



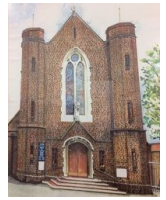
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

4TH / 5TH NOVEMBER 2023

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 80

(Malachi 4:14-2:2.8-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13, Matthew 23:1-12)

What should the church look like? In this month of November we are reminded that there is much more to the church than what we experience on earth. Throughout this month dedicated to the Holy Souls we contemplate that part known as the 'Church Penitent' – those who have come to the end of their time on earth and are now being prepared for the perfection of heaven. Christ has willed it that our prayers should play a part in this process of cleansing and purifying, whilst we also continue to benefit from their prayers. November began with the celebration of All Saints, holding before us the great communion of saints who have been "washed clean in the blood of the lamb"; the 'Church Triumphant' who not only enjoy the fullness of light and joy in God's presence but are also urging us on to join them. What about us? The church on earth is known as the 'Church Militant', recognising that we are still caught up in that tension between the values of the world and the values of God's Kingdom. We are called to take up our cross and follow Christ, relying not on our own strength but on God's grace; recognising that we will fall often but the mercy of God is greater than our weakness. As the pilgrim people of God we journey onwards, keeping our eyes fixed on our heavenly homeland and seeing the world around us in a new light. Our first task is to worship God, and our second task is to make his love known in word and deed, so that more and more people may come to know him and love him and so find lasting happiness.

The past month has seen a significant gathering in Rome known as the Synod of Bishops. The purpose of this meeting was to reflect on the listening process that began a couple of years ago at parish level, and prepare for a further meeting a year from now. Alongside bishops representing every part of the world, Pope Francis invited an unprecedented number of lay men and women to participate as voting members of the Synod. At its conclusion Pope Francis repeated one of his recurring themes: that the church must avoid the danger of 'clericalism'. This echoes the message in today's gospel. The opposite of 'clericalism' is not a flat, leaderless body. Our Lord himself did not want the body of his followers to be 'like sheep without a shepherd': he chose the apostles and gave them specific authority, giving St Peter pre-eminence among them. But this authority was specifically to do with extending the gift of divine mercy in his name, whilst the added responsibility given to St Peter was a special concern for the well being of the flock of Christ. The church does have a pyramid structure, but it is a structure of service, rather than honour, aimed at the

holiness of all its members. There is an ever-present temptation to turn the focus from God to ourselves, which Jesus addresses in the gospel. I have the privilege of being a 'father' in two respects, and our parish community includes a number of teachers and a number of fathers. Jesus often challenges us with an exaggerated manner of speech and here he draws attention to the misuse of such titles and positions. Only when we recognise our utter dependence on God can we properly carry out the tasks he has given us to exercise in his name. We must always keep God at the centre and use whatever positions of influence and responsibility he has given us to serve him and those entrusted to us.

The other danger of 'clericalism' is that we lose sight of the shared responsibility which the whole body of Christ has for the mission of the church. It is not simply a matter for the 'professionals'. Pope Francis's vision, summed up in the word 'synodal', is of the people of God walking together, listening to one another, recognising each other's gifts and the contribution we might be able to make. It is a month since we held our parish mission, with the aim of building our parish into a stronger and more joyful community of missionary disciples, able to live and share our faith with greater confidence than ever. Many people have spoken positively about their experience of the week; not only the input from the mission team, but also the opportunities to share conversation and food together. And that was really the point of the mission! It is important that this is not lost. This Sunday we are holding a Parish Forum, an opportunity to spend time together discussing how we want to go forward. We will be joined by Teresa, who led our mission, and Rose, another member of the Sion Community who is taking over Teresa's leadership role. I hope to see lots of you there, and if you can't be there please take this opportunity to pray for our parish, and reflect on what part you may play in our future. And pray for me, that I may be a faithful father and teacher of this parish community!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC? WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH? It is not too late to join our study and discussion group, with the next session taking place this Thursday (9th November), 7.45-9pm in Church. If you missed the first session, you can watch the video online (<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/session-1-the-search-for-happiness>) and there will be another opportunity to find out about the process of becoming a Catholic and ask any questions you have.

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

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: The names of our beloved dead may be placed in the basket that will be in front of the altar from Wednesday. They will be prayed for at each Mass throughout this month.

PARISH FORUM: Everyone is invited to a **Parish Forum** this **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.

ST JOSEPH'S KNITTING / CRAFT GROUP: The next group meeting will be on Monday 13th November 12.30pm—2.30pm in the social centre. The number of charities that we are not supporting is growing. Therefore, more members would be most welcome to help us continue our work. For more information please contact Yvonne Dickens on 01708-228087.

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.

CONFIRMATION 2024: Meeting on Tuesday 14th 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>

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

SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS: PFA Parent Nights in November - 3rd: Infant dads, 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.

REPOSITORY: The repository now has an extensive range of Christmas merchandise—why not stop and take a look?

DOM'S QUIZ 8pm SAT 11 NOV 23 St JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTRE : At half time a cod and haddock fish pie with peas will be served. Alternative veggie dish for up to 8. Bar open **WITH ONLY CARD PAYMENTS**. In aid of CAFOD to buy (£300) a 'Medical Outreach Team' see <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/products/medical-outreach-team>. Teams of up to 8. Cost £10 a head. **Put cash and names in a sealed envelope marked 'DOM'S QUIZ - £ ENCLOSED' and post through presbytery letter box.**

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.

CALLING ALL RED MISSIO BOXES: Please leave the red boxes at Clergy House on or before Sunday 3rd December. Replacement boxes will be available to collect in the new year. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 4th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST CHARLES BORROMEIO, BP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Michael Healy RIP (McCarthy)
Sun 5th Nov 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish David, Margaret & Andrew Milliken RIP
Mon 6th Nov 9.15am	Bridie O'Neil RIP Anniv (Edel O'Brien)
Tues 7th Nov 9.15am	Sean O'Sullivan RIP (Redmond) (With our Year 1 children)
Wed 8th Nov 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Fred Regan RIP (Family) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 9th Nov 9.15am	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA Fr Kevin Gradwell (Nottingham) RIP
Frid 10th Nov 9.15am	ST LEO THE GREAT, P, D Joan Day RIP 22nd Anniv. (Mike)
Sat 11th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST MARTIN OF TOURS, BP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Judy Morgan RIP Anniv. (Hugh)
Sun 12th Nov 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Ann Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family) People of the parish & the Fallen in War

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