



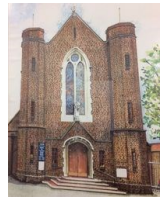
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

14TH / 15TH OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 74

(Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14)

Last week we celebrated the feast of St John Henry Newman, the 19th century English theologian and priest. I was privileged to attend both his beatification in Birmingham by Pope Benedict, as a seminarian in 2010, and his canonization in Rome by Pope Francis just four years ago. As an Anglican clergyman who felt in the end that he had no choice but to become a Catholic, and was subsequently ordained as a Catholic priest, I have a certain affinity with him. I'm often asked why I became a Catholic and I give two words in response: Truth and Communion. Those two words really belong together. It was realising that I needed to be part of the communion which believed and taught to be true what I had come to believe as true. That communion is the Catholic Church, which in each generation proclaims and hands on what it has received from previous generations and ultimately from Christ himself. And this is the other thing Newman recognised: it's not just about belonging to the communion of those in the present who believe the same thing; it is a communion which includes all those in past generations who have professed and taught the same living faith. A bond of communion which is expressed in common belief, in accepting the authority entrusted to St Peter and his successors, and in sharing the sacraments by which Christ comes close to us and shares his divine life with us.

This week our First Holy Communion classes get underway, and this is a special moment for the nearly sixty children who hope to receive our Lord in the eucharist for the first time next spring. This week we are also holding an 'open evening' (Thursday 7.45-9pm) for a new course, which is offered to anyone who wants to engage more deeply with questions of faith. If you are a Catholic of many years standing, this might be an opportunity for you to deepen your understanding: one of the things Newman called for was an informed and educated laity, and this is a great opportunity to study our faith together. It may be that you are not a Catholic, but have been coming to Mass with your family, perhaps for many years, and you might be tentatively wondering about becoming a Catholic or at least getting a better understanding of the Catholic faith. If so, this course is for you. It may be that you've found your way to St Joseph's and have found something here that is attractive or even puzzling and want to know more, perhaps with a view to being baptised or received into the Church. Again, this course is for you. Perhaps you are looking for something more but aren't quite sure what – again, come along on Thursday. If the end of the Mission Week left you wanting more, come along; and perhaps invite a friend!

Our gospel for this week is the parable of the wedding guests who make excuses. Perhaps we sometimes make excuses for not prioritising the great Wedding Feast that is the Mass; but really the parable is broader in scope than that. It is about the excuses we all make for not allowing the Lord to be sovereign over every area of our lives. Christ certainly wants us for the hour when we come to Mass each week, but he wants more than that! There are some shocking elements in the parable which are meant to challenge us – the undercurrent of violence and a seeming overreaction both to excuses of the original guests and the man without a suitable wedding garment. The message for us is that there is nothing more important than the invitation Christ extends towards us. And it is not enough to turn up on our own terms. Saying 'yes' to Christ means being ready to undergo the conversion of heart that is needed to become worthy guests of the heavenly banquet. The invitation is extended to us, the garment us provided for us to put on, and the sumptuous feast is prepared, all by the gracious initiative of God, who loves us beyond measure and made us because he wants us to enjoy the fullness of life. May we respond with eager hearts, with thanksgiving and with trust!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The first class for our First Communion children takes place this Monday. If any parents of a child intending to be part of this group has not yet registered, this Sunday is the final opportunity to do so. Please register online at tinyurl.com/stjfhc.

MISSION EVENTS: Many of the Mission events were recorded and can be replayed from our parish facebook page, [facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster)—you do not need a facebook account to watch. You can find links to the individual videos via our website, stjosephschurchupminster.com/mission

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: Anyone thinking about becoming a Catholic, and anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of our faith is invited to an open 'taster' evening for a new parish course '**Our Catholic Faith**' from **7.45pm-9pm this Thursday 19th October** (in church). This course will continue on Thursday evenings after half term and it will serve as the preparation for anyone wanting to be received into the church at Easter, as well as being open to all at any stage of their faith journey.

PARISH FORUM: Everyone is invited to a **Parish Forum** on **Sunday 5th November** from 4-6pm in church, when we will have an opportunity to pray together and discuss how to build on our mission, hopefully joined by one or two members of the Sion mission team. There will be a chance to meet socially in the club afterwards.

THIS MONDAY: Please note that Mass will be celebrated at the earlier time of 8am on Monday of this week. Mass will be at the usual time on Tuesday, celebrated by Fr Gostling.

REPOSITORY: Please note that the repository now has Christmas stock—why not take a look.

HOLY HOUR: There will **not** be a Saturday Holy Hour on 21st or 28th October, and there will **not** be a Wednesday lunchtime Holy Hour on Wednesday 26th October.

CAFOD: The usual Harvest Fast Day appeal did not take place due to the parish mission. If you wish to support this bi-annual appeal you can place a donation in an envelope marked CAFOD in the main collection, or donate using our self-service contactless screen or via the CAFOD website.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP: The Prayer group meets each Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in the Social club. All welcome. For details contact Chris Fulbrook 01708 222892.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fred Regan and Sean O'Sullivan who died recently and all who mourn. Fred's funeral has been booked for Tuesday 19th October at 1.30pm. May Fred & Sean rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Welcome to Sophie Therese Cassidy, Maeva Violet O'Keefe and Noelle May Taylor who were all received into the parish last weekend through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations to them and to their families.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Katie Lawson and Chris Gascoine who were married here at St Joseph's on Thursday 12th October. We wish them much happiness in their married life together.

RAINHAM FOODBANK: The foodbank are very grateful for all of the donations that we have made so far. In total since we started supporting them in the summer we have donated in the region of 100Kg. More donations would be very gratefully received— please leave them in the black bin in the church porch. If you'd like more information regarding the wider scope of work that Rainham Foodbank so please contact Margaret Holden via the presbytery.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: A very big thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning on 29th, September. It was a great success and we are able to send Macmillan nurses £290!

WELL DONE LIBBY HEARNE: Libby from class 5M for raising a whooping £540 for Bone Cancer, "Canter for a Cure" Libby horse rode over 70 Miles through the month of September to raise money and Awareness for a great Cause. Libby also wanted this to encourage young people of the parish that a little goes a long way, so if you can, do what you can when you can.

WELCOMERS WANTED: Parishioners who wish to help in an important ministry. If you can spare half an hour once every 6 weeks to help with welcoming at Mass, please contact Mark Hipperson on 07950-477132 or at mghipperson56@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

CDOT MUSIC CONCERT: CDOT Voices with guests St. Joseph's Primary School Years 3 and 4 choir. 7pm - 9.15pm. £10 adults £2 children. Light refreshments. Raffle. Raising money for the Centenary Appeal. All tickets purchased from Bernadette - phone or text 07825235717

DISCO FOR ST FRANCIS HOSPICE: Saturday 14th October. Last few tickets available on the door with all monies raised for St Francis Hospice. Those who usually come in for a quick drink after Saturday night Mass will still be welcome to do so and will be able to make a donation to the Hospice via the bar if they wish. The Ireland vs New Zealand game will also be shown at 8pm. The Club will also be open on Sunday from 3:30pm for the England vs Fiji game followed by France vs South Africa.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL– WICKFORD: Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wickford are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community and also carry out some financial duties. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills as well as financial experience. Hours: 16 hours per week working Monday to Friday. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org. Closing date for applications is 20th October 2023. Job description: Parish Administrator -Wickford (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 14th Oct

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 15th Oct

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Seamus Burke RIP 10th Anniv. (Burke Family)

Alf Driscoll RIP. B'day (Family)

Mon 16th Oct

8.00am

Colin Baker RIP Anniv. (Norella)

Tues 17th Oct

9.15am

ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BP, M

Alan Best RIP. 1st Anniv. (Family) (with our year 2 children)

Wed 18th Oct

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

ST LUKE, EVANGELIST

Grace Wingrove RIP Anniv. (Cunningham)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 19th Oct

9.15am

1.30pm

Julia Darvill's Intentions (Hayward)

Funeral—Fred Regan

Frid 20th Oct

9.15am

Danny Button RIP (Anne & Neil Sampson)

Sat 21st Oct

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

NO HOLY HOUR THIS WEEKEND

People of the parish

Sun 22nd Oct

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

John Street & Marie Pearce RIP Anniv. (Street)

Daniel Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)

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