



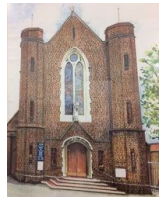
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

24TH / 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B) - Mass Book Pg 78

(Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15.18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10)

Last week I began an exploration of the 'Lord's Prayer' or 'Our Father' – the 'most perfect of prayers' given to us by Christ himself. I looked at the opening invocation and first petition 'Our Father ... Hallowed be thy name'. This week I would like to reflect on the next pair of closely-related petitions: 'Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'. If you wish to explore further, you might turn to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2816 onwards.

The first of these petitions, 'thy kingdom come' refers most obviously to the final and definitive establishing of God's reign through Christ's return. It echoes the Advent cry 'O Lord, come quickly' and expresses our conviction that we are made not for this world but for the world to come; our hope is not limited to the possibilities this world has to offer.

Jesus often speaks of the Kingdom of God. Many of his parables tell us something about it. But he does not only speak of a future reality. His constant message is 'the kingdom of God is very near'. His miracles are signs not just of divine power, but of the restoration of creation to its original goodness, in which his creatures are no longer subject to sickness, hunger, raging storms or even death. The Kingdom of God is brought near in the person of Jesus Christ himself. We who seek to belong to that Kingdom are called to live by a different set of values than those who wish to remain rooted in the world: the values expressed in the beatitudes and ultimately on the cross. Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom demands a response: the full message is 'Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near'. To repent means to turn away from sin, and embrace a new life: to recognise our need of divine mercy, a gift which is freely offered to those who seek it and wish to give themselves wholeheartedly to God's Kingdom. This petition certainly does express our confident hope for the future, but it also speaks of our life here and now. It calls to mind our vocation to service justice and peace in the present, in accordance with the law of love which is the fundamental law of God's kingdom: as St Paul writes "The kingdom of God [is] righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14.17).

Our prayer for the coming of God's kingdom is thus closely linked to the next petition: 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. The Kingdom of God is not a place as such. Nor is it merely a lofty idea. It is that realm where all things accord with God's

will; in other words, where God's rule is sovereign. Of course, as creator, God is Lord of everything. Nothing is outside his rule. But God is not a dictator, even a benevolent one. He holds supreme power because he simply 'is'; everything that is not God comes into being and continues to exist because God wills it so. God has created everything with a degree of freedom appropriate to its kind of existence. As the creatures made in his image and likeness, a union of body and soul, we possess a freedom that is integral to our human dignity and is a precondition to our ability to love. We are made out of love, and we are made for love, but love cannot be forced. If it is genuine, we must be free to choose it or not, even if that choice leads us away from the one who gives us life.

Asking that God's will may be done echoes the previous petition, but it is not simply an expression of our future hope. It is a prayer that the whole world may be brought into harmonious alignment with God's will, but first of all it is a prayer that our own desires may be brought into alignment with his will. Only then will true and lasting peace and joy be ours. God is not an impersonal God but a loving Father, who desires the good of all his children. His will is for our good. If our will is for something different, then it must be for a lesser good or even for something harmful, though we may not realise it. All our prayers should be implicitly prefaced with 'Thy will be done', following the example of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14.36). When we pray asking for something, we are not asking God to change his mind, but to change us, so that we may seek his will completely.

Once again I wish you a blessed and fruitful Lent.

God bless, Fr Matthew

WELCOME: If you are new to St Joseph's or visiting us then you are most welcome here. If you need any assistance, please speak to the welcome team in the porch, and please introduce yourself to Fr Matthew after Mass. If you would find it helpful, please ask the welcomers for a card with the order of Mass. Those who are not Catholic are invited to receive a blessing at communion time – the customary way to indicate this is to place your arm across your chest when you reach the priest or assisting minister. New parishioners are encouraged to complete a registration card, available in the porch or online via our website.

FR JOHN TAYLOR RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr John Taylor who died earlier this week. Funeral arrangements will be published once confirmed. May Fr John rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

LENT MASS SETTING: During Lent we are using the simple setting of the parts of the Mass known as the 'Missal Tone', published in the 2010 Missal. The music can be found as part of the order of Mass printed at the start of the Laudete Supplement.

SUNDAY COFFEE: This week coffee is hosted by the Mothers' Prayers group. Come along after the 9am Mass / before the 11am Mass for refreshments, fellowship, and a chance to find out about this parish group.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent we share the weekly Stations of the Cross with our neighbours at St Laurence, alternating location. This Friday we will be here at St Joseph's, beginning at 7.30pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Please note that Children's Liturgy continues for the weekends of half term.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL: Friday was the Cafod Lent Fast Day. Throughout Lent we are invited to join our self-denial to almsgiving, and supporting Cafod is one way of doing that. There will be an appeal and second collection after Masses this weekend, and Cafod will be an option on the donation screen throughout Lent.

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 Offers a unique and spiritually enriching experience for all participants. From Wednesday, April 3rd, to Saturday, April 6th, this pilgrimage spans approx. 70 miles on foot. Canterbury Cathedral continues its tradition of hospitality by welcoming participants to celebrate the conclusion of the journey with a Mass in the historic Cathedral's Chapter House—unchanged since the days of Saint Thomas Becket. Throughout the pilgrimage, participants will stay overnight in halls, with the convenience of having their luggage transported by van. Meal teams will provide support, ensuring a comfortable and nourishing experience for all pilgrims. If you are considering joining the 36th pilgrimage, it is encouraged to attend the registration evening on Thursday, 29th February, at 7pm at St Joseph's Social Club. This event will provide crucial details about the journey. Joining The Canterbury Walk is not just a physical journey but an opportunity to connect with history, faith, and fellowship in a meaningful way. Don't miss out, **scan the QR code** to obtain our registration form to be part of this special pilgrimage experience. For immediate inquiries, please reach out to **Andy Pearce, the chairman, at 07903 654288.**



RAINHAM FOODBANK: Thank you for all of the donations of food and toiletries that have been received for Rainham Foodbank. In the 6 weeks since Christmas St Joseph's has donated 114Kgs! The foodbank has more and more demand for its resources so please keep on supporting this wonderful cause. Donations can be put into the large container at the back of the church where there is a list highlighting the most useful items to donate to the foodbank. Thanks again. Margaret H.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY AFTERNOON TEA: BCCS will be hosting a very special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 23rd April 2024** at 1pm for service at 1.30pm. They are delighted that Bishop Alan, BCCS President, will be attending as guest of honour. Tickets for the event are £34.00 per person and should be purchased before Monday 8th April directly from their event webpage: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> or by clicking on their secure payment form here: <https://form.jotform.com/240354018762352> Once you have purchased your tickets, please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by contacting her by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 24th Feb

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Deceased members of the Dolby & Baldwin Families

Sun 25th Feb

9.00am

11.00am

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

People of the parish

Maureen Holt RIP (O'Donnell)

Mon 26th Feb

9.15am

Myles Doody RIP Anniv.

Tues 27th Feb

9.15am

Mary Belcher RIP (Your sister Eleanor)

Wed 28th Feb

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Wendy Lord RIP (O'Brien)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 29th Feb

9.15am

Philip Oates RIP

Frid 1st March

9.15am

7.30pm

ST DAVID, BP

Anthony Belcher RIP Anniv. (Eleanor & family)

Stations of the Cross—**St Joseph's**

Sat 2nd March

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

Sun 3rd March

9.00am

11.00am

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

People of the parish

Hanna Tarkowska RIP Anniv. (Berry)

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