

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 6th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST JOHN PAYNE, PR, M EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS John Scully RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sun 7th May 9.00am 11.00am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Ellen & John Maplesden RIP Anniv. (Maplesden) People of the parish
Mon 8th May 09.15am	Deceased members of the Regan family (Regan)
Tues 9th May 9.15am	Gerry Cahill RIP (Green)
Wed 10th May 9.15am 12—1pm	Michael Kinsella RIP (Baldwin) EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 11th May 09.15am 11am	Martin Blewitt RIP (Maplesden) Funeral Mass — Mary Stannard
Frid 12th May 09.15am	ST JOHN HOUGHTON, PR, M Anthony Roberts RIP (Eileen Martin)
Sat 13th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST ERCONWALD, BP EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Bridie McDonagh RIP (Dodd)
Sun 14th May 9.00am 11.00am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Anne-Marie Roberts RIP (Keefe) 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

Campion School - School office 01708-452332

Gift Aid Organiser - karm1@btinternet.com

Baptisms & weddings - please speak to Fr Matthew after Mass

Repository: Saturdays before & after Mass, and Sundays after the 9am Mass until 10.55am

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



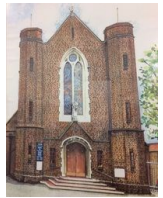
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@dioceseofbrentwood.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

6TH 7TH MAY 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) - Mass Book Pg 145

(Acts 6:1-7, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12)

This weekend sees the coronation of King Charles with his consort Queen Camilla, in a ritual not seen for 70 years. We honour one of his predecessors, Edward the Confessor, as a saint. Over the centuries, however, there have been some notable low points in the relationship between monarchs and the Catholic church. The feud between Henry II and his Archbishop Thomas Becket led to the latter's martyrdom. Henry VIII was honoured with the title Defender of the Faith by Pope Leo X for his defence of the sacraments, though he would later place himself above papal authority and inaugurate a seismic shift in the religious landscape. On Thursday we celebrated the feast of the martyrs of that period, whose memory we rightly honour and whose intercession we seek. Thankfully the decades of bitter persecution followed by grudging tolerance are now behind us. We can recognise the spirit of Christian service that underpinned her late Majesty's reign, and accept with sincerity the King's desire to be seen as defender of all faith even as he formally promises to uphold the Protestant religious settlement. There is no conflict between our allegiance to the successor of St Peter as the Vicar of Christ, whilst also recognising King Charles as our head of state. The fact that the newly crowned King and Queen received holy communion, according to the rites of the Church of England, is itself a powerful witness to the centrality of Christ and his Church, even though it is still a matter of great sadness that the communion of which he is the supreme governor remains separated from the universal Church founded by Christ.

One thing today's gospel cautions us against is the idea of being indifferent in matters of faith – the popular idea even voiced occasionally by those within the church that it's all the same really, we all believe in the same God, and so on. Today's gospel contains the reassuring promise that there are many rooms in the Father's house – God wants all of us there with him – but there is only one way in: through Christ himself. Those who do not know Christ through no fault of their own but seek the truth and goodness of God according to the light they have received, may well find themselves drawn into the father's house through Christ without realising it. But Christ alone is the Son of God, whose saving death and resurrection are the only means by which the world is reconciled to God, and his Church the means by which he gathers all people to himself. We should see his words as the opening of a door, rather than the closing of one, but there is only one door.

As our nation marks the coronation of its King, the rite itself reminds us that all earthly sovereignty is subject to the authority of the King of Kings. The most solemn part of the coronation rite is the anointing; all of us through baptism share in the triple anointing of Christ as priest, prophet and king – the title ‘Christ’ means ‘anointed one’ and a Christian is similarly ‘anointed’. All of us are thus called and empowered to offer ourselves in worship as members of his body (the priestly role); to bear witness to the truth (prophetic); and to exercise whatever power, authority and influence is given to us in the service of God’s kingdom (kingly). Christ is our true and everlasting King, who has ultimate power over all things yet did not hesitate to give himself up to the humiliation and pain of the cross for our sake, and has given us an everlasting share in his glory. He has also given us his mother, who in placing herself entirely at God’s service merited a crown beyond all earthly crowns. She who is rightly honoured as Queen of Heaven constantly intercedes for us with her Son, so that all may find and enter through the door which he has opened for us. We honour her especially in this month of May, and as a sign of this honour a crown will be placed at her altar by some of the children preparing for their first communion. Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Betty Devine, Iveron Stone, Catherine Thomas and Frank Everett who have died recently. Betty’s funeral will be held here at St Joseph’s on **Friday 19th May at 12 noon** followed by a burial at Upminster Cemetery. Iveron’s funeral will be on **Thursday 18th May 12.20pm** at South Essex Crematorium. The funeral for Frank Everett will be here at St Joseph’s on **Wednesday 17th May at 11am**. Catherine’s funeral will be here on **Monday 22nd May at 11am**. Please also keep in your prayers Casey Rawlings whose mother Jean Mendes died recently.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY: During term time, Childrens’ Liturgy takes place in the Social Centre during the 9am Mass, for children old enough to be left with the Catechists up to First Communion age. Please bring your child to the Social Centre on your way to Mass. The children will be brought into church during the offertory and sit together at the front.

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.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: The Diocese has introduced a new shorter email address format for all diocesan emails, including our parish and Fr Matthew’s own email addresses. The older version will continue to work, but you are encouraged to use the newer addresses going forward especially as the possibility of mistakes in typing the address is reduced: Parish – upminster@brcdt.org / Fr Matthew – frmatthewbemand-queshi@brcdt.org (if you are wondering, it stands for ‘Brentwood Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust’ which is the legal name of the Diocese).

CENTENARY MUGS: Own a part of parish history! Commemorative mugs are now on sale from the repository for £5, featuring our centenary logo and the logo which will appear on our soon-to-be-launched new website. They are (according to the manufacturer) dishwasher and microwave safe.

PRIZE DRAW: There is still one unclaimed prize, ticket number **968**. We will draw a new winning number if it is not claimed within a month of the original date.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Sean & Katie who are marrying here at St Joseph’s this weekend. We wish them much happiness in their future life together.

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. 130 tickets at £10 each for adults and £1 for children. Light refreshments and raffle. Tickets from Bernadette on 07825235717 or from the repository.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesdays 10th, 17th and 24th of May at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, *"Calling on the name of Jesus,"* will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP: A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend **13th - 14th May** to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated (“when you help the poor you help our Lord”).

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN (20S & 30S): Theme: Discerning God’s Call in your life. Dates: **26-28 May 2023**. Location: Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to ‘Come and See’ - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God’s call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS SCHOOL, UPMINSTER: A staff member is looking for some temporary accommodation for June/July due to eviction. If anyone has a room to let or is aware of some alternative accommodation that would help a member of the school community, it would be greatly appreciated. Please use the following contact details in order to get in touch if you know of anything suitable: vqurrey@mary.havering.sch.uk / 01708 222660.

