



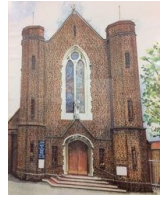
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

9TH / 10TH MARCH 2024

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) - Mass Book Pg 83**

(2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21)

On this fourth Sunday of Lent our penitential discipline is lightened by a sense of joy at the coming salvation that is to be accomplished. Today we give thanks and pray for our mothers and also honour holy mother Church, echoing the words of today's entrance antiphon which speaks both of joy and of Jerusalem as a mother. Our mothers (together with our fathers) don't just bring us into the world; they also bring us up. They take care of our bodily needs but also prepare us for life in the world in every respect. Perhaps one of the most important but easily overlooked lessons our mothers and fathers teach us is to take responsibility for our actions – "I'm sorry" – and also by their own example to teach us the importance of forgiveness. Both movements are present in the petition of the Our Father which I would like us to consider today: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

St Paul says if we have no sin we deceive ourselves. Only a very foolish person would consider that they were perfect in every respect, that nothing could possibly be wrong with any of the choices they might make. Certainly, someone might reject the notion that there is a God who cares what we do. But we who know God to be a good and loving Father know that he must care about what we do as any parent cares about their child's actions, because he wants us to be the best we can be, the people he has made us to be: images of God in his utter perfection. We are made for holiness, for sainthood. We know that we fall short, but we do not need to despair because God is a loving Father. Like any child finding their way and trying to please their parents but inevitably making poor choices, deliberately or thoughtlessly, we only have to say "I'm sorry" to receive the assurance of God's forgiveness. When our relationship with God is damaged by our wilful pride, our sinful self-reliance, then we only need to turn back to him and all is made well. Turn back, because all our selfish choices represent a turning away from him. So we ask for forgiveness in this prayer which is a model for all our prayers; asking for forgiveness when we realise we have gone wrong is a feature not just of this prayer but our prayer in general. Holy mother Church has been given a particular remedy for sin, namely the sacrament of confession or reconciliation. Our awareness of our sin and our awareness of our need of God's mercy should not lead us to become locked up in guilt, rather to avail ourselves of that medicine which Jesus freely gives us through his church.

For our lesser sins and shortcomings, simply asking forgiveness will open the wellsprings of divine mercy. But forgiveness is not just something we receive then carry on. We are meant to be changed, to become more like God who is love and mercy. The example of our parents forgiving us teaches us to forgive. Similarly, the experience of divine mercy teaches us and also forms and moulds us to become people who are merciful. It's not so much a gift with strings attached but a gift that is meant to change us. If we are not willing to be changed by our encounter with divine mercy then we will find ourselves in the sorry position of that servant in the well-known parable in Luke's gospel, the one who is forgiven an enormous debt by his master, but refuses to forgive the miniscule debt of his fellow servant. It is right that our petition for forgiveness should be linked to a plea that we might become people who readily forgive as we have been forgiven. Forgiving others is not something we always find easy, which is why Our Lord, knowing this, instructs us to ask that this change be brought about in us. May our hearts be open not only to the mercy of God but also to the grace that makes us merciful as our heavenly father is merciful.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**MOTHERING SUNDAY FLOWERS:** Today children (of any age) are invited to take a flower to give to their mother, or to someone else who has a maternal role in their life (e.g. a godmother, grandmother or aunt), or even to place on the grave of a deceased mother. We keep all our mothers, living and departed in our prayers, and we pray for those for whom mothering Sunday is difficult for whatever reason.

**FR JOHN TAYLOR RIP:** The funeral Mass for our former parish priest Fr John is taking place at Our Lady of Light, Clacton on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon. A coach has been arranged from our parish leaving promptly at 10am. There are still some places available: please see Bernadette in the repository at the weekend, or Rachel in the office during the week. Please pay £15 (cash or card) to secure your place.

**SCRUTINIES:** As part of the Lenten preparation for Baptism at Easter, our two adult baptism candidates Roxanne and Sandra are celebrating the rites known as the 'scrutinies' on three consecutive weeks in the middle of Lent. At the Masses where this takes place (after the homily) the year A readings are used rather than the year B readings used at other Masses. For second scrutiny this week we hear the gospel of the man born blind (John 9). Please pray that they (and all of us) may receive the grace of true conversion and faith, to see all things clearly in the light of Christ.

**OUR CATHOLIC FAITH:** This week and next week our faith study group will meet on Tuesday evening instead of Thursday.

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** Fr Matthew will be assisting at a Lenten Reconciliation Service at Brentwood Cathedral on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm. This service is open to all and will include an opportunity for sacramental confession as well as a time of prayer and reflection.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP:** Children preparing for first holy communion will attend the 11am Mass next weekend with their families for the next presentation. Parents are reminded that there is a parent's session in church this Monday from 6.15pm.

**THANK YOU FROM ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP ...** for the incredible support and generosity shown to the appeal last weekend. The total raised was £1656.22. This will pay for 9 very deserving children to have a holiday this summer who otherwise would not have this opportunity.

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB:** We have karaoke night for St Patrick's on 15/3, family afternoon from 4pm for St Patrick's on 16/3, wine tasting on 22/3 and a Chaz and Dave tribute night on 19/4 - book all events via this link: <http://eepurl.com/iKtJF-/>

**GUIDES / BROWNIES & RAINBOWS:** There will be a Brownie Unit opening up at St Peters, Cranham on the 18<sup>th</sup> April for ages 7-10 years - time 5.45pm-7pm. We are also recruiting Rainbows aged 4-7yrs—time 4.30pm-5-30pm. If you are interested for your daughter to come to either meeting, please contact Sharon [shazza@31281@hotmail.com](mailto:shazza@31281@hotmail.com) We are also recruiting more guides aged 10-14yrs. Please contact [dianeconsultants@gmail.com](mailto:dianeconsultants@gmail.com)

**THE MARILLAC:** The Marillac Neurological Care Centre located in Eagle Way Warley is an independent ABI ( Acquired Brain Injury facility ) having some 52 beds and specialising in the rehabilitation of patients. Having previously been run by the Daughters of Charity it is now completely independent and acts as a non profit making charitable company and is registered as a charity. We are seeking additional Trustees to assist in the running of this wonderful institution. It is not an onerous task with a maximum of 4 board meetings per year and a monthly attendance ( personal or by zoom/teams) on particular committees which are for an hour or so. If you feel that such a voluntary role would be of interest to you please contact the signatory below to discuss further. Peter Nicol, Chair of Trustees [chair@marillac.co.uk](mailto:chair@marillac.co.uk)

**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).

**RETRouvaille – DO YOU NEED HELP IN YOUR MARRIAGE?** Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16th June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP:** Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on Saturday 13th April 2024 - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: <http://www.boscocamp.co.uk/events>

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**Sat 9th March**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**6.30pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

People of the parish

**Sun 10th March**

**9.00am**

**11.00am**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Fred Regan RIP B'day (Family)

Raymond Delarue & Albert Ward RIP (Delarue-Ward)

**Mon 11th March**

**9.15am**

Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

**Tues 12th March**

**9.15am**

Derek Cavalier RIP (Talbot) (With our Year 1 children)

**Wed 13th March**

**9.15am**

**12 noon—1pm**

Phyllis McCabe RIP (Burke)

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**Thur 14th March**

**9.15am**

Irene Stubbings Intentions (Christine)

**Frid 15th March**

**9.15am**

**7.30pm**

Dympna (Dinkie) Burke RIP 1st Anniv.

Stations of the Cross—**St Joseph's**

**Sat 16th March**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**6.30pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

For recovery from anxiety (Anon)

**Sun 17th March**

**9.00am**

**11.00am**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

People of the parish

Kathy Faulks RIP Anniv. (O'Donnell)

## 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**