



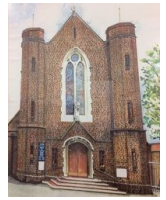
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

6TH / 7TH JANUARY 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B) - Mass Book Pg 49

(Isaiah 6:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6, Matthew 2:1-12)

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our saviour, an event known only to a small group: the holy family, the shepherds, the inn keeper. As Christmastide draws to an end, we celebrate the revealing of Christ as saviour of the world and Son of God. This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany: the name means 'revealing' or 'showing'. Christ is shown to be the saviour of the whole world by the arrival of the wise men who have journeyed from distant lands. Their journey to Bethlehem is aided both by their study of the universe and by the scriptures given to the first people God had chosen to reveal himself to: showing that human reason and revelation are both necessary if we are to encounter God. Their journey ends with them not only presenting their gifts, but also kneeling in worship, acknowledging him as Lord and God. The gifts themselves are filled with prophetic meaning. Gold for a king: though this child who is the king of kings will not wear an earthly crown or sit on an earthly throne. He is the servant king who will wear a crown of thorns, but we pray daily for the coming of his kingdom when all things will be brought under his good and peaceful rule. Incense for worship: given to the one who is not only the great high priest who will offer perfect worship to the father, but who is himself rightly honoured as God. Myrrh, a sign of death: though the women who go to anoint his body in the tomb find it empty since the one destined to die for the sins of the world will also rise victorious from the dead.

The feast of the Epiphany occurs at the start of a new civil year, and this coincidence is reflected in two customs associated with today. Firstly, the proclamation of the date of Easter and the moveable feasts of the year, following the gospel. The practical purpose this might have once served is less relevant with the ease with which we can find these dates online or in paper diaries. Nevertheless, along with the symbolic gifts of the Magi, this proclamation reminds us that the Easter mysteries are truly the centre around which the whole year, and the whole of our lives, revolve. Another custom, centuries-old though associated more with northern and eastern Europe, is the use of blessed chalk to inscribe the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the year above the doors of our homes. It is a way of seeking God's blessing (the initials also stand for 'Christ bless this house' in Latin) and consecrating our homes as places of hospitality and love. It is also a visible sign of our faith, a witness to others and a daily reminder to ourselves as we pass under the inscription. Chalk will be

blessed and made available for this purpose (along with instructions) at this weekend's Masses.

The visit of the Magi which we chiefly associate with the feast of the Epiphany is not in fact the only 'epiphany' or 'showing' of Christ. Christmastide officially concludes with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate on Monday of this week: commemorating an event some thirty years later when Jesus is revealed to the crowd as the beloved Son of the Father, one with Father the Holy Spirit in his saving mission. As we ease back into Ordinary Time for the weeks between Christmas and Lent we will encounter Christ at the beginning of his adult ministry, manifesting his divine power in ways which point to his true purpose: reconciling wayward humanity to communion with God. At the beginning of a new year, let us resolve to serve God ever more faithfully, seeking his will in all things and trusting that our true and lasting good is to be found in friendship with the one who came to share his life with us.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PASTORAL LETTER: Bishop Alan has written a pastoral letter for the Feast of the Epiphany and the New Year, which will be read in place of the homily this weekend and is also available to read via the diocesan website. Bishop Alan is keen that in the coming year all parishes resume the process of working more closely with their neighbours in renewing our diocese (and being open to whatever restructuring may be needed to enable that). Please keep this aim in your prayers.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: From this weekend we resume children's liturgy during the 9am Mass.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE: Join us for tea or coffee in the social centre after the 9am Mass or before the 11am Mass. This week (resuming after the Christmas break) coffee is hosted by The Catholic Women's League.

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 John Foy, Clare Argent-Hall, Joan Henderson, Mary Clancy and Patricia Burwood. John Foy's funeral has been arranged for 12 noon on Wednesday 10th January with reception of the body on Tuesday 9th January at 4.30pm. Clare-Argent Hall's funeral will be here on Tuesday 16th January at 11am. Joan Henderson's funeral will be on Wednesday 17th January at 10.30am. Mary Clancy's funeral will be on Tuesday 23rd January at 11am and details for the funeral of Patricia Burwood are yet to be confirmed. May John, Clare, Joan, Mary and Patricia rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR: The lunchtime holy hour will not take place this week as there is a funeral in church at that time.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: We welcome you to join us as we come together to pray for all children and a time of shared friendship. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday 9th January at 2pm in the social centre.

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

THANK YOU FROM FR MATTHEW: I would like to thank all those who contributed to the Christmas offering, or who gave Christmas gifts to myself and my family, as all as all those who sent us Christmas cards. Though it is not possible to thank everyone individually, your kindness is much appreciated.

FR JOSEPH FARRELL GOLDEN JUBILEE: Congratulations to Fr Joseph Farrell who will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee on Friday 19th January. A mass will be offered for his intentions at 9.15am on the same day.

ST. JOSEPH'S KNITTING GROUP: A huge thank you and appreciation to our knitting group members not only for the beautiful items they produce but for their many donations to a variety of good causes. Starting in 2018 as part of the Live Simply Campaign and led by Yvonne Dickens, they continued throughout lockdown and in 2023 alone contributed large sums to charities, our centenary appeal and organisations supported by the CDOT Voices concerts. They also donated items for St Joseph's School's Christmas bazaar.

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB: The lunch club is re-opening after the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 10th January 2024 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.

A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS: On Saturday 3rd February from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Gaffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If attending in person please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

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

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 6th Jan

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 7th Jan

9.00am

11.00am

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Morgan Madden RIP Anniv. (Mary-Anne)

Jean Marlborough RIP (Street)

Mon 8th Jan

9.15am

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Jackie Presland RIP B'Day (Gerry)

Tues 9th Jan

9.15am

4.30pm

Richard Cooper RIP (Earley) (With our Year 1 children)

Reception of the body of John Foy

Wed 10th Jan

9.15am

12 noon

12 noon—1pm

Private Intention (Bemand-Qureshi)

Funeral—John Foy

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Thur 11th Jan

9.15am

John Foy RIP (Slattery)

Frid 12th Jan

9.15am

Winifred & Ronald Threadgill RIP (Threadgill)

Sat 13th Jan

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Irene & Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

Sun 14th Jan

9.00am

11.00am

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sonny & Kathleen Brennan RIP. Anniv.

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](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