



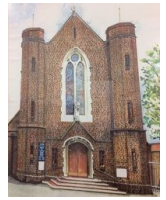
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

23RD / 24TH MARCH 2024

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B) - Mass Book Pg 88**

(Isaiah 50:4-7, Phillipians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47 )

As anyone familiar with Upminster knows, our town is centred on a cross-road. To go on any journey through Upminster, it is necessary to go through the cross. This is a good symbol for Holy Week. Next week we celebrate Easter, the great feast of Christ's resurrection, but there is only one way to get there: through the cross. It is also a good metaphor for life - and this is why Good Friday particularly resonates with so many people. There is no such thing as a life without any pain whatsoever, and we can either give up, bury our head in the sand, despair of ever finding meaning in life, look for ways of anaesthetising the pain; or we can place our trust in Jesus Christ, journey through the cross, all the way to the everlasting joy of his kingdom.



Today, Palm Sunday, we begin the week of high drama we call Holy Week. We commemorate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem, hailed by the crowds as the Messiah as he boldly presents himself as the one foretold by the prophets as Israel's saviour. But as we hear the account of his suffering and death, we understand that this salvation was to be accomplished at extraordinary cost. He is rejected by his own people and abandoned by those who had followed him, yet we know that this is not a defeat but a victory, whose full power is manifested in his self-offering and vindicated by his resurrection.

There is no better way to prepare for Easter than to enter as fully as possible into the celebrations of Holy Week. The distinctive liturgies of Holy Week allow us to journey with Jesus through the cross, as it were in 'real time'. We do not so much as hear the story again, as enter into it, so as to be changed. We do not stand still: there is a sense of movement, reflect in the various processions that are symbolically re-enacted in the liturgy: the entry into Jerusalem, the procession to the garden of Gethsemane to watch with Our Lord, the procession to the cross, and finally the procession in which we are led by a pillar of fire like the Israelites in the desert to the freedom of the promised land represented by the baptismal font and the triumphant celebration of the first Mass of Easter.

Here is a little more background to the principal celebrations of the three days we call the Sacred Triduum – three days centred on the sacrifice of the cross in which Our Lord becomes the Passover of the new covenant to accomplish our freedom from slavery to sin and death. We begin on Holy or **Maunder Thursday** with the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** at **8pm**. (*NB there is no morning Mass on this day*). We recall the new commandment given by our Lord, to 'love one another as I have loved you' as the celebrant, imitating the action of Christ in whose person he acts, washes the feet of those he is called to serve. At this Mass we give thanks for the institution of the Eucharist as the means by which Christ's sacrifice is continually made present for us. The Mass concludes with the transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. This procession recalls Jesus' journey to the Garden of Gethsemane, and like the disciples we are invited to watch and pray with Jesus for a while (hopefully staying awake!). Even if you are unable to attend the Mass, you are encouraged to visit our Lord at the Altar of Repose later in the evening and spend some time with him in prayer. This vigil of prayer concludes with Night Prayer at midnight.

On **Good Friday** we commemorate the day of our Lord's crucifixion. The solemn **Liturgy of the Passion** takes place at **3pm**. This is not a Mass, but communion is distributed from the sacrament reserved following the previous night's Mass of the Lord's Supper. This ancient liturgy includes the reading of the Passion from John's Gospel, prayers of intercession for the whole world, and the veneration of the cross, when we honour the wood on which our saviour hung and worship him who died for our salvation. This is both a collective and individual act; we are invited to approach the cross as individual sinners, saddened by the knowledge of

the suffering caused by our sins, but also giving thanks for the love that is so powerfully demonstrated. Traditionally the cross is venerated with a kiss but it is acceptable to make some other gesture if you prefer. The tabernacle is empty today, but it is customary to genuflect before the crucifix after its unveiling at the solemn liturgy. If you cannot attend the afternoon liturgy, or if you would like to begin or end the day with a further time of prayer, you are invited to join in praying the Divine Office at 8.15am, and/or the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 7.30pm. Children and families (as well as people of all ages) are invited to take part in the Stations of the Cross at 9am. This is followed by the Churches Together Walk of Witness, starting at 10am in front of our church (see notice below – the walk will be slightly different this year).

**Holy Saturday** (despite the popular way of referring to the holiday weekend, 'Easter Saturday' is actually the Saturday after Easter) is a day of emptiness and preparation until the evening when we celebrate the great **Easter Vigil**, the highpoint of the liturgical year. This takes place after nightfall at **8pm** (*NB there is no 6.30pm Mass or holy hour, though I will be available for confessions at the usual time*). We begin outside, weather permitting, with the blessing of a new fire from which a new Paschal Candle is lit symbolising the light of Christ. Lent is over, Easter has begun. The celebrant sings the praises of God, honouring the candle as a symbol of the resurrection. We then hear a number of readings from the Old Testament and New Testament culminating in the Gospel. Recalling the link between Easter and the sacrament of rebirth, the font is blessed and on this most holy night the newest members of Christ's church are joined to him in the sacraments of initiation before we all renew our baptismal promises. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as at every Mass, the entire Paschal Mystery is commemorated and the risen Christ, our victorious Passover lamb, comes among us to give us life and feed us.

At this most sacred time, do please keep silence when leaving and arriving for these liturgies. We should also try and keep, as far as we can, a spirit of recollection at other times during the week, aided by the fasting and abstinence customary on Good Friday. May this be a very holy week indeed and may we thus journey through the cross to reach the glorious celebration of Christ's victory over death.

God bless,  
Fr Matthew

**EASTER SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:** Please pray for Alex, who is to be received into the full communion of the Catholic church, and Roxanne, Autumn, Mylah, Sandra, Max and Mya who are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil.

**CHRISM MASS:** On Wednesday, priests of the diocese gather in the Cathedral in Brentwood for the Mass of Chrism: the annual renewal of our commitment to priestly service and the occasion when the three holy oils (of catechumens, used in baptism; of the sick; and the sacred chrism, used in baptism, confirmation and ordination) are consecrated. Please pray for the priests of the diocese on this day - you are welcome to attend this Mass which begins at 11am. There is no holy hour this Wednesday lunchtime.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** To prepare for the celebration of Easter there will be a reconciliation service here on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March starting 7.30pm with a time of penitential reflection and an opportunity for individual confession with visiting priests

**HOLY WEEK TALK:** On Wednesday evening from 8-9pm, there will be a short talk introducing the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, following by a period of eucharistic adoration and the opportunity for confessions.

**HOLY WEEK POSTERS:** Please take one of the Holy Week posters, which are produced each year nationally by the Knights of St Columba, and display it prominently as a witness to the importance of this great week.

**SERVERS:** Do please come and serve for any and all of the Holy Week liturgies, and aim to arrive in the sacristy in good time to be briefed.

**WALK OF WITNESS:** This year Churches Together in Upminster are organising the Good Friday Walk of Witness in a different way. Instead of a single procession, which has proved difficult to obtain permission for, we are going to process in groups from the four points of the compass (or arms of the cross), converging on Upminster Park for the service or Trinity URC if it is wet or too muddy (as is looking quite likely at the moment). We, together with the people of St Laurence's, have been asked to begin in front of St Joseph's Church at 10am.

**THE CWL LUNCH CLUB:** We will be closed on 27<sup>th</sup>, March for Holy week and will be open as normal on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Easter.

**GIFT AID NEWS:** Our Gift Aid organiser Kevin Armstrong is stepping down at the end of this financial year, and we thank him for carrying out this work in service of the parish. It will be taken over by Rachel Hayward, our parish secretary and finance officer. Boxes of envelopes for the coming financial year (beginning the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April) will be available for collection in church from Easter weekend. Statements for the past year will be sent via email if we have an email address, or by post otherwise.

**YOUTH MASS, THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2024:** Celebrating the Easter week with a Praise and Worship Music Workshop. Meet in the Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza and refreshments, before being lead in a music workshop with Art Wangcharoensab from the Cathedral music department. Singing is a wonderful way of praying together, sharing our talents and celebrating our faith, particularly in the joyful week following Easter Sunday! You are welcome to sing, bring an instrument or just listen if you prefer! At 7:30, Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral, where you are also welcome to sing, play, read or serve (just bring along an alb or instrument.) All information can be found at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) Absolutely everyone is very welcome!

**DOM'S BRITISH SUPPER NIGHT 8PM SAT 13 APR 2024 IN ST JOSEPH SOCIAL CLUB:** If you would like to attend please post an envelope at the presbytery containing the exact money or a cheque payable to D ARGENT-HALL and a list of names for your table. A two course meal will be served. Please indicate who would like a vegetarian version of the main course. The price is £10 per head. Drinks may be bought from the club's bar which operates a cashless payment system.

**BCCS:** The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) are looking for thrill seekers with a passion for fundraising to take part in Harlow Tye Rotary's annual Harlow Water Tower Abseil on Saturday 18th May 2024. For all details, please visit our Harlow Water Tower Abseil webpage here: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> To secure your spot, a £35 entry fee will be paid to the Harlow Tye Rotary Club, with all funds raised through your efforts being donated to BCCS. Please reach out to Charlotte: [cwalker@bccs.org.uk](mailto:cwalker@bccs.org.uk) / 07986841178 to sign up!

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25TH MAY 2024:** Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. St Mary's Hornchurch have arranged a coach to reserve a seat email [hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org)

**CARITAS BRENTWOOD:** Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford (10-minute walk from Romford Station on the Elizabeth line, Bus routes from London are regular, parking is available but limited and a bike rack is also on site). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)

**A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGES:** Further information on 'A Day With Mary 2024' Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4- 12 September) is available at [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org) or email [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC PARISH SUMMIT:** The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the 12th to the 14th June with over 1,000 parish leaders from across the country. Our diocese has booked some places for the Summit which are available to anyone who is interested in attending. These places are free but they are limited and you will need to make arrangements for accommodation while you are in Harrogate. For more information about the Summit please visit their website: <https://catholicparishsummit.com/> If you would like to find out more, please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at [billericay@brcdt.org](mailto:billericay@brcdt.org)

**VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP:** from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk)

**ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL REUNION FOR LEAVERS IN JULY 1978:** Friday 26th April, 7.30pm in a reserved area, at The Crumpled Horn Pub, Upminster. We currently have 30 confirmed attendees and have set up a WhatsApp group with many photos and memories being shared. If anyone knows an ex pupil of St Joseph's that left in the summer of 1978, (now aged 56/57), please ask them to contact Adam Grace at e mail [liam.grace@icloud.com](mailto:liam.grace@icloud.com) or phone 07966527409, so I can add them to the group or give further information.

**APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE:** Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information, please email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or visit [www.bcys.net/apprenticeshipopportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://www.bcys.net/apprenticeshipopportunity-at-walsingham-house/)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Margaret Munnely, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Maggie Ollington, Maureen Springham, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod and Lisa Bostock.

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:** Clarence Barrett, Lilian Conrad, Mary Pennell, Wanda Wojtecki, Elizah James (Dot), Sr Tarcisius, Margaret Eberle, Diana Fairchild, Ernest Anthony, Heather Thomson, Mr Malachy Kelly, Dennis John King, Doreen Glavin, Erna Crawley, Eileen Gilham, Joan Grant, Patrick Raftery, Eileen Noyes, Nora Goldsmith, Sister Clare Ronan, Alan Goss, Susan Waters, Pauline O'Kelly, Harry Doyle, Bridget Casey, Airi Cipa, Caroline Walsh, Alan Noyes, John Merritt, Terence Williamson, Jessie Speight, Elvera Fyne, Charles Clark, John Galvin, Maureen Alford, Eileen Moore, Charles Slattery, Geoffrey Rogers, Patrick Connolly, Catherine (Florence) Reeves, Anne Lester, Wyndham Shearn, Ann Mary Breeze, Thomas Hall, Mary (Maura) O'Loughlin, Percy Sharp, William Dawkins, Maureen Lygoe, Brendan Horgan, Roger Gorman, Abigail Cottingham, David de Cruz, Geoffrey Garvan, Percy Main, Pearl Tayler, Michael Morrissey, Kevin Grace, Patrick Grace, Peggy O'Neil, Margaret Thoroughgood, David Finch, Jim Hoey, Mary Pipe, Emily Hoard, Elaine Cooper, Frank Cott, Miriam Gregory, Beatrice Kensington, Leonard Russell, Lucy Dorling, Elizabeth Wilson, Alice McDonnell, Josephine Best, David Fayers, Patrick Walsh, William Whitby, Samantha Donnelly, Vera Shearn, Catherine Scully, Catherine Engledow, Joyce Kelly, James Harle, Terry Baker, David Wisker, Kevin Coady, Dorothea Wortley, Kathleen Pinner, John Wisely, Robert Williams, Jenny O'Sullivan, Dennis Steer, Annie Saunders, David Walsh, Colin Bottle, Ronald Wilson, Elizabeth Morris, Margaret Joyce, Kathleen Verner, Peter Hamilton, Maureen Grouk, Dominic Blaney & James Betson. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 23rd March

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

People of the parish

Sun 24th March

9.00am

11.00am

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Mary-Anne Madden's 70th Birthday Intentions (Margaret)

Patrick & David Walsh RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

Mon 25th March

9.15am

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

Onyemaechi Cajetan Mbachy's Intentions (Mbachy)

Tues 26th March

9.15am

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

David Wisker RIP 7th Anniv. (Alice & Family)

Wed 27th March

9.15am

**WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

Ellen Rogers RIP Anniv. (Mark Rogers)

Thur 28th March

8pm

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Patrick Conlon RIP. Anniv. (Davin)

Frid 29th March

8.15am

9.00am

10.00am

3pm

7.30pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

Stations of the cross, especially for children

Walk of Witness from St Joseph's

**LITURGY OF THE PASSION**

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

Sat 30th March

5.30pm—6.15pm

8pm

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER**

People of the parish

Sunday 31st March

9am

11am

**EASTER DAY**

Sung mass

Derek Cavalier RIP (Brennan)

Sung Mass

John Foy RIP (Family)

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**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

**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.

**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**