



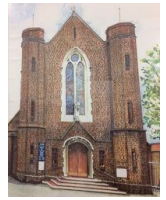
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

25TH / 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING (A) - Mass Book Pg 87

(Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28, Matthew 25:31-46)

The church's year concludes with a wonderful feast celebrating Christ's reign over all things. The feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI early in the twentieth century, in response to growing nationalism and secularism. More recently this day has become World Youth Sunday, though in this country we had already kept National Youth Sunday on this feast for a number of years.

I can think of no more powerful link between the two than the story of the 14-year-old martyr, Blessed José Sanches del Rio. Just a few years after Pope Pius established this feast, 'Viva Cristo Rey!' - 'Long Live Christ the King!' - became the battle cry of those who resisted an authoritarian regime in Mexico. Many priests and lay people were put to death for defying anti-Christian laws and refusing to renounce their faith. Among them, the young man named José. After arresting him, soldiers shaved off the soles of his feet and made him walk through his town to the cemetery. Taunting him, they asked what they should tell his family. He said to tell them that he'd see them in heaven. He was given one last chance to deny Christ as the soldiers pointed their guns at him. 'Viva Cristo Rey!' he cried, and they opened fire. In the moments before he died he drew a cross on the ground with his own blood and kissed it.

On World Youth Sunday it is truly humbling to contemplate the heroic faith of this young man. We pray that none of us will have our faith tested in such an extreme way, but we should not forget those who are persecuted for their Christian faith today - Blessed José's plight is shared by many people young and old in our world, and thankfully so is his courage and faithfulness. Today's feast is meant to remind us that Christ's rule extends to every area of our lives. His rule is for our good, as it leads to eternal life, but something inside us often makes us resist it. The story of the Mexican martyrs makes us ask, what is truly important? Do we long for Christ with all our hearts? There are so many calls on our time but ultimately exams, jobs, sports, friendships, important though they are, must come second place to serving him. Indeed, our liberty, even our lives are less important than being a faithful disciple of Christ. And what does being a faithful disciple look like? Our gospel tells us: someone who generously serves others, thinking not of reward but only of the other person. In serving them, we serve Christ. Worship of Christ in church, and service of Christ in others, go hand in hand. Mother Teresa once said: "Unless we believe and see Jesus in the appearance of bread on the altar, we will not be able to see him in the distressing disguise of the poor".

Three young people from our parish were able to take part in Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimages last summer, to Lourdes alongside the diocesan pilgrimage, and to Fatima and Lisbon as part of World Youth Day (which, confusingly, is more than a day, and takes place every few years). The Catenians and our parish Social Club provided generous financial support to these young people. We will be able to hear about their experiences and all that BCYS has to offer this weekend. If you are in year 10 or above, perhaps you would consider going to Lourdes next summer – see the notice below. And do see what else BCYS has to offer, from activity days and retreats to the monthly Youth Mass in Brentwood Cathedral: visit www.bcys.net.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PRAYER MINISTRY: During the parish mission week many people benefited from the prayer ministry offered by members of our parish prayer group. This involved parishioners, trained in prayer ministry and working in pairs, listening to and praying for individuals. They are not counsellors, nor do they have special healing powers, but they are people who feel called to pray for others in this particular way. Starting next weekend, they will be offering prayer ministry after all Masses on the first weekend of each month. You do not need to share anything that you are not comfortable with sharing, but anything you do share will be kept in confidence. They will pray with and for you, or for another person who you wish to pray for. Whilst this ministry is being offered, Fr Matthew will be available to offer the sacrament of reconciliation and/or anointing of the sick (these sacraments are always available on request but on these occasions he will be stationed in or near the confessional). You might also like to know that prayer requests left on the board by the Sacred Heart statue are prayed for by the parish Prayer Group each week, and anyone is welcome to come along to the Prayer Group meeting from 7.30pm each Tuesday evening in the Social Centre.

ADVENT GET-TOGETHER: Inspired by the success of our Mission evenings, there will be an Advent evening of fellowship, formation and prayer on Tuesday 5th December. The programme will be Mass 6.30pm, Cheese & biscuits, mince pies & mulled wine in the Social Centre from 7pm, and an Advent talk from 7.45pm. The talk will be about half an hour, concluding with half an hour of eucharistic adoration with the opportunity for confessions during or after.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: If you would like to be informed about what is happening in the wider church, you might consider a digital or print subscription to the Universe. There are some complimentary copies in the porch. Subscriptions help keep the publication going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world. Visit the website universecatholicweekly.co.uk or contact Michelle on 0743 661 7650 / michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: This week's topic is "Who is Jesus?". All welcome. 7.45pm-9pm in Church.

11AM MASS THIS SUNDAY— we will marking the beginning of the journey towards the first celebration of reconciliation and first holy communion with a Mass of Enrollment for our children together with their families. Please support them with your prayers, whichever Mass you attend. Obviously the 11am Mass will be a little busier than usual. This weekend we also look forward to hearing from Vicky, one of our young people who took part in the BCYS Lourdes pilgrimage last summer.

RIP NOTICE: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Barbara Steele, mother of Angela Podmore, who died recently. Barbara's funeral will be at South Essex Crematorium on Tuesday 5th December at 12.20pm.

PARISH OFFICE PHONES: After more than a month of it not working properly or at all, the phone for the Parish Office/Presbytery is now working again!

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 or speak to Fr Matthew for more information.

SECOND COLLECTION WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY: Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses this weekend **25th / 26th November** in aid of Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Please give as generously as you can.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: This year's Christmas Mass schedule will be as follows: **Sunday 24th:** 5pm (simple vigil Mass aimed at families with younger children); 6.30pm (family vigil Mass with carols and blessing of the crib); 11pm ('Midnight' Mass with the choir; carols from 10.30pm); **Monday 25th:** 8am (said Mass); 10am (sung Mass of Christmas Day). Please note this is in addition to the usual weekend Masses for the weekend of 23rd/24th December, the fourth Sunday of Advent. We should plan on attending Mass for the Sunday and for Christmas.

CWL: We will be meeting in the social centre on Friday 1st December. Starting at 10am after morning Mass. Mass this morning is for our dear departed member Meg Nellist. All welcome. You do not need to be a member to come along. Come along for a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat.

FLOWERS: We would appreciate more help with the flower arranging in church. If you would like to join the team or require additional information please let the Parish Office have your contact details. Training will be offered. Many thanks. Betty Leonard.

"VOICES FOR CHRISTMAS": Wednesday 20th December in the North St. Halls, RM11 1QX 8.00p.m. Written and performed by Kevin Walsh. The nativity story told by the people who were there. With popular carols for all to sing. Complimentary festive refreshment included in the price, £8 payable on the door. All profits to the Hornchurch Passion Play.

CANNING TOWN AND ROYAL DOCKS: Our traditional second collection will be held after all Masses during the weekend of **9th /10th December** for those in particular need in Canning Town and Royal Docks parishes, to enable them to have more at Christmas.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph O'Hanlan, John McCarthy, Gertrude Brennan, Terence Clark, Maureen Downs, Ruth Davis, Harry Silverlock, Maureen Leonard, Ellen Russell, Tom Murphy, Ethel Glass, Gwen Greentree, Hilda Coward, Robert O'Neil, Kenric Williams, Christopher Oliver, Simon Baxter, Patrick Munnely, Timothy McCarthy, Dritan Qema, Nora Sheridan, Minnie Peak, Patricia Everett, Kathleen Burge, Danny Loughhead, John Tylar, Maureen Conlon, David Okey, Philip Brand, George Connof, Evelyn O'Flynn, Joan Day, Thomas Durrell, Helen Horgan, Teresa Rudd, Peter Jackson, Margaret Willis, Kathleen O'Reilly, Anne Cooper, Jack Ford, Judy, Morgan, Jim Kelly, Betty Stables, Amy O'Lochlen, Harry Black, Elizabeth Lintonbon, Kathleen Hart, John Marchetti, Thomas Harding, James Redden, Hilda Constable, Christopher Murrell, Norah Ash, Robert Fagg, Susan McReynolds, Joseph Pereira, Fr John Harden, Czeslaw Krol, Jenny Maplesden, Gladys Foster, Alexander McTaggart, Doris McCorkell, Kathleen Brennan, Sr Agatha Lynch, Rosaleen Cartwright, James Servis, Julia Gallagher, Agnes (Nancy) Foreman, Josephine McGoldrick, Edward McGoldrick, Frederick Mason, Christopher O'Brien, Michael Maguire, Norman Drury, Mary Duffey, Terence O'Brien, Noreen Gower, Rev. Martin Hancock, Alfred Webb, Alice Turner, Robert Leech, Catherine McSwan, Agnes Brennan, Dorothy Temple, Patricia Bruin, John Dobinson, Nora Porter, John Walsh, Lilian Reiger, Maureen Fitzgerald, Susan Soper, Marie Ritchie, Kathleen May, Robert Holmes, Michael Glavin, Derry Fennell, Peggy Dukelow and Patricia Webb.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 25th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Hugh Gallagher RIP (Taylor)
Sun 26th Nov 9.00am 11.00am	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING People of the parish Rosemary Underwood RIP 11th Anniv. (Family) <i>First Holy Communion Enrollment Mass</i>
Mon 27th Nov 9.15am	Baby Clara Francesca Bailey RIP (Bemand-Qureshi)
Tues 28th Nov 9.15am	Holy Souls (With our Year 2 children)
Wed 29th Nov 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	In Thanksgiving (Brennan Family) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 30th Nov 9.15am	ST ANDREW, AP, PATRON SAINT OF SCOTLAND Ronald Geggus RIP (Geggus)
Frid 1st Dec 9.15am	Meg Nellist RIP (CWL)
Sat 2nd Dec 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Alex Hendry RIP Anniv. (Joan)
Sun 3rd Dec 9.00am 11.00am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Len Jones RIP Birthday (Jones/Carter) People of the parish

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).

Fr Matthew (emergencies—voice only): 020 3332 0486

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**