

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 22nd July	ST MARY MAGDALENE
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 23rd July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	Ivan Cooper RIP. Anniv. (Family)
11.00am	Brian & Maureen Springham's Intentions.
Mon 24th July	
08.30am	Rose Taylor RIP (Green)
Tues 25th July	ST JAMES, AP
9.15am	No mass this morning
Wed 26th July	Ss JOACHIM & ANNE
9.15am	No mass this morning
12 noon—1pm	No adoration and confessions today
Thur 27th July	
9.15am	No mass this morning
Frid 28th July	
9.15am	No mass this morning
Sat 29th July	Ss MARTHA, MARY & LAZARUS
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	James Loudon RIP (Anniv)
Sun 30th July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	Sam Wingrove RIP (B'day)
11.00am	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](http://www.stjosephschurchupminster.com)

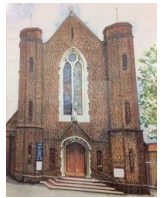
**PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH, AND PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES ARE SILENCED BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS**



## St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi  
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward  
[upminster@brcdt.org](mailto:upminster@brcdt.org) / 01708 222432



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

22ND / 23RD JULY 2023

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 46**

(Wisdom 12:13.16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43)

This Sunday's gospel gives us part of an answer to why evil exists in the world. God permits it for now, even though as a good and loving father the last thing he wants us for his children to suffer in any way, because simply to uproot it from the world would inhibit our own freedom to grow to maturity.

In the parable the weeds have been planted by an enemy. Jesus teaches very clearly that evil is not from God but is the work of one who has turned against him wants us to join him in this rebellion – even though he knows he cannot possibly prevail against God, he takes a grim satisfaction in taking as many souls as possible with him. This enemy has a name: the devil – and, like Jesus and also like Pope Francis we should not be afraid of naming him.

What makes something a weed is the fact that it is growing in the wrong place, out of control, and preventing the good plants from flourishing. And that is true of evil as well - it is not some rival force or energy in the universe, created by one who is equal to God. It is simply the effect of God's creatures turning away from him who is the source of all good. The devil is one of those creatures – he is not God's equal, and his ultimate defeat is already certain.

The devil's greatest trick is to make evil appear attractive. It's not always easy, especially for an inexperienced gardener such as myself, to tell the weeds and the good plants apart. Indeed, some of the weeds can be quite attractive, and its only when they rapidly overwhelm everything else that the problem becomes apparent. How true that is in our world today. We all recoil from evil in its most unpleasant manifestations. But the most pernicious weeds are those which appear attractive and appeal to our most instinctive desire, which is to be happy. But by drawing us away from life in God, they prevent us attaining true happiness.

If these weeds are so harmful to his creation, why does God not simply come and sweep them away? Because, with the wisdom of the farmer in the parable, he knows that when weeds are well established they cannot be uprooted without harming the crop. In other words, we can only grow and flourish if we are allowed freedom, including the freedom to turn away from him. But we also know that one day, when the time is right the weeds will be uprooted and the good crop harvested. Then he will establish a new heaven and new earth where his name is always held holy and all people rejoice to embrace his perfect will.

For the other thing this parable makes clear is that our present existence is only temporary. Our life on earth is a period of growth – but we live for the harvest, when the end for which we were created, namely eternal union with God, is realised. For now we must trust in the Lord, who sustains and rules all that he has made with loving care and infinite wisdom, rather than despair in the reality of human sinfulness. And knowing how divided we are even in our own hearts, we must ask him for the grace of true repentance, that we may sincerely desire his forgiveness for the ways in which we have allowed weeds to take root within us, and ask him in his loving mercy to tend the garden of our soul so that the good crop may flourish in us – for the longer we leave it, the harder the task of weeding becomes.

This week I will be in Lourdes with the diocese, a place which emphasises God's love for each individual person, and his desire to bring all people into his healing embrace. The church will be open for prayer each morning but (apart from Monday) there won't be weekday Mass - I encourage those who are accustomed to attending Mass during the week to attend Mass in a neighbouring parish on these days. The Mass is truly the summit and source of our faith: the moment when Christ's victory over the evil one is brought into our present, and his self-sacrifice – overturning the self-serving nature of sin – is represented to the Father. I will pray for your intentions as I concelebrate Mass with the Bishop each day in Lourdes.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**THIS WEEK:** Mass on Monday will be at the earlier time of 8.30am. For the remainder of the week (Tues-Friday) there will be no weekday Mass here, and there is also no holy hour on Wednesday. The church will be open for prayer in the mornings only. Adoration and Confessions will take place as usual next Saturday evening.

**LOURDES LIVE-STREAM:** The Brentwood Diocesan pilgrimage Mass at the grotto where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette will take place at 7.30am UK time (8.30am French time) on Tuesday morning and is live streamed via <https://www.lourdes-france.org/tv-lourdes/>

**“RECONNECT : REDISCOVER : REJOICE!”** A week focused on living and sharing our faith, led by the Sion Community Mission Team, taking place here at St Joseph's from Saturday 30th September to Sunday 8th October. There will be a celebratory bring-and-share lunch on the final Sunday. Please take a few invitation cards to help you spread the word and remind you to save the date. More information to come soon.

**CAN YOU HELP?** During the Parish Mission week (see above) we wish to offer a meal every evening. If you would like to help by taking charge of the catering for one evening please contact Simon Darvill on 07909 060653 or [simondarvill99@hotmail.com](mailto:simondarvill99@hotmail.com). There will also be a bring and share parish lunch on the closing Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> October), so even if you can't cater for an evening the contribution of a dish for the lunch will be appreciated.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Roisin Mulroy and Neil Wilson who are marrying this weekend here at St Joseph's. We wish them much happiness in their future life together.

**CWL THANK YOU:** Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the coffee morning to celebrate 75 years of the NHS. It was a great success and we are able to send £310 to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Basildon hospital in memory of baby Poppy Hatfull. Thank you all, from the CWL committee.

**SVP CHARITY SHOP UPMINSTER:** We are in need donations - anything from clothing, bric-a-brac, electrical items, books, DVD's, cd's & toys. All donations very much appreciated.

**PIANO NEEDING A GOOD HOME:** Danny O'Mahoney is looking to re-home a Challen upright piano. It is in good condition, free of charge but would need to be collected from Upminster. If interested please contact Danny direct on 07956-503737.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY AT HOME:** World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** run by the Religious of the Assumption - a day celebration on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023** from 11am-5pm in the church by **Leicester Square**. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

**YOUNG ADULTS FORMATION:** The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such *Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham*. There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September. To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at [freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org](mailto:freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org) *Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ. Tel. 01362 421442. [www.walsinghamcommunity.org](http://www.walsinghamcommunity.org)*

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FAYRE:**

**Stallholders needed for Christmas Craft & Gift Fair:** We are seeking stallholders for their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair being held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 5th November from 10.30-4pm. Pitches are £30 and all profits made on the day are the stallholders' own. For further information please contact Damian: [ddillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:ddillon@bccs.org.uk) / 07912 308000.

**HOLY RELICS OF ST COLUMBA, ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND AND ST**

**ANDREW THE APOSTLE VISIT HORNCHURCH:** The Holy Relics are being toured throughout Great Britain by the Knights of St Columba and will visit the parish of St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July, mid-afternoon, until Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, leaving late morning. The relics will be available for veneration before Mass on Monday and Tuesday and for ninety minutes after Mass on both days. On Wednesday morning the church will be open from 9am until 11am for veneration, the Holy Relics will then travel to St Anthony of Padua, Forest Gate. We sincerely hope you are able to visit the Relics to venerate and enjoy the amazing peace and serenity that surrounds them. May St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew intercede on your behalf and may your prayers be answered.