



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

20TH / 21ST JANUARY 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 57

(Jonah 3:1-5.10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20)

Four years ago Pope Francis instituted a new commemoration for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (i.e. this Sunday) – to be known as the Sunday of the Word of God. Appropriately, this Sunday is when we properly get started on our journey through the gospel of the year. Thus, we hear today Mark's account of the call of the fishermen to be followers of Christ and 'fishers of men'.

In first place 'The Word of God' refers to Christ, the supreme and definitive revelation of God in human form – the Word made Flesh. Though Christianity is sometimes described as a 'religion of the book' it is more accurate to say we are a religion of the Word. However, the written testimony to God's Word that we find in Sacred Scripture is held in the highest esteem. We discover the most vital truths of God's love for us and the unfolding of his plan of salvation when we read scripture, and more importantly we encounter Jesus Christ, not merely as a character in a story but as the one all of scripture points to.

It is true that historically at least many Catholics have been less comfortable with the bible than Christians of other traditions, perhaps because we know the sacraments as our greatest means of encounter with Christ. Nevertheless scripture runs very deeply through the liturgy and our traditional devotions. It is not only the case that scripture is the main feature of the first half of Mass; you could go through the various prayers of the Mass with a highlighter pen, marking the phrases that quote or allude to passages of scripture, and very little would be left unhighlighted. It is, however, in the Liturgy of the Word that God most clearly speaks to us. The Second Vatican Council teaches that Christ is present in different ways during the Mass, including "in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church." In reading the sacred scriptures together as part of our collective worship, we are in fact doing what Jesus himself did during synagogue prayers, and the earliest Christians naturally continued this practice when they gathered for 'the breaking of bread'.

Although it can help to have the text in front of us, the principle way we participate in the Liturgy of the Word is through active and attentive *listening*. The word 'obey' comes from the Latin word for 'listen' – we listen to the Word of God in order to apply it to our own lives. Of course, it is easier to listen if we have some knowledge of what

we are listening to! The readings are not chosen on the whim of the priest: they follow a three year cycle which has a coherent structure. During ordinary time we have a semi-continuous pattern of readings from that year's gospel: year A is Matthew, year B is Mark and year C is Luke. These three gospels are known as the 'synoptic' gospels as they are quite closely related to each other and contain many similar passages. The fourth gospel, John, is read at certain points during the year and especially during year B alongside Mark. The Old Testament reading is chosen to complement the gospel (knowing this can help us understand both better and be more attentive to the many allusions to Christ found in the Old Testament), whilst the second reading is taken from one of the letters in the New Testament - in Ordinary Time this follows a sequence unrelated to the gospel. With the responsorial psalm (mostly from the book of Psalms – or 'songs' – in the Old Testament) we allow God himself to give us the right words to praise him for his mighty deeds.

There is usually more than one 'sense' to a passage of scripture: a reading may tell us about a specific event in the past, but may also tell us something about Christ, something about how we are to live our lives now, and something about the life to come. We need to be aware that the bible contains a great deal of metaphor and poetic language, and many different styles and genres of writing: to believe it is true does not mean we take every word in the same way. But it means that we understand the whole of scripture, though composed by many human authors, to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and given to us by God so that we may know him better, love him, serve him, and experience everlasting joy in him. It is a great gift indeed!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

JANUARY OFFER: We have a limited stock of parish centenary mugs still available in the repository. This month, while stocks last, a 2024 parish diary will be given to anyone purchasing a mug for £5. Diaries are still available by themselves for £1.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE: Join us for tea or coffee in the social centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass. This week coffee is hosted by our Parish Prayer Group.

COLD SYMPTOMS: Particularly at this time of year, with a number of vulnerable people in the parish, you are asked to be mindful of any cold or flu-like infections and consider taking precautions such as using hand sanitiser, wearing a face mask, avoiding physical contact with others and not receiving from the chalice.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Clancy, Patricia Burwood, Derek Cavalier and Frs Michael Butler and John McKeon. Mary Clancy's funeral will be on Tuesday 23rd January at 11am and Patricia Burwood's funeral will be at 11.30am on 30th January at South Essex Crematorium. Derek's funeral will be here on Monday 5th February at 11.30am with his body being received into the church on Sunday 4th February at 5pm. May Mary, Patricia, Derek, Fr Michael Butler and Fr John McKeown rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB: Our next lunch club will be on 24th January in the social centre at 12pm. If you are unable to make lunch, why not join us for a cup of tea/ coffee in the morning after mass. Will be lovely to welcome both old and new friends.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Stormi & Skylar Williams, Ayla Elizabeth Wood and Zayne Nnanyelugo Nkem Odoemene-Obodoekwe and their families who were received into the church through the sacrament on baptism recently.

PRAYER MINISTRY: Members of our parish prayer ministry team will be available after mass on the first weekend of each month to listen to and pray with anyone who wishes to receive this support.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – July 2024: (exact dates TBC in due course) Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. The week is spent serving the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assisting the elderly and infirm, alongside times of retreat, reconciliation, visiting the baths, taking part in the beautiful Processions, an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SING AS PART OF A GROUP? THEN WHY NOT JOIN ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CHOIR: We come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Easter and Christmas Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Our rehearsals for Easter will be in the Church at 7.30pm, starting on Monday 22 January. Hope to see you there!

BCYS YOUTH MASS: Thursday 1st February, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral. Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email info@bcys.net

YEAR 12 RETREAT 'LIFE TO THE FULL': Walsingham House are running a retreat for students in Yr12 on the weekend of the 16th-18th February. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other young people from across the diocese, to make new friends and to take time out from their busy lives to reflect and pray. The cost of the retreat is £35. For more information and to apply please see the website <https://bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/>

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN (20S & 30S) THEME: DISCERNING GOD'S CALL IN YOUR LIFE: Dates: 16-18 February 2024. Location: Liverpool The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

CRIB OFFERINGS: Your crib offerings will go towards supporting the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. This wonderful Diocesan organisation does not receive government funding, so is heavily dependent upon all charitable diocesan contributions. It works with thousands of children and families each year.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 20th Jan

5.30pm—6.15pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm

Mary Kane & Anne & Colm Keane's Intentions (Lynch)

Sun 21st Jan

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

Barbara Steele RIP (St Joseph's Governors)

11.00am

People of the parish

Mon 22nd Jan

9.15am

Sally & Jack McGowan RIP (McGowan)

Tues 23rd Jan

9.15am

Frank & Marion Dearson RIP (Leonard)
(With our Year 6 Reception children)

11am

Funeral—Mary Winifred Clancy

Wed 24th Jan

ST FRANCIS DE SALES, BP, D

9.15am

Henry Christopher Nye RIP Anniv. (Family)

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 25th Jan

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, AP

9.15am

Mary, Frank & John McGowan and Eva-Marie Greene's
Intentions (Mary McGowan)

Frid 26th Jan

Ss TIMOTHY & TITUS, BPP

9.15am

Laurence O'Brien RIP (Biggs)

Sat 27th Jan

5.30pm—6.15pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm

People of the parish

Sun 28th Jan

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

Henry Christopher Nye RIP Anniv. (Family)

11.00am

Denis Doherty RIP (Gillings)

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](https://www.facebook.com/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**