



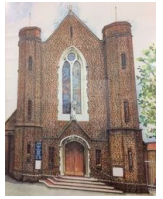
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

9TH / 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 62

(Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20)

Our parish mission is less than a month away. Over the next three weeks I am going to reflect on the significance of the three words we've chosen to sum up what our forthcoming parish mission is about. If you are someone who only reads the first paragraph or just skims the newsletter, I do ask you to bear with me! The first word the mission team have chosen is "Reconnect".

Paradoxically during the pandemic many of us experienced long periods of isolation and were longing to spend time with friends and family, but as restrictions were eased there was also a great deal of anxiety about contact with others. During this time, technology allowed people to connect with one other virtually – and it's still a great help to people separated by long distances – but we know that it is not the same as real physical closeness. Similarly, watching Mass online or on the TV, whilst it allowed us to worship with others and feel connected in some way, was not the same as actually being at Mass.

As human beings, we exist for others. We are made for communion, not for an isolated existence. The church is a group of people, united in faith, formed into the family of God, and called the 'body of Christ'. In our local parish family, we may have some deep, longstanding friendships, or we may feel as though we don't really know anyone, or even that we don't really belong. If so there are probably others who feel the same way, and I don't think anyone knows everyone.

Our connectedness to one another within this local parish community is important, and I hope that the mission week will help deepen that. Not least through the opportunity to meet and talk to different people. If nothing else, I hope you will try and come to the centenary celebration on Sunday 8th October – there is plenty of space at St Peter's and hopefully there will be plenty of food! But our connectedness extends beyond the local parish. The church has been doing 'virtual' connection long before the internet existed. When Christ ascended to heaven he promised to be with us always, to the end of time, echoing an early promise that he would be there whenever two or three gather in his name. Next week Bishop Alan joins us to preside at Mass, but in every Mass the Holy Father and our Bishop are named in the eucharistic prayer, as a reminder that our celebration is linked to every celebration in our diocese and around the world, as part of that single communion we call the universal or Catholic Church. We are also joined to all those who have gone before us: the saints in heaven, and those being made ready for heaven. 'Virtual' is, however, an inadequate word to

describe a real and deep connection founded in Christ's real presence in the eucharist, the same Christ present on every altar and in every tabernacle. We may not be physically present in the same space as Christians at Mass on the other side of the world, but the same Christ is present to each of us! However the fact that we are physically present does matter to those we are gathering with, even the person we do not know on the other side of the church. The church speaks of an obligation to attend Mass not to impose an inconvenient burden, but to underscore just how important it is for the faithful to gather on the Lord's Day to be fed by him, to worship as one body, and to support one another.

We are also united with the whole body of Christ in our prayer. United in praying *for* one another (even those we don't know by name), and united *in praying* essentially the same prayers. That is the beauty of traditional prayers like the rosary. And when we pray with the scriptures, including the psalms, we are also praying with Christ himself who did exactly the same thing! **Here I would like to address in particular the members of our parish who receive communion at home:** You are certainly connected with the parish through the eucharist, even though you can't physically be presented. You are remembered in the prayers of the community gathered in church as the Extraordinary Ministers are sent out. And I know that you also pray for the parish, and for me, and I cannot say how much I value that. Even though you may not be able to attend any events in the mission week (though we will endeavour to help with lifts if that would make it possible: please contact the parish office), by praying for the success of the mission you will be helping far more than any of us can really appreciate. I encourage all of us to take the mission timetable not only as a guide to what is happening when, but also as a prompt for prayer during the week. Additionally, the evening mission Mass will be live streamed and some of the talks recorded, for the benefit of those who cannot physically attend for whatever reason.

I hope the whole mission week will be an opportunity for all of us to 'reconnect', that is, to deepen our sense of connectedness – to Christ, and to one another – and also to seek God's help in overcoming and healing any difficulties we have. Today's gospel recognises the harm that can be done to our connectedness by our own words and actions, inadvertent or otherwise. There are times, for many of us, when we can be quick to take offence or slow to forgive; there may be times when we are quick to speak or act without thinking of the consequences, and slow to say sorry. The church as an institution has let people down and fallen short in many ways, with terrible consequences for some. The Reconciliation Service on the Wednesday of mission week is an opportunity to bring all this to God and allow him to be the merciful Father that he is. God bless, Fr Matthew.

EDUCATION SUNDAY APPEAL: Under the new scheme for Catholic religious education, schools are encouraged to have copies of the youth edition known as 'YouCat' available for classes to work through together. This weekend we are holding a special collection with the aim of providing St Joseph's School with a year-group set. Each copy is about £13 (equivalent to £10 giftaided), so our target is a little over £800. Although our credit card machines are currently not working, you can give online via our parish website and specify 'Education', as an alternative to giving cash on your way out.

MISSION UPDATE: Visit the parish website for an overview of what is happening during mission week (31st September-8th October). Each weekday evening will include Mass at 6.15pm, Supper from 7pm and a talk or service from 7.45pm - Monday: Exploring the Word; Tuesday: Exploring the Eucharist; Wednesday: Reconciliation; Thursday: Healing; Friday: Living in the Holy Spirit; Saturday 4.30pm: Sharing our faith. Other events to be announced soon.

SUNDAY COFFEE: Come along to the Social Centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass for some refreshments, restarting this weekend after the summer break, and this week hosted by the Mothers' Prayers group.

BISHOP'S VISITATION: Bishop Alan will be making a pastoral visitation next Sunday 17th September. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at the 11am Mass and due to the large number of candidates there will be very limited space for anyone other than candidates, sponsors and family. Everyone else is strongly encouraged to come to one of the other weekend Masses instead. Bishop Alan will also preside at the 9am Mass.

BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH: To celebrate the centenary of our parish and the conclusion of our mission week all are invited to a parish lunch at St Peter's Catholic Centre on Front Lane in Cranham on Sunday 8th October. We hope that those who can will bring a dish to share – the more variety the better! All are welcome.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: The deadline for applications to secondary school for admission next year is 31st October, and for primary schools it is 15th January. Parents or guardians are required to apply via the local authority's online admissions system. Catholic schools also require a Supplementary Information Form and you should follow the guidance on the school's website (n.b. Campion has set an earlier deadline for this: 4pm on Friday 20th October). Some Catholic schools, including St Joseph's, Sacred Heart of Mary, and Campion, give priority to practicing Catholic families. This is defined as weekly attendance at Mass (with reasonable exceptions such as illness), and is demonstrated by a Certificate of Catholic Practice issued by the parish priest. These certificates (and letters for non-Catholic schools where needed) will be issued at set times: Secondary Schools only Tuesday 19th September 5pm-7pm and Thursday 28th September 4pm-6pm. The times for Primary Schools will be advertised in a future newsletter. When attending the church you do not need an appointment and you do not need to bring any documents but you should be registered in our parish database. Those who do not meet the weekly attendance criteria can still apply under the broader 'Catholic' category, and only need to submit the Supplementary Information Form and a Baptism Certificate; in this case you do not need to see Fr Matthew.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents of children moving into year 3 or above hoping to make their first holy communion next summer are asked to sign up online at tinyurl.com/stjfhc There will be an initial meeting early in October, and details will be sent to those who have signed up as well as being announced in the newsletter nearer the time

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: From next Sunday this will be taking place once again during the 9am Mass, for children old enough to be left in the care of our catechists up to first communion age. Parents should take children directly to the Social Centre on St Mary's Lane before the start of Mass (registration open from 8.45) and then come to church for Mass. Alternatively there are usually a couple of children's liturgy leaders in the porch just before Mass who can take your child round. The children will be brought into church at the offertory and sit at the front for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to be collected by parents at the end of Mass. If you are interested in helping please speak to one of the leaders or contact the parish office.

RESTARTING 5TH UPMINSTER RAINBOWS: We are delighted to announce we are restarting Rainbows for girls age 4-7 years. We will be meeting on Thursday evenings 4.30pm-5.30pm at St Peters, Front lane Canham. Activities will include craft ,cooking and lots more. For waiting list please register your daughters interest on the Girl Guide website and if you require more information contact Sharon (shazza31281@hotmail.com)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 9th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 10th Sept

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

James & Emily Holden RIP (Margaret)

Ernie Hazelwood RIP 1st Anniv. (Stella)

Mon 11th Sept

9.15am

Enid & John Mangham RIP (Anniv)

Tues 12th Sept

9.15am

With our year 6 children

For the intentions of Mary-Anne Madden (Holden)

Wed 13th Sept

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BP, D

Sarah Taylor RIP (Sheridan)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 14th Sept

9.15am

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

For the intentions of the Regan Family (Regan)

Frid 15th Sept

9.15am

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

John Gibbs RIP Birthday (Quinn)

Sat 16th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Ss CORNELIUS, P AND CYPRIAN, Bp, Mm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Edward Horigan RIP Birthday (Etna & family)

Sun 17th Sept

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

Annette Collier RIP (Brennan Family)

For the intentions of the confirmation candidates

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