



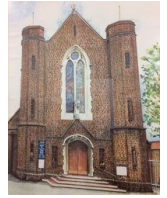
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

11TH / 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

**THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 82**

(Wisdom 6:12-16, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13)

Each year in November the nation pauses to remember the dead of two world wars and many conflicts since. This act of remembrance happens to occur during the month of the Holy Souls, when we pray with a particular intention for all our beloved dead and also for those unknown to us. Praying for the dead is of course a key element of our faith, something we do at every Mass, and it expresses our confident hope, based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that the separation death brings about is only a temporary one. In a mysterious way our prayers do actually help those being prepared for the life of heaven, because Christ has chosen to involve the whole church in this work. One day we too shall benefit from the prayers of those we leave behind. We are thus reminded of another element of our faith and another reason for hope. Heaven is a place of perfection (what would be the point otherwise?) but we do not need to despair of the reality that for most of us the perfection of heaven would be beyond us, because Christ himself makes this perfection a reality in us. When we remember and pray for our dead we do not need to pretend they were anything other than they were, and we trust that if there was a sincere desire for God in their hearts, he will do the rest. The practice of praying for the dead is found in scripture even before our salvation was accomplished by Christ, expressing the hope that God's plan for his people includes something beyond the grave, joined to a conviction that his mercy will be greater than our own shortcomings. We read how Judas, the leader of the Maccabean revolt against pagan rule over Israel in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century before Christ, took up a collection in order to offer sacrifice for a number of his men who had placed their trust in pagan idols and subsequently died in battle. It is indeed, as scripture calls it, a "holy and pious thought" to pray for the dead, one of the spiritual acts of mercy. (2 Maccabees 12.39-46).

Today's national commemoration is an important one, because it is an opportunity for us to pray in particular for those who have died in war, and also to recognise with gratitude the many sacrifices made. Our faith is of course centred on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and we know that we are all called to become living sacrifices, making an offering to God of our whole lives so that he may use us to accomplish his purposes. It is not necessary to romanticise or glamourise war (how could we, with the horrific images appearing in the media as war is once more waged in the Holy Land, and continues in Ukraine) to recognise that war has the capacity to bring out the best as well as the worst in human nature. The terrible circumstances of war can

lead to extraordinary courage and selflessness. Yet we also know how easily hearts can become hardened in opposition to others, and our enemies dehumanised in the way we view or treat them – not only in war but in our own much smaller personal conflicts. Today therefore we also pray for peace: peace that is not merely a temporary cessation of hostility but a consequence of recognising our common dignity as sons and daughters of one God. We pray daily for the coming of God's kingdom, which will be definitively realised at the end of time but becomes a reality in our own day in the measure that our lives are ordered by him, whose desire is that every single person should come to know and love him and so share his life for ever. God has made us for life, not death, and does not allow death to have the final word.

Eternal rest grant to them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** The 9am Mass will be a parade service for our Guide unit, who will lay a wreath at the Calvary War Memorial at the end of Mass. We welcome all other members of uniformed organisations who will participate in this Mass before taking part in the civic Remembrance Service. The 11am Mass will be a Mass of Requiem for the Fallen in War, and will begin with an Act of Remembrance.

**CHURCH TOUR:** Want to know more about our church building and the things we use at Mass? Come along on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm. All welcome, especially anyone new to our parish and those who are exploring the possibility of becoming part of the church.

**THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?** Please speak to Fr Matthew as soon as possible if so.

**CONFIRMATION 2024:** Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Church for all Candidates who wish to receive the Sacrament Of Confirmation in May 2024 . Candidates must be a practicing member of St Joseph's Parish and in Year 10 and above. We ask that you please enroll on the link below before the meeting <https://forms.gle/zSTfHzo4EDnQt6dv5>

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS:** There is a meeting for parents of children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this Monday at 6.15pm in church. At least one parent per child should attend. If necessary for childcare reasons it is fine to bring children (including siblings) along.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** The church is cleaned by a small dedicated band of volunteers, but we could do with some more volunteers to help spread the load. If you can spare some time to help with this please contact the parish office by email or telephone (see below). We can of course all help by avoiding leaving litter in church and picking it up if we see it.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** I shall be holding a course for new servers shortly. Are you in Year 4 or above at school, have received your First Communion and are interested in serving Mass regularly? If so, drop a note into Fr Matthew's house giving your name, age and address (or email contact) by the end of November, and I will then send you more information. I hope you would enjoy serving and I look forward to hearing from you. David Burge.

**PARISH OFFICE/TELEPHONE:** We have been experiencing some problems with the telephone line in the parish office. Until this is resolved Fr Matthew's emergency number 020 3332 0486 can be used to contact Rachel in office hours or Fr Matthew at other times. Please also note that Rachel is on annual leave from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November inclusive.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** On a trial basis, there will now be additional opportunities for eucharistic adoration during the week. Shortly after the conclusion of Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for approximately half an hour concluding with simple benediction, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, but not Wednesdays (when we have the lunchtime holy hour) or Fridays (Fr Matthew's day off). This will only take place when Mass is celebrated at the usual time by Fr Matthew, and on occasion may need to be shortened or cancelled.

**SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS: PFA Parent Nights in November** - 10th: Infant mums, 17th: Junior dads, 24th: Junior mums - a chance to socialise and raise funds for the school. **Family Pokémon Night** - Sat 18th Nov - come play and trade! **Wreath Making** - 7th and 14th December. Book via link here: <http://eepurl.com/iCArZM> - raising funds for young people of the parish and school.

**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.

**DEANERY REQUIEM:** A requiem Mass for deceased clergy of the Havering Deanery will be take place, celebrated by the clergy, at Our Lady of La Salette, Rainham, this Thursday (16<sup>th</sup> November) at 10.30pm.

**BCYS SUMMER LOURDES 2024:** Registration is now open on the BCYS website for Lourdes next July, for those in year 10 and above. Early booking encouraged; no payment required until places are confirmed in February. Financial assistance will be available from the parish and other sources. Visit [bcys.net/events/sl24](http://bcys.net/events/sl24) or speak to Fr Matthew for more information.

**ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH:** In preparation for the beginning of Advent Fr Adrian Gruffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and Scripture scholar, will be giving a talk on the Prophet Isaiah at 7 pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is free and is in person, and it will also be live-streamed on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). No booking necessary. A recording of the talk will be made available subsequently on the same website.

**SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY:** The annual senior citizens' party at Champion School will this year be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the school from 12.30pm to 5pm, with lunch served at 130pm. St. Joseph's parish has been allocated 15 places. If you would like to attend, then please ring Peter Jones on 07932 539106 indicating whether or not you will require transport.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 11th Nov</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST MARTIN OF TOURS, BP</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Judy Morgan RIP Anniv. (Hugh)
<b>Sun 12th Nov</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> Ann Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family) People of the parish & the Fallen in War
<b>Mon 13th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Deceased parents of Mary & Michael Brennan
<b>Tues 14th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b>	John Holland RIP (With our Year 6 children)
<b>Wed 15th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	Elizabeth Murphy RIP Anniv. (Newman) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 16th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON (RICH), BP</b> Fred Regan RIP (Byrne)
<b>Frid 17th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Jenny Maplesden RIP Anniv. (Paul)
<b>Sat 18th Nov</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Leesa Otero RIP (Quinn)
<b>Sun 19th Nov</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> People of the parish Richard Cooper RIP (McCarthy)

### 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* **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**