



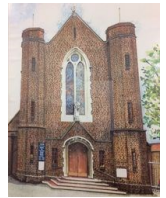
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

10TH / 11TH FEBRUARY 2023

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 83**

(Leviticus 12:1-2.44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45)

In today's gospel we hear an account of a leper healed by Jesus. This encounter is notable for the dialogue between the two: 'if you want to, you can heal me' – 'of course I want to; be healed'. We are struck by the leper's certainty and humility, and Our Lord's compassion. But perhaps we also find ourselves wondering about the prayers we make for those who are sick. Sometimes we pray for someone to get better and they don't. All our prayers should – implicitly at least - be prefaced with 'your will be done'. But does that mean Jesus doesn't want the person I pray for to get better?

The answer is yes, Jesus wants all of us to be healed. But healing is not limited to physical healing, and the extension of life in this world. There is always a greater healing in view – the healing of our mortality, linked to the resurrection of Jesus Christ which we will celebrate at the end of the coming season of Lent. When I say the prayers that accompany the sacrament of the sick, the prayers always speak of healing of body and soul, and this is the case even when someone is very obviously approaching the end of their earthly life and bodily healing most unlikely. When I say those words, though I never exclude the possibility of a dramatic miracle, nevertheless I understand them to refer also and perhaps primarily to the healing of the body that occurs after this earthly life is over; for we believe not just in the immortality of the soul but in the resurrection of the body.

Today is the World Day for the Sick. It is a day of prayer linked to the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes which occurs on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Lourdes is a wonderful place of healing and prayer. From the very beginning people visited the site of the apparitions to seek healing. And there have been many extraordinary cases, well documented and studied by doctors, which seem to be the work of God who chooses to manifest his power in a particular way – not typically as a reward but as an encouragement. But Lourdes is also a place of conversion, deepening faith, and spiritual gifts. St Bernadette, a sickly child who suffered terribly from tuberculosis during her time as a nun, was urged by her superiors to seek the healing that so many others had been granted but her response was simply, 'the spring is not for me'. In faith we understand that suffering cannot be entirely avoided in this life, but it will give way to the glory of heaven; the Lord may not take away physical sickness in this life but if

we ask in faith he will give us the spiritual strength to persevere and even to accept our weakness as a means of being united more closely with him. For his response to suffering was not merely to wave it away, but to enter into it and transform it. It is notable that by the end of this episode Jesus has to endure the isolation commonly experienced by lepers. On the cross our Lord experiences not only physical pain but also condemnation and abandonment, in order to heal our communion with God and with one another as well as our mortality.

Lourdes is particularly associated with healing, but the miraculous spring was only one aspect of the apparitions. Our Lady also instructed Bernadette to kiss the ground as an act of penance for sinners and pray for their conversion. The call to conversion was at the heart of Jesus' preaching and is something we need to hear and the world needs to hear again and again; a call to conversion which leads to an experience of divine mercy. This week we begin the season of Lent: a season of conversion. Originally it was a time of preparation for those to be baptised at Easter, and it still is. But it serves for all of us as a journey into deeper faith, closer friendship with the Lord, more determined renunciation of sin and the practice of charity in its place, and a renewed commitment to discipleship. We begin this journey marked with the sign of the cross – the ultimate sign of God's love – as we hear that call to conversion addressed personally to us. In this 'campaign of Christian service' we have no more powerful aids than self-denial, prayer and charity. May God help us all keep a good Lent.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**CENTENARY APPEAL UPDATE:** Our new prayer garden will be available for use this week once the ground has hardened. In due course there will be some seating and planters, so that it can properly qualify for the term 'garden'. There is a gate at either end, with the intention that the playground side will be open during the school day for use by children and staff, and the car park side open for public access outside school hours. It is designed with level access from the car park. The cost of the prayer garden, comprising the new railings and gates installed last summer (£3500) and the landscaping, paving and brickwork (£8000) has been met by the contributions made so far to the centenary appeal together with a legacy recently received and the proceeds from two CDOT Voices concerts. Many thanks to all those who have contributed. The appeal is still open and further fundraising is planned for the coming months with the hope that we can commission an angelus bell for one of the turrets later in the year.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Mass with imposition of Ashes will take place at 9.15am (with Junior children from St Joseph's) and 8pm. Holy Hour will take place from 12am as usual. Ash Wednesday, along with Good Friday, is a day when all adults (unless prevented by frailty or illness) are expected to fast (i.e. eat significantly less than normal, perhaps just one meal and a light snack) and abstain from meat.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Starting this week **here at St Joseph's**, on Fridays during Lent we will join with our neighbours from St Laurence's to pray the Stations of the Cross, alternating between the two churches. The service begins at 7.30pm.

**WALK WITH ME:** These handy Lent companions, in children's and adult versions, will soon be available in the porch. Please put your donation (suggested £1 for the adult booklet) in the 'papers' slot by the Sacred Heart statue or use the card donation screen.

**NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK:** If you are married or preparing for marriage, you might be interested to read some of the articles on the Bishops' Conference website on living the vocation of marriage: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/> . Marriage Week runs from 7th - 14th February (finishing with Valentine's Day, though it is also Ash Wednesday this year!). There will be a blessing at all Masses this weekend for those preparing for marriage. Anyone celebrating a significant anniversary this year is asked to let Fr Matthew know, so that you can receive an invitation for the Mass of Thanksgiving at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 13th July.

**PALM CROSSES:** There is a basket in the porch to receive the palm crosses that will be burned to make ash for use on Ash Wednesday. Please leave your palm crosses here by Mass on Monday morning at the latest.

**ADVANCE NOTICE – HALF TERM WEEK:** From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February the weekday Mass will be at the later time of 9.30am. There will be no eucharistic adoration during that week.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Lent is a good time to take up new spiritual practices. One of which is to join in with part of the Divine Office, the 'prayer of the church' which consecrates the whole day to God. The hours of the office can be prayed privately, but during Lent we will introduce the practice of praying Morning Prayer collectively before the daily Mass.

**YOUTH EVENT:** Anyone in year 7 upwards is invited to the next Youth Event taking place this Monday evening, 5.30-7pm in the Youth Room. This time it will simply be a chance to catch up and make use of the facilities in the Youth Room. Parental permission required: <http://tinyurl.com/sjyouthfeb>

**ST JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CLUB RUGBY:** St Joseph's Social Club: Extended opening for rugby from 2pm on 10/2 and 24/2 plus karaoke night (15/3) and family night (16/3) for St Patrick's. 22/3 is wine tasting and 19/4 a "Chaz and Dave" tribute night. Make sure you are signed up to get all the info: [https://linkpop.com/stjosephs\\_cc](https://linkpop.com/stjosephs_cc) - new members and visitors always welcome!

**DOM'S BRITISH SUPPER NIGHT 8pm Sat 13 Apr 2024.** This is advanced notice with further details in due course. £10 a head. In aid of MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES UK/Doctors without Borders UK.

**CDOT VOICES SPRING CONCERT:** CDOT Voices returns to St Peter's with guests from TOPS Choir Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. Tickets - Adults - £10. Children - £2 under 5s free. Light refreshments and raffle. Tickets from Bernadette on 07825235717 or from the Repository (only 50 tickets on sale initially).

**ST JOSEPH'S CANTERBURY WALK 2024 DISCO FUNDRAISER!** Get ready to dance for a great cause! Join us at the St Joseph's Social Club for a night of family fun and fantastic beats, all in support of the upcoming Canterbury Walk. Adults: £10pp Kids: FREE, **scan the QR code** and grab your ticket(s).

**Save the Date:** Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 7:30 PM - 12:00 PM **venue:** St Joseph's Social Club. **Please use this QR code to purchase disco tickets.**



# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 10th Feb</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST SCHOLASTICA, V</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> John Quinn RIP Anniv. (Gibbs/Quinn)
<b>Sun 11th Feb</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> People of the parish Robin Clist RIP (Family)
<b>Mon 12th Feb</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Mary Hickey RIP (Healy)
<b>Tues 13th Feb</b> <b>9.15am</b>	John Foy RIP (Private) (With our Year 3 children)
<b>Wed 14th Feb</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b> <b>8pm</b>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Auntie Mary Belcher RIP (Annabel & Charlotte) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Thur 15th Feb</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Clare Argent-Hall RIP (Heather & Doug)
<b>Frid 16th Feb</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Simon Brennan RIP (Clare)
<b>Sat 17th Feb</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Sun 18th Feb</b> <b>9.00am</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Frank & Marion Dearson RIP (Wells)

## 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](http://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**