



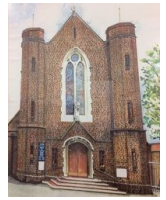
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

21ST / 22ND OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 76

(Isaiah 45:1.4-6, Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21)

It's often said that the only two things in life that are certain are taxes and death. Next month we will have the opportunity to reflect on our mortality and the importance of praying for the dead in anticipation of being reunited with them in the resurrection. Today's gospel takes us from taxes to something more fundamental about our life in the present.

Jesus's opponents are trying to catch him out. His response does not give any justification to those looking for a reason not to pay the taxes imposed on them by the state. Indeed we have a moral duty to pay our fair share towards the running costs of the state and to provide support to those facing hardship, even if we have profound concerns about some of the way this money is spent. But Our Lord's words, as always, steer us towards something much deeper and all-encompassing.

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's": everything comes from God and is destined to return to him. What we have in our possession is given to us on trust, in order to do good with it. Our basic disposition should therefore be one of generosity, rather than accumulating things. Seeking to share what we have rather than keeping it for ourselves. At the very least we should do what we can to ensure no one is unjustly deprived of what is their due. But followers of Christ are called to go beyond this, imitating the loving compassion of God himself, which extends to all his children.

"Whose image and inscription is this?": if the image of Caesar is found on the coin, what bears the image of God, as an indication of his special ownership? The first chapter of the first book of the bible tells us: we do - every single human person, made by God out of love, for a life of perfect love. At the heart of every conflict is a failure to see and honour the God-given dignity of every human being. Rightly, we are appalled whenever acts of horrific violence make the headlines, as has happened once again in recent weeks. We must be generous with our prayers, holding before God all those living in fear, and all those whose lives have been taken away or turned upside down. We pray too for the conversion of all those whose hearts are set on violence and who are determined to deny the humanity of others. We pray, not as an easy gesture but as a genuine expression of our common humanity, our solidarity with all who are suffering, and as means of seeking the grace of deeper conversion for ourselves, that our love of God and neighbour, and our desire to honour him wherever his image and likeness is found, may have no bounds. Our prayers are

grounded in the hope that our faith offers. Christian hope is not a misplaced optimism that easy solutions can be found to all our problems, but a confidence that evil has already been defeated by the one whose death and resurrection has freed us from slavery to sin and death, and who will at the proper time establish an everlasting kingdom of peace. As the month of the Holy Rosary draws to an end, perhaps we might each commit to a daily rosary, or decade, for this intention.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice to parents applying for places at Catholic primary schools who have been attending Mass each week, on Tuesday 14th November 4-6pm and Thursday 23rd November 5-7pm. You do not need to bring anything, but you will need to submit a baptism certificate to the school along with the Supplementary Information Form, as well as completing the local authority online application by the deadline in January. If you know that you have not been practicing your faith on a weekly basis you are still encouraged to apply to the school without a Certificate of Catholic Practice, as there is a good chance that a place may be offered on the basis of your child's baptism.

HALF TERM: There is no children's liturgy or coffee morning this Sunday and next Sunday as it is half term. There is also no Saturday evening Holy Hour for these two Saturdays, and no Wednesday lunchtime Holy Hour this week.

MASS BOOKS: it has become apparent that there are two versions of the Mass book, with almost identical covers but different page numbering inside. If the page number on the front of the newsletter appears to be wrong, please go by the designation of the Sunday, which shouldn't be too many pages away. These books, which also have the older translation of the Mass, are due to be replaced soon as a new translation of the scripture readings has been authorised for use from Advent 2024.

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.

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.

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

CWL MEETING: There will be a meeting in the social centre, starting at 10am, after morning Mass. Friday 3rd, November. You do not have to be a member to join us. Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat.

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: Earlier this year the Bishops of England and Wales issued a document on Migrants and Refugees. A talk on this document, *Love the Stranger*, was given by Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service on 7th October at Gidea Park parish. Please visit www.whatgoodnews.org to see the edited recording.

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 SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023: 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.

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.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: Irene Acott, Cornelius O'Mahoney, Muriel Brown, Terence Smith, Kevin Danagher, Bernadette Humphreys, Eileen Cooke, Catherine Goddard, Anne Blaney, Maureen Faughnan, Elizabeth Widger, Patrick O'Shea, David Tarplett, Veronica McKeone, George Williams, Catherine Ferguson, Victor Hughes, Caroline Saunders, Rosemary O'Hallaran, Sylvia Kinghorn, Isabella Markham, James Harkins, Rose McKeown, Sheila Higgs, Margaret Storey, Jessie Burns, Margaret Ratcliffe, Michael Markham, Lauren Dixon, David Steward, Irene Ritchie, Sabrina Roberts, Stephen Barrable, Robin Clist, John Foy, Maureen Pereira, Rose Powell, John Rix, Mgr. McKenna, Maria Judge, Kathleen Butters, Peggy McKeown, Joseph Cyril Pereira, William Shave, Christina Pinder, Colin Baker, Alan George Best, Catherine Gillespie, Marie Pearce, David Lawless, William Croly, Margaret Casey, Cornelius Coughlin, John Street, Joseph Barrett, Sarah Dailey, Joseph Burke, Madeleine Ferry, Danny (Desmond) Jones, Fr Clay, John Rix, David Judge, Katelyn Hope Henry, Agnes Mason, June Gilson, George Gurney, Eileen McCheyne, Jessie Rapp, Fred James, Patrick Curtin, Emilia Taylor, Peggy Hill, Moira Valma Kennedy, James Leonard, Moira Kennedy, Frank Hosey, Mary Clark, Marie Barrett, Jane Winn, Theresa Saunders, Cyril Henden, William Hudson, Joan Behan, Eileen Furzer, Maureen Baillache, Patrick Hinchin, Margaret Kennedy, Daniel Corrigan, Margaret Connolly, Christine Wright & Winifred Walker.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Margaret Munnelly, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Maggie Ollington, Maureen Springham, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod and Lisa Bostock.

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 5th November from 10.30am - 4pm. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be over 40 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. raffle during the event.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 21st Oct 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	NO ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS 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)
Mon 23rd Oct 9.15am	Nimmy Henry RIP (Henry Family)
Tues 24th Oct 9.15am	Fr Kieran Dodd RIP (Brentwood)
Wed 25th Oct 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Fr John Sullivan RIP (Nottingham) NO ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS TODAY
Thur 26th Oct 9.15am	Joseph Stamper RIP (Vincent)
Frid 27th Oct 9.15am	John Geraghty RIP (Geraghty Family)
Sat 28th Oct 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SS SIMON AND JUDE, APP NO ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS THIS WEEKEND People of the parish
Sun 29th Oct 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Eileen Furzer RIP. Anniv. (Laura Ferreira) Maureen Baillache RIP Anniv. (Claude)

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