

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 8th July 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Janice Laverne Krumlamf (USA) RIP. (Betson)
Sun 9th July 9.00am 11.00am	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Margaret O'Neill RIP Anniv. People of the parish
Mon 10th July 09.15am	Patrick & Mary Anne Brady RIP Anniv. (Green)
Tues 11th July 9.15am	ST BENEDICT, AB Enid & John Mangham RIP (Tsocos)
Wed 12th July 9.15am 11am 12 noon—1pm	Brian & Maureen Springham's Intentions Funeral mass—Christine Mathurin NO CONFESSIONS OR ADORATION THIS WEEK
Thur 13th July 9.15am 12.30pm	Francis & Theresa Joseph & Raffael Croose RIP (Bastiampillai) Funeral mass—Annette Collier
Frid 14th July 9.15am	NO MASS THIS MORNING
Sat 15th July 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST BONAVENTURE, BP, D EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Joan Lillywhite RIP (Betson)
Sun 16th July 9.00am 11.00am	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Anthony & Sabrina Roberts RIP (Mary O'Donnell)

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

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
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PARISH NEWSLETTER

8TH / 9TH JULY 2023

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 41

(2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42)

In his book *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen Hawking describes how at the end of a public lecture on astronomy given by a well-known scientist a little old lady stood up at the back and said 'What you have told us is rubbish. The world is really a flat plate supported on the back of a giant tortoise.' The scientist gave a superior smile and replied 'So what is the tortoise standing on?' 'You're very clever, young man, very clever', said the lady, 'but its tortoises all the way down!'

To many people, our faith seems just as absurd. Belief in God is easily characterised as something simplistic, naïve even, in contrast to the superior, sophisticated 21st century atheistic worldview, with its emphasis on scientific analysis and rational proof and no room for God or the supernatural. Leaving aside the fact that many great scientific advances in fields such as cosmology and genetics were made by Catholic priests, we should not for a moment buy into a notion that faith doesn't stand up to reasoned argument. Our appreciation of the mysteries of God is deepened by the work of many great theologians who are rightly honoured among the saints of the Church, from St Paul, St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas, right up to those in our own time such as St John Paul II. But the mysteries of God are something that ultimately cannot be accessed by learning alone.

We are invited not merely to know God, but to fall in love with him, responding in kind to the love he has lavished upon us. Any child knows instinctively how to respond to the love of their parents. Perhaps that why children also have a great capacity to know and love God, even if they cannot yet put their faith into words. And children also have a great curiosity about the world, always asking questions. A childlike faith is not necessarily a simplistic or naïve one. As we grow older, we tend perhaps to over complicate things, and we often focus on the wrong things.

Today's gospel prompts us to reconsider our preoccupations with comfort and independence. Jesus invites us to find rest in him, and promises a yoke that is easy. A yoke is something that suggests heavy labour and perhaps even slavery. We understand from last week's gospel that the yoke of Christ is the cross. But it is his cross, not ours alone. He bears it with us, for us, lightening our load but also revealing to us that love is the true meaning of our existence. Love which involves overcoming the gravitational pull of our self-fulfilment, our comfort and independence.

If we follow Christ, walk with him, and bear whatever crosses come our way gladly in union with him, then we will find fulfilment and joy beyond measure, because this is the very meaning of our existence, made out of love, made for love. If we go in the opposite direction, resisting Christ's call, then life will indeed be far more difficult, less rewarding. If all our energies are devoted to seeking worldly success and pleasure then we will end up exhausted and disappointed.

True peace lies in the proper ordering of everything according to God's perfect will, trusting that God's will is for our ultimate good. The rest Christ offers is not simply a permanent state of relaxation, which we all surely grow bored of eventually, but something far better than we can possibly imagine. The rest of a child in the tender embrace of its parents. The rest of a spouse enjoying the closeness of their beloved. The rest of contemplating for eternity the one who is beauty, truth and goodness himself. We need to rest in the Lord and not in ourselves - as St Augustine memorably put it, our hearts are restless until they find rest in him.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: Simon Darvill and Bernadette Tsocos were recently appointed as Co-Stewards of the Gospel. The role was introduced by Bishop Alan at the beginning of the journey that culminated in the publication of a vision for the renewal of our diocese. The role has evolved from gathering information about parish life, to exploring ways of working more closely with neighbouring parishes, and now as we reflect on the experience of the past few years, to helping our parish community discern how we can serve the Lord most effectively and fruitfully. Simon and Bernadette will speak briefly at the end of each Mass this weekend.

“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 save these dates and spread the word. 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.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Christine Mathurin, Annette Collier, and Richard Mahoney who died recently, and pray for all who mourn. Christine Mathurin's funeral Mass is at 11am this Wednesday; Annette Collier's is at 12.30pm Thursday 13th.

CWL LUNCH CLUB: The CWL lunch club will be closed for the month of August to give the ladies a well earned rest. The last lunch will be served on Wednesday 26th July. We will reopen on Wednesday 6th September. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year.

UPMINSTER CATENIANS: We welcome members of the Uppminster Circle of the Catenians at the 11am Mass this Sunday. We join them in praying for their late President, Richard Mahoney, who died suddenly during the week, and for his family. If you are interested in finding out about the Catenians, please contact Tony Goldsmith (tonygoldsmith.catenians@gmail.com).

THIS WEEK: There is no Holy Hour on Wednesday 12th, and no public Mass on Friday 14th. Holy hour on Saturday 15th maybe slightly late starting.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulation to Charlie Denton, Castiel Raphael Oluwademolami-Ajana, Theodore Leonard Buffoni, Isabella Carmen Julia Turner, Grace Morgan Albury & Monty Albert Evans Albury who were all received into the parish last weekend through the sacrament of baptism.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES: Ronald Threadgill, Len Jones, Pauline Duncan, Violet Marsh, Ernest Phillips, Michael Reed, Betty Wellings, Dawn Ney, Mary Singleton, Joseph McConalogue, Teresa Faherty, Laurens Pynenburg, Annie Allen, Kim Bateman, Dan Coakley, Eileen Wennell, Francis Hartley, Alfred Allen, Charles Allen, Edward Caldon, Hanna Hale, Dorothy Moss, Patience Jones, James Cantwell, Ron Gillespie, Patrick McDonnell, Peter Casey, Peter McComish, Paddy O'Shea, Robert Steeden, Maria Wayne, Michael Hogan, David Murphy, Patricia Hogg, Bernard Goodall, Kathleen Mansell, Frances Thurgood, Barbara Patullo, Ethel Kirk, Pamela Bailey, Margaret Baker, Patrick O'Shea, Hugh Scullion, Mildred Freel, Ellen Ivens, Anita Wolski, Alfred Best, Clorinda Pesci, Hannah Rynne, Dr Kevin McAndrew, Isabel Coleman, Mary Cooper, James Reid, Cornelius Barrett, Michael Mahoney, Beatrice Jordan, Marion McKenzie, Eileen Geddes, Grace Waterman, John Scanlon, Joy Ramsden, Eddie O'Sullivan, Clive Gleeson, Moya Armstrong, Bishop Wall, Denis O'Connor, Eileen Busby, Meryl Gibbs, Anne Tunstill, Betty Moore, Anna Gallagher, Shirley Hartley, Ellen Sharp, Mary Falconer, Sydney Cooper, Catherine Turck, Michael Neary, Joan Heelan, Christina Ritchie, Patrick Monaghan, Eileen James, Margaret Garwood, Nancy Moncrieffe, Henry Benjamin, Michael Ferrell, William Cates, Mary Doreen Clark, Rachel Ferrie, Joyce Croly, Patricia Gilbert, James Jinks, Thomas Tinney, Patrick Murray, Roy Hale, John Wooster, Joan Henry, Annie Dawson, Grace Connelley, Tony Nellist, Patsy Fowley, Leonard Tylar, James Cronin, Doris Newman & Kathleen (Kit) Murdock. July Anniversaries will follow next weekend.

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/

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 *Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ. Tel. 01362 421442. www.walsinghamcommunity.org*