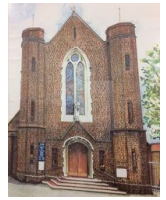




# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi  
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward  
upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

7TH / 8TH OCTOBER 2023

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 71**

(Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43)

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

One hundred years ago, the parish priest of Romford Fr Jules Van Meenan took a great risk: he decided to hold a fête to raise money that would allow him to buy a plot of land on Sunnyside Gardens in the growing village of Upminster and build a modest church there. Just nine months later that risk paid off, as the community which gathered to worship there was ready to be declared an independent parish within the Diocese of Brentwood. Perhaps the only 'mistake' was not to make that first church bigger, as a decade later it proved necessary to build a new church, where we are now.

This story is a part of our past, and we rightly celebrate today, the Sunday following the anniversary of the founding of the parish, looking back with gratitude for all that has been achieved by past generations of Catholics in Upminster. As the present parish of St Joseph's we are called not only to build on that century-old legacy, but also to continue the witness of those many generations who, at great personal risk, kept the flame of faith alive in this area during the period of Catholic persecution.

Our gospel describes another 'risk' which is at the heart of the Good News that our mission week has equipped us to share. God's risk in creating us, with the freedom that is necessary if we were to be truly made in his image and likeness; and his risk in sending his own son into the messiness of human existence: as Fr Simon summarised it last week, becoming an 'empty, humble, obedient servant' for our sake. Our Lord knew that he would be violently rejected by many, even most, of those he came to save, just as God's previous attempts to call the people he had made back to himself had been rejected. But he did it anyway, for the sake of those who would not reject him, and for those who would turn to him even having rejected him at first. God did not have to do any of this. He did it simply out of love. The parable in the gospel also alludes to the false premise which many of those who rejected Jesus operated on. They thought they could take what they wanted for themselves, rather than receive as a gift what God had always intended to share with them. The sin of Eden repeated in every age. Yet God did not, and does not, hold back from revealing his love for us: love that is manifested not in power but in emptiness, humility, obedience, and service. Something that is far more powerful

than the world understands. This is the Good News that changes our lives if we have truly taken it on board, and hopefully this week has helped us do that more deeply.

I have a two-fold invitation: first of all, please do come along to St Peter's this afternoon to celebrate the completion of a wonderful mission week. Whether or not you were able to come to anything during the week, this afternoon's shared lunch is an opportunity once more to reconnect, rediscover and rejoice together! If you weren't able to join us during the week, there are some things you can watch online such as Fr Simon's homily, and presentations on scripture and the eucharist, and I'm sure there are plenty of parishioners who will happily talk to you about their experience of the week, even this afternoon.

Secondly, if you have been touched at all by what you've experienced this week, even if it was a moment of private prayer or an individual conversation rather than one of the big events, please don't just leave it at that. This week isn't meant to be something that happens then we move on. As with a retreat or pilgrimage, this mission week might give us something of a spiritual 'high', and it will hopefully also challenge us in some way. So we should resist the temptation to return to normal life as if nothing had happened. Wherever you are in your faith journey, whether a lifelong Catholic or someone who has found themselves, perhaps unexpectedly, starting to think about 'religious' questions, there is room for us to grow and deepen our understanding of the faith and its implication for our lives. There are two follow-up events planned for this autumn:

The first is an introduction to a new course, **Our Catholic Faith**, designed for everyone and anyone, those just starting to explore Catholic Christianity, those who feel ready to join the church, and those who want to explore their faith more deeply. The course will run all the way to Easter, but this first evening is a taster evening and an opportunity to ask questions, open to all with no commitment to carrying on. It will be in church on **Thursday 19th October, 7.45pm-9pm**. If you can't make Thursday evenings (as the course will continue on Thursdays after half-term) but want to be part of this then please speak to me or get in touch by email. The second opportunity is a **Parish Forum**, an open meeting for all connected with our parish on **Sunday 5th November** in Church from **4pm-6pm**. This will be a time of prayer and discussion, thinking about how we build on the mission week as a parish community. If you can't make this, but have ideas or feedback you wish to share, please get in touch. We hope to be joined by one or two of the Sion mission team. All are welcome to both events, and in both cases the time in church will be followed by an opportunity to spend time together in the Social Centre.

And finally, thank you to our wonderful Mission Team from Sion, who have worked extremely hard all week, and for our parish team who have also been working hard, mostly in the background, to ensure everything goes smoothly!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

\*\*\*

**BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH:** Please come along to our parish celebration lunch **this Sunday** from 1pm. It will be at our other site, St Peter's Catholic Centre in Cranham (at the end of Front Lane near the A127) – parking is available. It is a bring and share lunch so please do bring some food to share (even if you didn't signed up - the more we have the better!). There will be tables for you to place food on, which we can then enjoy buffet-style. Please include a note of any ingredients which some people might not be able to eat. But even if you can't bring something, please bring yourself, family and friends.

**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](https://tinyurl.com/stjfhc). There will be an initial meeting this Monday (9th October) at 6.15pm in church, finishing no later than 7pm. It is a meeting for parents, but children are welcome (including siblings) if that helps and it's not necessary for both parents to come if work/family commitments would make that more difficult (though both are welcome of course).

**MISSION EVENTS:** Some Mission events, including the daily Mass, Fr Simon's homily from last week, and some of the talks were recorded and can be replayed from our parish facebook page, [facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster](https://facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster)—you do not need a facebook account to watch.

**AFTER THE MISSION - WHAT NEXT?** Anyone thinking about becoming a Catholic, and anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of our faith, is invited to a welcome and enquiry evening for a new parish course '**Our Catholic Faith**' from 7.45pm-9pm on **Thursday 19th October** (in church). 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. Both occasions will be followed by a chance to meet one another in the Social Centre.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Martin Halligan and Katherine Walsh who are marrying here at St Joseph's this weekend. We wish them much happiness in their future married life.

**OCTOBER MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:** October is the month of the Holy Rosary please join us to pray the Rosary every Wednesday in October 10am after 9.15am mass in St Joseph's Church.

**SUNDAY COFFEE:** Come along to the Social Centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass for some refreshments and meet the mission team.

**ST JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CLUB: DISCO AT THE CLUB FOR ST FRANCIS HOSPICE:** Saturday 14th October - 8pm 'till late - just £5 a ticket. Please join us at St Joseph's Catholic Club as DJ Adam Grace plays the biggest party hits of the 60s to 00s raising funds for such an important local cause. Tickets available via: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/school-disco-night-for-st-francis-hospice-tickets-719420966477> Please note membership renewals are now due and can be paid at the bar (£10) or online (£10 + £2 admin fee): <https://st-josephs-catholic-club.mailchimpsites.com/store/>

**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.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION CAFOD:** If you would like to donate to the second collection for CAFOD this weekend please use either the payment machine at the back of the church or your special collection envelope—this can be placed in the normal offertory basket. Thank you.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 7th Oct</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> 10am 6.30pm	<b>OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY</b> <b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Mass & Rosary Terry Smith RIP Anniv. (Ita and family)
<b>Sun 8th Oct</b> 9.00am 11.00am	<b>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> People of the parish Frank & Peggy Leonard RIP Anniv. (Leonard)
<b>Mon 9th Oct</b> 9.15am	<b>ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PR</b> Fr Francis Leader (East Anglia) RIP
<b>Tues 10th Oct</b> 9.15am	Brian & Maureen Springham's Intentions (60th wedding anniversary. (With our year 3 children)
<b>Wed 11th Oct</b> 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Mrs Thomas & Mr K.J. Varghese RIP Anniv. (Simi) <b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 12th Oct</b> 9.15am	<b>SS ETHELBURGA, HILDELITHE &amp; CUTHBERGA, REL</b> John Holland RIP (Murphy)
<b>Frid 13th Oct</b> 9.15am	Rose Powell RIP Anniv. (Margaret)
<b>Sat 14th Oct</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> 6.30pm	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Sun 15th Oct</b> 9.00am 11.00am	<b>TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> Seamus Burke RIP 10th Anniv. (Burke Family) Alf Driscoll RIP. B'day (Family)

### 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**