

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 24th June 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 25th June 9.00am 11.00am	TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Eileen Furzer RIP. (Ferreira) Moya Armstrong RIP (Goldfinch)
Mon 26th June 09.15am	Joyce Jones RIP B'day (Jones / Carter)
Tues 27th June 9.15am	Paul & Valerie Bemand RIP Anniv. (Bemand-Qureshi) <i>(with our Year 3 children)</i>
Wed 28th June 9.15am 12 noon—1pm 7.30pm	ST IRENAUS, BP, M For the special intentions of the Hartnett Family EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Area mass for Cranham
Thur 29th June 10am 8pm	SS PETER & PAUL, APP (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) People of the parish Patsy Fowley RIP. Anniv. (Family)
Frid 30th June 9.15am	Sheillah Foley RIP (Green)
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)

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

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

24TH / 25TH JUNE 2023

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 37

(Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33)

It's sometimes claimed that the phrase 'Do not be afraid' appears 365 times in the bible - once for every day of the year. That's a nice thought, though not entirely accurate. Nevertheless this phrase or something like it is one we find over and over again in the bible. But what makes it more than just a platitude, words of reassurance without any substance? The answer, very simply, is Jesus, who has proved himself mightier than any power on earth or in heaven. It's not just a case of 'keep calm and carry on' in the face of adversity, but a deep trust in the one who has and who will prevail over everything that is opposed to God and the building up of his kingdom of peace.

Jesus warns of the violent opposition his followers will face. This is not only a thing of the past, for there are many parts of the world where simply to identify as a Christian and to gather for worship is to place oneself at risk of harm or death; and yet in such places people still live their faith with courage and steadfastness. Places where the persecution of Christians is rarely headline news, and yet a daily reality for those who live there.

Jesus doesn't simply tell us not to be afraid, but not to be afraid of the wrong things. We should not fear those who can only harm our bodies; but we should fear that which can cause harm to our souls. The human person is a union of body and soul; and these two are not in opposition. Death brings temporary separation, but we profess in the creed a bodily resurrection; we will enjoy eternal life as whole people once more, not as disembodied spirits. Bodily death will come to us all, and it is something most of us fear because it is a step into the unknown; but it is a necessary step, because we are not meant to live for ever in this world, in our present bodies.

Thus we have a paradox: Catholics are the most vocal defenders of all life, as a gift from God; but we also have a certain indifference to life in this world. We who have received life from God, we are called to make a gift of ourselves to him in return, mindful that life in this world is only a preparation for the eternal life of heaven. And so we are rightly zealous in defending the right to life of others especially those who are less able to protect themselves, but with regard to our own lives we are encouraged to adopt the attitude of St Paul: if I die or if I live, it is for the Lord.

So, in Jesus we have no need to fear those who harm only the body; we know that we are destined for something far greater than the confines of the present material world. Who or what then should we fear? Jesus speaks of the one who can kill the

soul. And we should remember that though we are saved in Christ, we have a real enemy, who longs to drive a wedge between us and God. We call him the devil, or satan, and we shouldn't dismiss him as a mere symbol of evil. We shouldn't underestimate his power - because he is a fallen angel, and angels are mighty beings. But we shouldn't overestimate his power over us either, because he is no match for God. The poet Dante depicts him as a pitiful, sad creature, for having deliberately cut himself off from God and rejected all that is good, he is utterly devoid of hope, and his only satisfaction is in dragging others down to this pit of despair. He knows our weaknesses, where we are most vulnerable to temptation. The tools of his trade are deceit and flattery: he inserts himself between us and God, as he did in the garden of Eden, sowing seeds of distrust, and leads us to think either that we are such dreadful sinners that we are beyond redemption and should just give up, or more likely that our sins don't matter, that we can just carry on as we are with no need of repentance or amendment of life. Both these lies cleverly distort the reality of God, so that we no longer see him as a loving father, whose law is designed to help us grow and flourish; we see him as an arbitrary, petty killjoy, or simply an irrelevance to us. So we must dismiss this lie out of hand and embrace the truth: God loves us, and sent his son into the world to share his life with us. The devil truly has no power over us if we set our hearts on God and keep coming back to him no matter how many times we fall. Let us place our trust in Christ, knowing that if we remain in him, we truly have nothing to fear.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed for routine queries such as hall bookings until Thursday 6th July, as Rachel is on annual leave.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Congratulations to the children of our parish who have celebrated their First Holy Communion this month. They will have a 'going forth' celebration at the 11am Mass this Sunday.

CHRISTINE MATHURIN RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Mathurin who died recently. May her soul rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

AREA MASSES: This summer we are holding a series of evening Masses and social gatherings designed for people living in the different parts of our parish. On each of these evenings there is a Mass in Church at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Social Centre afterwards. If you can't make the week for your area, or live outside the parish boundaries, feel free to come any week. 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. The fourth of these gatherings takes place **this Wednesday (28th June)** aimed at those living **Cranham**. This includes Front Lane and all the roads off it. The final Area Mass is on **Wednesday 5th July** for **Upminster East & West Horndon** (St Mary's Lane east of Wantz bridge, North Ockendon and Bulphan as well as West Horndon).

ST PETER & ST PAUL: This feast day, which occurs on Thursday of this week (29th June), is a holy day of obligation and as such Mass will be celebrated at 10am (together with junior year groups from St Joseph's School) and at 8pm. Fr Matthew will also be celebrating a lunchtime Mass at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School. The Area Mass on Wednesday evening will also fulfil the obligation.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: Champion School are holding a year 7 admissions evening on 29th June. Please note that Certificates of Catholic Practice will only be signed at the times which will be advertised in the Autumn, prior to the closing date.

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: Come and join us for afternoon tea on **Sunday 2nd July** at 3pm in the social centre. All profits raised will be donated to the parish to help fund the prayer garden. Tickets are available from Bernadette in the repository £7 for adults and £2 for children.

YEAR 13 RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: MADE FOR A PURPOSE. Will you be in Yr13 in September 2023? Are you currently making decisions about your next steps? Would you like some time to step back, reflect, pray and think about the different pathways ahead of you? Then if so, the Yr13 retreat at Walsingham House is just the opportunity to do that. There will be two retreats on offer, either 13th-15th Sept or 22nd-24th Sept. The cost is £35 and there is more information on the website www.bcys.net/events/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

PROPERTY ASSISTANT CATHEDRAL HOUSE: Cathedral House are seeking a property assistant. The successful applicant will provide comprehensive, effective, and efficient administration support. Full Job description is attached. Hours: 35 hours per week- Office Based. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to recruitment@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 15th July 2023.

BCYS YOUTH GATHER - 21st – 22nd October: Youth Gather is back for 2023 and the BCYS are absolutely thrilled to be joined by the fantastic Adenike, semi-finalist on The Voice, who many of you will have seen perform and heard from at Flame back in March. Taking place at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island, there is cabin accommodation and a brilliant range of outward-bound activities, opportunities for climbing high ropes, archery, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, plus performances, input and workshops from Adenike and the SVP! All meals are included, plus two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, accommodation and travel to and from Mersea Island – all of this for just £70. The event is open to those in school year 9 and above, including opportunities for young leaders (age 18 and above) in the Brentwood Diocese. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events/yg23/

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. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. 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