

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 27th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BP EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 28th May 9.00am 11.00am	PENTECOST SUNDAY James Anthony Beck RIP (Gillings) Donie & Maureen Muldoon RIP Anniv. (Pavitt)
Mon 29th May 09.15am	MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH Paula Lovitt RIP (Family)
Tues 30th May 9.15am	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Patrick Cantwell RIP (Blake)
Wed 31st May 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST MARY & ST HELEN, BRENTWOOD Betty Devine RIP (Byrne) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 1st June 9.15am	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST Margaret Siggers RIP (Thanksgiving from St Joseph's flower ladies)
Fri 2nd June 6pm	Winifred & Ronald Threadgill RIP (Threadgill)
Sat 3rd June 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST CHARLES LWANGA & COMPS, MM EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Teresa Faherty RIP. 10th Anniv. (Kathleen & family)
Sun 4th June 9.00am 11.00am	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY Len Jones RIP. Anniv. (Family) 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.

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

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

27TH / 28TH MAY 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY (A) - Mass Book Pg 22

(Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13, John 20:19-23)

Today, the Solemnity of Pentecost, is not only the end of the Easter season, it is also the 'birthday' of the church. We celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of the apostolic mission, by which the Good News of our new life in Christ was made known to the whole world beginning with those assembled in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost.

The connection between Easter and Pentecost runs very deep. The Preface at Mass today describes the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as bringing the Paschal Mystery to completion, uniting us the adopted sons and daughters of God to his only-begotten Son. On Easter Day and for the fifty days that followed we celebrated Christ's resurrection from the dead, the victory over the grave which was won for our benefit; we celebrate not because one man happened to rise from the dead, but because in him we too are risen, and it is the gift Holy Spirit which makes that 'in him' part possible. The disciple received this gift first on Easter Day, and then in a more dramatic and public way on the day of Pentecost itself. Our risen life in Christ begins in the waters of Baptism, which is the moment the Holy Spirit begins to dwell in us to bring about that union with Christ, a gift which is 'sealed' in the sacrament of Confirmation as we receive the gifts that enable us to play our part in the mission of the Church. Like Easter Day itself it is a very appropriate moment to celebrate the sacraments of initiation, as we will do in our parish today, for the very first Pentecost saw some 3,000 added to the body of Christ through baptism.

In celebrating Pentecost, we are, certainly, celebrating a past event. But, as with Easter, that is not all we are about today: the activity of the Holy Spirit is very much part of our present, and it is not restricted to a single day in the year. The Holy Spirit, like the wind, can only be seen by its effects, sometimes gentle and sometimes dramatic. He is as present to us as the air we breathe, but we should not forget that he is a divine person – not a Star-Wars-like 'force' but very definitely a 'who' rather than a 'what', properly referred to as 'he' rather than 'it'. In the Creed we rightly call him 'the Lord', just as we call the Father, Lord, and the Son, Lord. He certainly isn't a thing, a vague spiritual energy that we need a top up of from time to time. He is the one who comes along side us to lead us into the truth. The one whose presence and whose gifts will enable us to speak of the hope we have in Christ when we cannot find the words, who will lead us to pray when we do not know how, who will fill our hearts with an awareness of divine love, when otherwise we might feel alone.

The first and greatest gift the Holy Spirit bestows on those who seek it with open hearts is the gift of faith in Christ and the repentance that leads us to salvation and newness of life. St Paul teaches us that it is the Holy Spirit who leads us to say 'Jesus is Lord'. The other gifts are given to help us walk the path of discipleship more faithfully, and to play the particular part God has given us in serving his church. They are gifts that are freely given, but which we need to actively seek and receive with open hearts if we are to benefit from them – and not just us, for these gifts are given to each one of us in order to bear fruit to the benefit of the whole church and the glory of God.

Our celebration today is an opportunity to remind ourselves of this great truth, that through the power of the Holy Spirit the risen Christ lives in us, and we live in him. Let us pray expectantly that our hearts may be opened once more to all that the Holy Spirit wishes to give us, and let us not forget to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for all the blessings than he has already poured upon us; above all for the divine life he has shared with us.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

AREA MASSES: This summer there will be a series of evening Masses and social gatherings designed for people living in the different parts of our parish. Each week there will be Mass in Church at 7.30pm, with 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. Invitation cards will be available next week for you to spread the word. The dates are as follows: **Thursday 8th June – Upminster West** (south of the railway line and west of Corbets Tey Rd), **Thursday 15th June – Upminster South** (south of the railway line and east of Corbets Tey Rd), **Tuesday 20th June – Upminster North** (everywhere north of the railway line that isn't Cranham), **Wednesday 28th June – Cranham, Wednesday 5th July – Upminster East & West Horndon** (St Mary's Lane east of Wantz bridge, West Horndon, North Ockendon and Bulphan) - see last week's newsletter online for a map.

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Please pray for Jonida and her children Cora-Kay, Cyona-Blue and Kyan-Pablo, and also Amelia (daughter of Christine and Sam), who are to be baptised (and confirmed in Jonida's case) during the 11am Mass this Sunday.

WEDDING: Congratulations to Christine and Sam, celebrating their marriage here place this Saturday.

HALF TERM: There is **no Children's Liturgy or coffee today or next week**; these will resume on 11th June. Please note that the parish office is closed on Bank Holiday Monday, and **Mass on Friday will be at 6pm** (as Fr Matthew is attending a clergy conference). We wish all our children a safe half-term, and will keep all those preparing for exams in our prayers.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: There is no mothers prayers this week due to half term.

MASS BOOKS: Please note we switch to a new Mass book today (Year A part 2, brown cover) – if you see any orange ones please hand them to the welcomers.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Sheila Barnett , Ann Nash and Joyce Fenton who died recently. Sheila Barnett's funeral will be held here on **Tuesday 13th June at 12 noon**. Ann's funeral will be here on **Thursday 15th June at 11am**. Joyce's funeral will be on **Thursday 15th June at 2.20pm** at South Essex Crematorium.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year and would like to attend the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday 15th July, please contact Fr Matthew and he will make sure you are invited.

ROSARY: All are welcome to come and pray the Rosary and chaplet of Divine Mercy at 10am on Wednesday mornings in the church, each week in term-time between now and October.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB: Club survey (open to **all** - not just members) - Please take 5 minutes to feedback on the Catholic Club as we approach our 1st anniversary of reopening and plan for the future: <http://tiny.cc/STCC2023> We are open Thursday, Friday, Saturday (from 7:30pm) and Sunday (from 6:30pm) .

BISHOP ALAN LISTENS: Bishop Alan would love to hear from you! Do you, or someone you know, no longer go to Mass or feel that you belong in the Church? Bishop Alan would love to hear your story and listen to your experience, via this online survey. PLEASE ASK your friends or family, your neighbours and colleagues who no longer come to Church to complete the survey so that we might hear from as many people as possible (the link is clickable in the online newsletter): https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Gn08WXvvKfwJts

CDOT VOICES CENTENARY FUNDRAISING CONCERT: On **Friday 2nd June at 7.30pm** CDOT Voices choir returns to St. Peter's. We hope to raise £1000 for the purchase of a statue for the grotto in our new prayer garden in celebration of our church's 100 years in Upminster. Tickets are £10 each for adults and £1 for children Listen to songs from the shows including 'Les Mis' , 'Dear Evan Hansen' and 'Prince of Egypt'. Only 30 tickets left!. Light refreshments and raffle. Tickets from Bernadette on 07825235717 or from the repository.

CARITAS: Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? Come to the first Caritas Brentwood networking day, **Saturday 10th June, 10am – 2.30pm**, at Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster. Hear national speaker Raymond Friel OBE, Chief Executive of the Catholic Social Action network (CSAN). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and registration (free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

KNITING AND CRAFT GROUP: A reminder that the next meeting is on **Monday 5th June, 12.30-3pm** in the Social Centre

MIZEN FOUNDATION BRIDGE WALK: Tommy and Joseph from our parish will be doing the family section of the sponsored London bridge walk this weekend organised in memory of Jimmy Mizen. Any donations gratefully received: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lewis-boys>