so for a divine person. We can (and will!) contemplate God for eternity without exhausting the riches of his beauty and goodness, and the truth of his love for us.

My hope for the mission week is that it will help each and everyone of us discover with even greater clarity the truth, beauty and goodness of God, who reveals himself to us and calls us to new life through the person of his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ. This (re) discovery will help us to know not only Our Lord better but also ourselves, as we come to see our place in God's plan, now and for eternity, and so order our lives accordingly with his help. Each evening will help us on this journey. He is the Word of God, who is

present in every page of Sacred Scripture if we know where to look (Monday's theme). He is the Bread of Life who gives himself as the food and drink of eternal life and unites us to his perfect offering of worship to the Father in every celebration of the Mass (Tuesday). He reconciles us to his Father as often as we become conscious of preferring our way to God's and turn back to him (Wednesday) and heals us of everything that would stop us living life to the full in him (Thursday). He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may become more fully alive and one with the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Friday) and with that same Spirit leads us more fully into the Truth and emboldens us to share the Good News we have received (Saturday afternoon). You may not be able to come to everything (though some of the input will be recorded) but do please come to as much as you can!

Perhaps this mission will help us to reclaim and live up to the label 'Christian'. More than a label, this signifies the fact that we have been re-made in the image of Christ and share in his anointing (which is what the word 'Christ' means) – thus sharing in his royal, priestly and prophetic office. This Sunday many of our young people, on the threshold of adulthood, will take the courageous step of publicly affirming their Christian faith, the faith of the church, and the anointing they received in baptism will be sealed with a new anointing and a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pray for them, and pray for each other, that by rediscovering the truth and beauty of our faith and the goodness we are called to imitate, founded on the one who calls us to eternal friendship, we may become more fully alive in him, and glorify him with our lives.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

BISHOP'S VISITATION: Today we welcome Bishop Alan for his triennial visitation of the parish. He will preside at the 9am and 11am Masses this Sunday, and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 11am Mass. Please pray for the nearly 50 candidates who are to be confirmed. At the 9am Mass he will bless the statue of Our Lady for the Centenary Prayer Garden.

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.

SUNDAY COFFEE: Come along to the Social Centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass for some refreshments, this week hosted by the CWL.

MISSION NEWS: If you didn't pick up a bookmark last week, please take one this week: it has a handy summary of the main evening events during our upcoming parish mission week (30th September – 8th October). Also, we are pleased to announce a picnic for families with young children, taking place on the afternoon of Sunday 1st October from 3pm-4.30pm (Upminster Park, or Social Centre if wet).

YOUTH EVENT: The parish mission team from Sion will be running an event during mission week especially for those who have moved up to secondary school in the past couple of years. This will be taking place in the Social Centre on Friday 6th October from 4pm-5pm. Registration will be necessary: please visit tinyurl.com/sjyouthfriday

NEW WEBSITE: Our new parish website has gone live, thanks to the team at Blue Serif. Inevitably there may be the odd glitch, so do let us know if you spot something so it can be fixed. Please visit the website to find the latest information for our parish mission.

EMAIL SCAMS: Scammers are able to make emails appear to come from someone you know. If you receive an email from Fr Matthew or the parish asking for money or personal details it is almost certainly fake.

RIP NOTICE: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Cooper who died recently and all who mourn. Richard's funeral will be at South Essex Crematorium on Monday 2nd October at 12.30pm. May Richard rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: The deadline for applications to secondary school for admission next year is 31st October, and for primary schools it is 15th January. Parents or guardians are required to apply via the local authority's online admissions system. Catholic schools also require a Supplementary Information Form and you should follow the guidance on the school's website (n.b. Campion has set an earlier deadline for this: 4pm on Friday 20th October). Some Catholic schools, including St Joseph's, Sacred Heart of Mary, and Campion, give priority to practicing Catholic families. This is defined as weekly attendance at Mass (with reasonable exceptions such as illness), and is demonstrated by a Certificate of Catholic Practice issued by the parish priest. These certificates (and letters for non-Catholic schools where needed) will be issued at set times: Secondary Schools only Tuesday 19th September 5pm-7pm and Thursday 28th September 4pm-6pm. The times for Primary Schools will be advertised in a future newsletter. When attending the church you do not need an appointment and you do not need to bring any documents, but you should be registered in our parish database. Those who do not meet the weekly attendance criteria can still apply under the broader 'Catholic' category, and only need to submit the Supplementary Information Form and a Baptism Certificate; in this case you do not need to see Fr Matthew.

SECOND COLLECTION—THANK YOU: Thank you to all who gave so generously to the second collection last weekend to raise funds to provide St Joseph's School with YouCat copies. We raised the sum of £644.25 plus online donations and gift aid to be reclaimed.

BCYS YOUTH MASS: Youth mass takes place on the first Thursday of **every** month at Brentwood Cathedral, beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, an hour of input, workshops, youth led prayer and formation from different organisations each month, and Youth Mass 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 MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: Macmillan coffee morning in the social centre on Friday 29th, September, 10am to 12 noon. All welcome to come along and support this wonderful charity. Homemade cakes are welcome and can be brought along on the day.

LOVE THE STRANGER: Earlier this year the Bishops of England and Wales produced a document on Migrants and Refugees, entitled 'Love the Stranger: A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees'. Liam Allmark, who works at the Bishops' Conference, will present the document at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) on Saturday 7th October from 11 a.m. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Ample parking available and local eateries. Five minutes' walk from the Elizabeth Line. This free event is both in-person and live-stream. Please go to www.whatgoodnews.org for details. A recording of the study day will be made available on the website.

YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS: During the weekend of the 21st-22nd October 2023, Young Catholic Adults and the Traditional English Association of Catholic History will be organising a pilgrimage to York and will visit the shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, York Oratory, the Bar Convent and St. Mary's Abbey. This event is aimed at Young Catholic Adults and Catholics interested in history. For details of how to book onto this free weekend and for more info see:- <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-yorkpilgrimage2023>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 16th Sept	Ss CORNELIUS, P AND CYPRIAN, Bp, Mm
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Edward Horigan RIP Birthday (Etna & family)
Sun 17th Sept	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF YEAR
9.00am	Annette Collier RIP (Brennan Family)
11.00am	For our parish and our confirmation candidates
Mon 18th Sept	
9.15am	Michael Healy RIP (Savory)
Tues 19th Sept	
9.15am	Anne Cowley RIP (Healy Family) <i>(With our year 5 children)</i>
Wed 20th Sept	ST ANDREW KIM TAE-GON & PAUL CHING HA-SANG
9.15am	Maureen McKiernan RIP (Healy Family)
12 noon—1pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 21st Sept	ST MATTHEW, AP, EVANGELIST
9.15am	For the intentions of our Parish Mission.
Frid 22nd Sept	ST PIUS OF PIETREICINA, PR (PADRE PIO)
9.15am	Jackie Presland RIP Golden Wedding Anniv. (Gerry)
Sat 23rd Sept	
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 24th Sept	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	Deceased members of the Mitchell & Maguire Families (Maguire)
11.00am	Rebecca Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)

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