

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 3rd June	ST CHARLES LWANGA & COMPS, MM
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Teresa Faherty RIP. 10th Anniv. (Kathleen & family)
Sun 4th June	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
9.00am	Len Jones RIP. Anniv. (Family)
11.00am	People of the parish
Mon 5th June	ST BONIFACE, BP, M
09.15am	Dan Coakley RIP (Anniv)
Tues 6th June	
9.15am	Stephanie Dunn RIP (Butler) (With our year 5 children)
Wed 7th June	
9.15am	Michael Murphy RIP (McEneaney)
12 noon—1pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 8th June	
9.15am	Hannah Hale RIP. 3rd Anniv. (Maguire)
Frid 9th June	
9.15am	Mary Kelly RIP (Doris O'Flaherty)
Sat 10th June	
5.30pm—6.15pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Martin Blewitt RIP (Connaghan)
Sun 11th June	THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	James Shanahan RIP (Goldfinch)

### 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

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### PARISH NEWSLETTER

3RD / 4TH JUNE 2023

TRINITY SUNDAY (A) - Mass Book Pg 25

(Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18)

St Patrick composed a beautiful prayer known as 'St Patrick's Breastplate', which we occasionally sing as a hymn. A breastplate is of course a piece of armour, a form of protection, and the prayer begins 'I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three, of whom all nature has creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word.' For St Patrick, and for us, there is no greater protection than the name of God, who we invoke whenever we make the sign of the cross.

A millennium and a half later St John Henry Newman composed a hymn which begins 'Firmly I believe and truly, God is three and God is one, and I next acknowledge duly manhood taken by the son'. This is the essential core of our faith, and it is through the manhood taken by the Son – Jesus Christ – that we properly come to know the Father and are able to receive the gift of the Spirit.

The Trinity is the greatest mystery of our faith because it concerns the nature of God himself. A mystery not in the sense of a puzzle that needs to be solved, but rather a truth whose grandeur is beyond the capacity of a finite human mind to fully comprehend. God is not any kind of 'thing' to be found within the universe, so his existence can neither be proved nor disproved by scientific investigation. On the other hand, the longing for God is planted deep in our hearts and he has revealed himself to us in a way that is accessible to us, whilst creation itself bears the signs of its creator. Though there are analogies we can use to help us appreciate the Trinity – St Patrick famously made use of the shamrock in his preaching – we have to remember that no analogy can adequately plumb the depths of this mystery.

It is in many ways easier for us to say what God is not, than what he is. The Trinity is *not* three gods. We believe in one God. Yet God is not merely a single entity as, say, the followers of Islam might conceive him. Nor is the Trinity simply a case of the one God interacting with us in different ways – wearing different 'hats' as it were. He can only be described as one God existing for all time as a communion of three divine persons; each fully God but not gods, perfectly united yet not identical to each other.

But there are many things we *can* say about God: he is eternal and infinite, beyond time and space which are his creations, he is all-knowing and all-powerful, and most important of all, he is love. The mystery of the Trinity relates to this last truth, which is simply what God has shown us about himself. If God is love, and yet entirely self-sufficient, then it is hard to conceive of him as a solitary being. It makes sense that

communion and relationships are in some way integral to his very existence for eternity. It is love alone which motivated God's work of creation, and it is love which led the eternal Son of God to become man, and to live, suffer and die as one of us, so that by rising he could restore us to life. That is spelt out for us in the simple summary of the good news we hear in today's gospel reading. (By the way, if you though it strange that there should be no mention of the Holy Spirit in the passage chosen for Trinity Sunday, it might help to know that the church fathers often equate the Spirit with the love flowing between Father and Son, love that is so perfect it is itself a distinct divine person). Our destiny is to share in the communion of the Trinity for ever, for God has made us for nothing less than a share in his life. The Trinity is not just an abstract theological concept, but the source of everything that we are, and everything that we shall be.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**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. 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 first of these takes place **this Thursday (8<sup>th</sup> June)** aimed at those living in the area we have termed **Upminster West** – everywhere that is south of the railway line and west of Station Rd/Corbets Tey Rd, including all the roads south of Upminster Park. The other dates are **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.)

**FOOD BANK:** We have been supporting the Canning Town Food Bank for a number of years; getting items to the food bank is however proving increasingly difficult. Therefore we have taken the decision from now on to take food and other donated goods to one of the food banks linked to parishes in Havering, where there is need closer to home. Cash donations will however be forwarded to Canning Town, allowing them to respond to particular requests. Both forms of support are greatly appreciated.

**BAPTISM COURSE VOUNTEERS NEEDED:** We would like to expand our team of baptism course leaders. If you would be interested in helping families prepare for the celebration of baptism, please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Matthew.

**MOTHERS PRAYERS:** This group will meet this week as usual at 2pm on Tuesday afternoon. All are welcome – if you'd like to see what it is about then do please come along.

**SECOND COLLECTION—SICK CLERGY:** Please note that we will be holding a second collection after all masses next weekend in aid of the sick clergy fund. Please give as generously as you can to this worthy cause.

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Mya Laviniere will be making her First Holy Communion during the 11am Mass this Sunday. Congratulations also to Mia Rey Foster, Rosie Kate Hazell, Ava Jasmine Laviniere, William Ernest Fleming, Parker Ray Lee Norman and Lola Ann Leigh Norman, who are to be joined to the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

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

**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.

**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](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER:** A vacancy has arisen for a Health and Safety Officer to work full time from Monday to Friday. They will be based at Cathedral House and will be required to travel around the Diocese. Candidates must have H&S experience and H&S qualifications including NEBOSH. Please send your CV and cover letter by email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org) Full job description is available: [Health-and-Safety-Officer-JD.pdf](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/Health-and-Safety-Officer-JD.pdf) (dioceseofbrentwood.net) Closing date for applications: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**THE CAMPION SCHOOL OPEN EVENING:** For the admission of boys (in current Year 5) in September 2024 will be held at the school on Thursday, 29th June 2023 from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Talks from the Headteacher will be at 5.15 pm and 6.30 pm. Admissions forms, including The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) will be available online.

**JESUIT PROVINCIAL TO SPEAK AT GIDEA PARK:** Fr Damian Howard SJ, provincial of the Jesuits in Britain, will be speaking at a Study Day entitled 'Serving Christ in a Hostile Environment' on Saturday 10th June. The event, from 11.00 to 13.30 BST, will be held at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest at Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) and will be both in-person and on-line. If you are attending in person please book by letting us know at [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org). Coffee will be available in the hall from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. For livestream just go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) on the day.