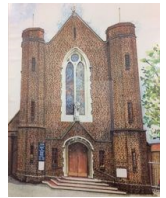




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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



PARISH NEWSLETTER

30TH SEPTEMBER / 1ST OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 69

(Ezekiel 18:25-18, Phillipians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32)

RECONNECT – REDISCOVER – REJOICE! PARISH MISSION THIS WEEK

This weekend we begin a very special week for our parish community. It is the week in which we mark the centenary of the formal creation of an independent parish for Upminster. It is also our long-awaited mission week, and we welcome the mission team from the Sion Community in Brentwood who will introduce themselves at Mass and invite you to make the most of this opportunity.

Hopefully you've already had a 'save the date' card, the bookmark listing the main events, and last week's flyer setting out the whole programme for the week. But even if you haven't, fear not as all the information is included inside this special mission edition of the newsletter.

Some of you I know are very excited about this week. But perhaps not everyone. Maybe you've got tired of hearing and reading about the mission already, maybe you are wondering why we are doing it, what its for, who its for, or maybe have already decided that you've got too much else on and it probably isn't your sort of thing. Let me take this opportunity to answer a few of these questions.

Who is it for: simply, everyone. Some people have an idea that extra things like this, beyond just coming to Mass each week, are just for those who are really holy or really keen. The truth is that all of us are invited to a deeper, closer, more fulfilling relationship with the Lord, who is after all the main reason we are here each week! The holy ones are those who know they still have further to go, and need every help from God and from other Christians, in order to do that. Some of you may feel quite content just as you are: if so, can I encourage you to give it a go and pick one thing to come to.

What is it for/Why are we doing it: because as followers of Christ we are called to spend time with him, and then go out into the world, just as the first disciples did. We do this every week, but sometimes we need a little extra, and there is a benefit in doing it together, since being a follower of Christ is not a solitary endeavour. This is a special moment for our parish community, giving thanks for 100 years of witness

here in Upminster, and also looking forward. We also have the experience of the pandemic in our very recent past, however much we want to forget it, and it has affected us all in deep and different ways: this is an opportunity to find healing, forgiveness and nourishment so that we can grow individually and collectively into the people and the parish community we are called to be.

I know everyone is busy, but I do ask you to make a special effort. This week represents a significant investment from our parish, in our parish; and I hope and pray it will bear much fruit. Many of you will be juggling work, childcare and other commitments, so please feel free to come to what you can, even slipping in at the back if you've missed the start of something. Parents, feel free to bring your children, or tag-team, or use the social centre as a space to take a break. The Mission Masses and the talks on Monday and Tuesday will all be live-streamed on our parish Facebook page and available to watch later. Some of you will be free and keen to attend everything, and that is great, others may only be able to come to one or two things, or just part of an evening, which is fine too. This is also an opportunity to spend time getting to know others in the parish, and I hope as many as possible will be able to come along to St Peter's Catholic Centre in Cranham next Sunday for the bring-and-share lunch celebrating both our centenary and the conclusion what I'm sure will be a great mission. One last thing – whether or not you can come in person, please pray! The daily Mass intentions, related to the themes of the evening event, can serve as a guide for your prayers each day.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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.

SUNDAY COFFEE: Come along to the Social Centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass for some refreshments and meet the mission team.

CWL : meeting on Friday 6 October in the social centre, 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.

YOUR GUIDE TO MISSION WEEK

All events take place in church unless another location given (**SC** = Parish Social Centre on St Mary's Lane, between the School and Aldi)

OPENING WEEKEND

Saturday 30th September: 6.30pm, Sunday 1st October: 9am & 11am

The mission team will join us for our Sunday Masses. Bar open after 6.30pm, Coffee after 9am Mass (**SC**)

Sunday 1st: 3pm-4.30pm: Family Picnic in Upminster Park (SC if wet). Families with young children are invited to join us for a special picnic where we will have light refreshments and lots of fun as we explore our faith together at the beginning of our mission week. Bring a cuddly toy!

* * *

EACH WEEKDAY

4:30pm – 5:30pm Eucharistic Adoration (prayer before the Blessed Sacrament)

6:15pm – 7:00pm Mission Mass with music and faith sharing (LIVE STREAMED)

7:00pm – 7:30pm Supper (**SC**)*

7:45pm – 8:45pm Mission Event (some evenings finish later)

*you don't need to sign up, but it will help us get an idea of numbers if you can do so—visit tinyurl.com/mission23rsvp

EARLY RISERS/COMMUTERS

7am Wed 3rd Oct

Mass, followed by breakfast with the Mission Team. *On other days, the church will be open from 7am for prayer.*

Please note there is no 9.15am Mass during mission week

* * *

EVENING MISSION EVENTS

EXPLORING THE WORD OF GOD : Mon 2nd Oct: 7:45pm – 8:45pm

Whether you read the Bible regularly, or struggle to understand the readings at Mass, or maybe you want to know how scripture can make a difference in your life, if so, this evening is for you. (LIVE STREAMED & RECORDED)

EXPLORING THE EUCHARIST : Tues 3rd Oct: 7:45pm – 8:45pm

A chance to rediscover why the Eucharist is so important, whether you come regularly but can't easily explain why, or if you find your weekends get too busy to make the Mass a priority, or just want to learn more. (LIVE STREAMED & RECORDED)

RECONCILIATION SERVICE : Wed 4th Oct: 7.45pm – approx. 9.30/45pm

A time of prayer and reflection with priests available for people to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MISSION WEEK

| | SAT 30th | SUN 1st | MON 2nd | TUE 3rd | WED 4th |
|------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| AM | | 9am Mass with mission team and children's liturgy 10am Coffee 11am Mass with mission team | <i>Church open from 7am</i> | <i>Church open from 7am</i> | 7am Mass breakfast 12 noon Wednesday Lunch / Adoration Confession |
| PM | | 3pm-4.30pm Family Picnic in Upminster Park | 4pm-4.30pm Time to talk (Social Centre) 4.30-5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration | 4pm-4.30pm Time to talk (ACE) 4.30-5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration | 4pm-4.30pm Time to talk (Social Centre) 4.30-5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration |
| EVE | 5.30pm Adoration & Confessions 6.30pm Mass with mission team Meet the mission team in the bar | | 6.15pm Mass 7pm Supper 7.45pm Exploring the Word | 6.15pm Mass 7pm Supper 7.45pm Exploring the Eucharist | 6.15pm Mass 7pm Supper 7.45pm Reconciliation Service |
| | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED |

AT A GLANCE

| | THUR 5th | FRI 6th | SAT 7th | SUN 8th | |
|------------------|--|--|--|---|------------|
| and | <i>Church open from 7am</i> | <i>Church open from 7am</i> | 10am Mass and Rosary | 9am Mass with mission team and children's liturgy 10am Coffee 11am Mass with mission team | AM |
| y & s | | | | | |
| m k (tre) | 2.15pm & 3.30pm St Joseph's Primary School Parents' Presentations | 4pm-5pm Stepping Out (Youth activity) | 2pm-3pm Time to talk (ACE) 4.30pm-5.30pm What's your story | 1pm PARISH LUNCH St Peter's Catholic Centre, Cranham | PM |
| m t | 4.30-5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration | 4.30-5.30pm Eucharistic Adoration | | | |
| ass er ion | 6.15pm Mass 7pm Supper 7.45pm Healing Service | 6.15pm Mass 7pm Supper 7.45pm Living in the Holy Spirit | 5.30pm Adoration & Confessions 6.30pm Mass with mission team Meet the mission team in the bar | | EVE |
| D | THUR | FRI | SAT | SUN | |

HEALING SERVICE : Thurs 5th Oct: 7.45pm – approx. 9.30/45pm

An opportunity to pray for healing for our community and for each one of us in body, mind and spirit.

LIVING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT : Fri 6th Oct: 7:45pm – approx. 9.15pm

Exploring what it means to be Spirit filled Catholics who are called and sent forth as missionary disciples.

* * *

TIME TO TALK: MISSION DROP-IN SESSIONS

Come and join the mission team for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Sometimes there are things we want to talk about but don't know who to go to. The team is available to meet, chat, listen and pray with people. See below for time and location.

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Monday 2nd | 4pm-4.30pm | Social Centre |
| Tuesday 3rd | 4pm-4.30pm | ACE Creams and Tapas* |
| Wednesday 4th | 4pm-4.30pm | Social Centre |
| Saturday 7th | 2pm-3pm | ACE Creams and Tapas* |

*on the corner of Station Road & St Mary's Lane. 15% discount on refreshments for those coming to meet the mission team!

* * *

SPECIAL EVENTS

St Joseph's Primary School Parents

Thur 5th Oct afternoon: Meet the Primary School Mission Team and find out what your children have been doing with them this week. See invite from school.

Stepping out – for young people in school year 7 and 8 (year 9 also welcome)

Fri 6th Oct: 4pm – 5pm (SC): A fun packed interactive session that will delve into the gift of friendship. Sign up needed—visit tinyurl.com/sjyouthfriday

* * *

CLOSING WEEKEND

Sat 7th Oct: 10am Mass and Rosary (Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary)

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? : Sat 7th Oct: 4.30 – 5.30pm

An opportunity to hear some Good News stories from fellow parishioners.

6.30pm/9am/11am Masses as usual, with contributions from the Mission Team

CELEBRATION BRING & SHARE LUNCH : Sun 8th Oct: 1pm onwards

St Peter's Catholic Centre, 234 Front Lane, Cranham, RM14 1LW

The whole parish community comes together to celebrate 100 years, and a successful mission. All welcome, with or without food!

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!

LIVE STREAMED EVENTS: The daily Mass during mission week (6.15pm) with music and faith sharing from the mission team, will be live-streamed via our parish facebook page, [facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster)—you do not need a facebook account to watch. Some of the talks will also be live streamed and/or recorded for later viewing.

AFTER THE MISSION - WHAT NEXT? Anyone thinking about becoming a Catholic, and anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of our faith, is invited to a welcome and enquiry evening for a new parish course 'Our Catholic Faith' from **7.45pm-9pm on Thursday 19th October** (in church). Everyone is invited to a Parish Forum on **Sunday 5th November from 4-6pm in church**, when we will have an opportunity to pray together and discuss how to build on our mission, hopefully joined by one or two members of the Sion mission team. Both occasions will be followed by a chance to meet one another in the Social Centre.

CARD/CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS: Our card payment processing service, which had been paused over the summer whilst our charitable status had to be verified, has now been restored. You can once again use cards and contactless devices to make payments in the repository, for mass offerings and hall bookings in the office, and for donations via the self-service terminal. We still accept cash as well!

KEVIN EDWARD AUSTIN RIP: Kevin formerly of this parish died peacefully on **Wednesday 20th September**. Kevin, grew up as a stalwart of the parish and was a past Treasurer of the Parish Council and MC for many years before retiring to Devon in 1988. He is survived by his children: John, Teresa & Annmarie, all of whom have fond memories of the church and school.

DENIS & LYN HEADON: The parish has said farewell to Denis and Lyn as they move to be with their daughter in Preston after 55 years in the parish. We thank them for their service in that time, in the Catenians and parish finance (Denis), and in Catholic education and music (Lyn - parish organist for 50 years!). They were presented with the papal medal 'Benemerenti' (well merited) at Mass on the eve of their departure celebrated by their son Fr Andrew Headen, and former priests of the parish Fr Gerald Gostling and Fr John Tuohy (and Fr Matthew) See photo on the website/facebook. Lyn & Denis have asked us to say thank you and goodbye to all of their friends that they didn't get the opportunity to say goodbye to personally.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 30th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

David Walsh RIP Birthday (Margaret)

Sun 1st Oct

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

Richard Mahony RIP (Upminster Catenians)

Mon 2nd Oct

6.15pm

HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

For greater understanding of the Word.

Tues 3rd Oct

6.15pm

For greater appreciation of the Eucharist.

Wed 4th Oct

7am

12 noon—1pm

6.15pm

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

For past parishioners and benefactors.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

For an openness to the mercy of God

Thur 5th Oct

6.15pm

For healing wherever it is needed.

Frid 6th Oct

6.15pm

For an openness to the Holy Spirit.

Sat 7th Oct

10am

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Mass and Rosary—For boldness in sharing the Gospel.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Terry Smith RIP Anniv. (Smith Family)

Sun 1st Oct

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

Frank & Peggy Leonard RIP Anniv. (Leonard)

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