

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 1st July 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Pat Monaghan RIP B'day (Sheila)
Sun 2nd July 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Bob Richards RIP (Angela)
Mon 3rd July 09.15am	ST THOMAS, AP Joy Lynn RIP (Medley)
Tues 4th July 9.15am	Andrew Pinder and all deceased members of the Pinder family (with our Year 2 children)
Wed 5th July 9.15am 12 noon—1pm 7.30pm	Jenny Maplesden RIP Wedding Anniv. (Paul) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Area mass for Upminster East, West Horndon, Bulphan & North Ockendon
Thur 6th July 9.15am	Patricia Sullivan RIP 1st Anniv.
Frid 7th July 9.15am	Joe & Paddy MacTaggart (Wales) RIP (Mullen)
Sat 8th July 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Janice Laverne Krumlamf (USA) RIP. (Betson)
Sun 9th July 9.00am 11.00am	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Margaret O'Neill RIP Anniv. People of the parish

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



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

1ST / 2ND JULY 2023

THIRTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 39

(2 Kings 4:8-11.14-16, Romans 6:3-4.8-11, Matthew 10:37-42)

This Sunday's gospel is not easy to hear. We are asked in very stark terms to prioritise Christ over those who are closest to us. Our instinctive response might be to protest: of course I love my parents, or my children, or my spouse, more than anything else. Or we might dismiss it as just another of those bible passages that don't really apply to us. Let us consider what Jesus is really saying to us. 'Nothing is more important than me.' It is a bold claim – a claim that only one who is truly God, maker and Lord of all things, could possibly make. Our initial response might prompt further reflection: do I see my faith as one of the many things that are part of my life and my identity, but not necessarily the most important? Perhaps I am not (yet) fully conscious of a relationship with Christ, which is deeper than any human relationship. If so, let us take comfort from the fact that none of us is quite there yet. Someone once said that a saint is a person whose life is all about one thing (i.e. Christ). We are called to become saints, but the key word is 'become', for we are all work's in progress.

We can see something of this in St Peter, whose feast we celebrated (along with St Paul) on Thursday. St Paul is known for his dramatic conversion. St Peter, on the other hand, seems to show us a more gradual, perhaps more recognisable path. His bravado at the last supper gives way to his denial of Christ, fearing for his own life. His embarrassment and shame makes it difficult for him to accept the reconciliation Christ offers on the shore of Galilee. When Our Lord asks 'do you love me?' he is burdened by his failure and expresses his frustration. Filled with the Holy Spirit he becomes a bold preacher of the gospel and takes on the mantle of shepherd. At the end of his life he initially flees Rome, where he is to be put to death, until he has a vision of Christ going to the city to be crucified again for him. Finally, with complete faith and trust and selfless love, he is willing to accept the consequences of being known as an apostle of Christ.

Let us return to those challenging words in the Gospel. Would we balk at someone suggesting we should value the sun more than the people we love? Surely not: because we know that without the sun none of us would exist. We also know that there is no real conflict – recognising the central importance of the sun does not come at the expense of those close to us.

Our life is as dependent on Christ as it is on the sun – more so in fact, because the sun itself is dependent on him. Christ is our sun – the true centre of our being. We are made for loving communion with others. Christ is not telling us not to love parents

or children, or to love them with anything less than total, generous, unselfish love. Christ wants us to love them more than we do already. But he also identifies himself as the only one who can claim the central place in our lives. If we put anything else at the centre then our lives will be off-balance. With Christ at the centre, everything and everyone else – and that includes all our family relationships – will be allowed to assume their own proper significance in our lives, not in competition with Christ but as a manifestation of his greatness and a means of our true flourishing.

Christ speaks both of sacrifice and reward. Our human experience tells us that if we really love another person, then we are ready to make sacrifices for them. But love brings its own reward – there is no greater joy than giving and receiving love. The thing that makes sacrifice more difficult – our self-centredness – becomes less and less of an issue the more truly Christ-centred we become. Following Christ may – surely will – entail certain sacrifices. Faithfulness to Christ means choosing his way rather than our own. We trust that his will is for our good, but we are constantly pulled in other directions by things which seem more immediately appealing to us. The call of the gospel may lead to quite significant demands and radical changes to our lives, depending on our particular circumstances and the particular path our Lord wishes us to follow. But it is in living for Christ, not for ourselves, that we become fully alive. However attractive a life centred on ‘me’ might appear, it is nothing compared to a life centred on him.

As you will see in the announcement of moves below, the makeup of the clergy in our Upminster/Hornchurch parish partnership will be somewhat different in September (I’m not going anywhere though!). I have assured Fr Martin and Fr Britto of our good wishes, and offered my prayers and support to Fr Mark and Fr Linu. Let us also keep the people of our neighbouring parishes in our prayers at this time of transition for them.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will reopen on Thursday 6th July.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Christine Mathurin and Annette Collier who died recently, and pray for all who mourn. Their funerals will be taking place here next week: Christine Mathurin 11am Wednesday 12th; Annette Collier 12.30pm Thursday 13th.

AREA MASSES: This summer we have been holding a series of evening Masses and social gatherings designed for people living in the different parts of our parish. Each evening has begun with a Mass in Church at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Social Centre afterwards. The final Area Mass is on **Wednesday 5th July for Upminster East & West Horndon**—everywhere along St Mary’s Lane east of Wantz Bridge include the ‘Cathedral’ roads, Pike Lane, Clay Tye Road, Ockendon Road and the villages of West Horndon, North Ockendon and Bulphan. All are welcome, however. Please take some of the invitation cards and use them to invite neighbours to come along, especially anyone you haven’t seen in church for a while.

CWL COFFEE MORNING IN CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS OF THE NHS: On Wednesday 5th July, the NHS is celebrating 75 years. The CWL will be holding a coffee morning to commemorate this great occasion. Everyone is welcome to join us in the social centre from 9.30am and are more than welcome to stay for lunch. All money raised on the day will be donated to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Basildon hospital in memory of baby Poppy Hatfull.

CWL MEETING: There will be a meeting on Friday 7th July in the Social Centre after morning Mass. All welcome. You do not need to be a member to come along. Tea and coffee will be served.

FOOD BANK: Thank you for your very generous support for our foodbank appeal. Donated items will now go to the Rainham Foodbank and cash donations will be sent to Canning Town.

AFTERNOON TEA: Please note that the afternoon tea advertised for this Sunday has been postponed.

PETITION: This weekend the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) has invited parishes to take part in a petition to raise awareness of the practices of forced abortion, sterilisation and infanticide perpetrated by the Chinese government particularly among the persecuted Uyghur people. The petition also calls on the government to end its substantial financial support of the Chinese state rather than effectively condoning such inhumane practices. Literature and petition cards will be available at a table outside after each Mass this weekend.

PETER’S PENCE: This Sunday, closest to the feast of St Peter & St Paul, we have the annual collection in support of the Pope’s ministry and the charitable activities of the Holy See. Please support this as generously as you feel able to.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Alan has announced the following appointments, taking effect from September. Parish Priests: Fr John Harvey From Loughton to Cathedral, Fr Martin Boland From Cathedral to Wanstead, Fr Adrian Lowe From Wanstead to Loughton, Fr Mark Reilly From Wickford to Hornchurch, St Mary, Fr Martin Fletcher From Hornchurch, St Mary to Epping, Fr Britto Belevendran From Hornchurch, English Martyrs to Wickford, Fr Linu Thankachan From Ilford, St John the Baptist to Hornchurch, English Martyrs, Fr Clement Orango From Nottingham Diocese to Stansted as Priest-in-Charge, Fr Henry Mobela Zambian Chaplaincy in London to Chadwell Heath as Priest-in-Charge, Fr Tarciziu Erdeş From Assistant Priest to Parish Priest of The Assumption, Hainault. Assistant Priests: Fr Paschal Uche From Colchester to Chelmsford, Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name & Springfield, Fr Jerold Terrence From Kerala to Manor Park, Fr Philip Okoli Resident at Community of St John, Forest Gate to Colchester. Canon John McGrath is retiring from Epping after 52 years of ministry in the diocese. Fr Sean Connolly (Chadwell Heath) is taking sabbatical leave.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: YEAR 13 RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: either 13th-15th Sept or 22nd-24th Sept. BCYS YOUTH GATHER 21st-22nd October, Mersea Island. Visit www.bcys.net/events/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

HELP YOUR MARRIAGE: Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk