



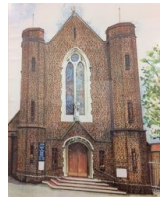
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

23RD / 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 67

(Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24,27, Matthew 20:1-16)

RECONNECT – REDISCOVER – REJOICE! **Parish Mission 30th September–8th October**

We are one week away from our parish mission, and after exploring 'Reconnect' and 'Rediscover', I want to think about the third word, 'Rejoice!'. The three words were deliberately chosen to fit together as a sequence, and not just because they all start with the same two letters. The 'Re-' prefix on the first two words might imply a sense of looking back, with a rose-tinted view of the past. That is not my intention. As many of us, I hope, reconnect with and rediscover things and people we might have lost sight of, we are also called to move forward, deepening our connections and discovering new dimensions of our faith and the person of Jesus Christ who stands at the centre of everything. This is a challenge to all of us and I hope we will take this seriously and respond to Our Lord's invitation to follow him with fresh zeal and eagerness. I want to be very clear, though, that this mission isn't *only* for people who have some connection with the church already: it truly is for everyone, because the invitation of Jesus Christ to find new life in him is for everyone.

This process of (re)connection and (re)discovery should be a joyful one! Our faith certainly makes demands and challenges us and we shouldn't pretend otherwise. But the life of faith is a great adventure, and like any serious endeavour the fruits of it are worth the effort. Indeed there is no greater reward on offer than eternal life in Christ. It is by setting out boldly on this journey and facing up to its challenges that we grow in love, becoming who we are meant to be, and ultimately becoming saints: people who are ready for the life of heaven. The life we await is something we can scarcely imagine, but we can be sure it will exceed the best this world has to offer: everything good in this life is foretaste of greater things to come, as we experience life in its fullness, utterly free of all things that weigh us down in this present life. But our faith is not just about a future reward. Our relationship with Christ now, and the assurance that we are made to share in the life of God for ever, brings new meaning and purpose to our present life. Everything, good and bad, that we experience here and now, takes on new significance in the light of eternity. Whatever trials we face, our faith gives us the certainty that we are deeply loved by God, who has made us because he wants to share his life with us. We are not called simply to put a brave face on things but to live in the deep joy that, in the words of Pope Francis, comes 'from knowing that, when all is said and done, we are infinitely loved'.

So, let us rejoice! Let us rejoice in a gospel message that is truly Good News (that is what 'gospel' means) – a message that is true, good and also new! For though it relates to events that took place two thousand years ago, it is always relevant, and we will never exhaust the wonder of the mystery of God's love, made visible in Jesus Christ. These events that took place long ago are brought into our present in a marvellous, mysterious and miraculous way through every celebration of the Mass, when the sacrifice of Calvary is re-presented to the Father as a perfect offering of worship. Joyful people – not boastful or smug, but authentically joyful – are much more attractive than miserable ones. We are the salt of the earth and light of the world, people whose own faith makes a discernible and positive difference to our own lives and to the world around us. The Mission Week will hopefully lead us on a journey of deepening engagement with our faith and growing awareness of the person of Jesus Christ and the friendship he offers us.

The end of the week is focused on sharing our faith, with renewed confidence and openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that as St Paul urges us we may be able to give those who ask a reason for the hope we have in Christ. The Mission concludes with a celebratory lunch for the whole parish (and it is not just a 'graduation' for those who have come during the week, it is truly for **everyone**: bring your family and friends as well). As a parish community we are celebrating one hundred years since a new church was opened and a new parish established to serve the growing Catholic population of Upminster (the church was opened in January 1923, the parish was formally established nine months later and the actual anniversary is Tuesday 3rd October). There is a great deal to be thankful for in this hundred-year history, and hopefully there will be a great deal to give thanks for when the mission week has taken place and we begin the next chapter.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

MISSION UPDATE: With the beginning of our mission just one week away, here is some more information about what is taking place. This week you should receive a flyer with the full programme. In addition to what has been announced in previous newsletters, there are some times when the mission team are available for a chat individually – including two sessions 'off site' at ACE Creams and Tapas on the corner of St Mary's Lane and Station Road (the owner has kindly offered a 15% discount on refreshments for those coming to meet with the mission teams). Please see the flyer and/or go online for timings. There will also be some specific flyers this week for the family picnic (Sunday 1st) and the youth event (Friday 6th) – please take one if applicable for yourself or someone you know.

MISSION WEEK SUPPERS: On the weekday evenings during mission week there is a free supper in between Mass and the evening event. This is intended to make it easier for people to come to Mass and/or the main event. If you are intending to come, it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance by registering at tinyurl.com/mission23rsvp - although it is not essential (and anyone is welcome to turn up) it is useful for us to get an idea of numbers and dietary requirements.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH: If you are able to bring something for the lunch at the end of our mission week (Sunday 8th October), please sign up on the list in the porch, or you can let us know at the same time as registering for mission week suppers. But even if you can't bring anything, please come! The lunch will take place at St Peter's Catholic Centre in Cranham (end of Front Lane near A127) – parking available.

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 on Monday 9th October at 6.15pm.

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: There is a second opportunity to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School applications **this Thursday from 4pm-6pm** in church. 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 (or do not come to collect a certificate at the set time) can still apply under the broader 'Catholic' category by submitting the Supplementary Information Form and a Baptism Certificate; in this case you do not need to see Fr Matthew.

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 Children's Liturgy team.

CWL : meeting on Friday 6 October in the social centre after morning Mass, we will be starting about 10am. You do not have to be a member to come along. Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a friendly chat.

SOCIAL CLUB: SCHOOL DISCO FOR ST FRANCIS HOSPICE: Saturday 14th October - 8pm 'till late - just £5 a ticket. Please join us at St Joseph's Catholic Club as DJ Adam Grace plays the biggest party hits of the 60s to 00s raising funds for such an important local cause. Tickets available via: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/school-disco-night-for-st-francis-hospice-tickets-719420966477> Please note membership renewals are now due and can be paid at the bar (£10) or online (£10 + £2 admin fee): <https://st-josephs-catholic-club.mailchimpsites.com/store>

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.

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!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 23rd Sept 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PR (PADRE PIO) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 24th Sept 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Deceased members of the Mitchell & Maguire Families (Maguire) Rebecca Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)
Mon 25th Sept 9.15am	Michael Kilroy RIP (Burke Family) <i>(With our year 4 children)</i>
Tues 26th Sept 9.15am	David John Blackwell RIP (Bemand—Qureshi)
Wed 27th Sept 9.15am 12 noon—1pm 6.00pm	ST VINCENT DE PAUL, PR Friends of St Joseph's SVP (Jones) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Intentions of Dennis and Lynn Headon
Thur 28th Sept 9.15am	Fred Tullett RIP (20th Anniversary)
Frid 29th Sept 9.15am	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL (ARCHANGELS) For the intentions of Betty Redmond (Baker Family)
Sat 30th Sept 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST JEROME, PR , D EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS David Walsh RIP (Birthday)
Sun 1st Oct 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Richard Mahony RIP (Upminster Catenians)

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.

**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**