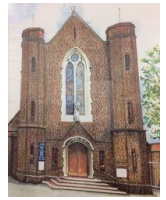




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
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PARISH NEWSLETTER

30TH / 31ST MARCH 2024

EASTER DAY (B) - Mass Book Pg 129

(Acts 10:34.37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John20:1-9)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Someone recently remarked to me that it was a shame we weren't in the habit of greeting one another with a joyful acclamation of our Easter faith, in the way that Eastern Christians (Catholic and Orthodox) often do, with the expression 'Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!' Of course there is nothing stopping us use the equivalent English greeting as above.

The Greek response is more naturally translated 'he is *truly* risen!' On Good Friday we heard Pilate ask 'What is truth?'. So often truth is reduced to something relative – your truth, my truth. But there are universal truths which no one today can seriously doubt (though most of us have to take on trust): the earth's spherical shape, it's rotation about its axis, and it's orbit round the sun. The existence of God is in this category, as is the resurrection: not just true for us, but true full stop.

Many people of course disagree. Others want to believe, and even profess faith, but nevertheless find it difficult to believe that it *really is* true. Perhaps they don't realise we are supposed to believe it really is true. I read an interview recently with someone who had the privilege of meeting Pope St John Paul II after taking part in his early morning private Mass. He asked the pope if he ever had doubts. The pope answered that if Christ had not been crucified and risen from the dead, his whole life had been a lie.

The idea that someone might rise from the dead, and by doing so transform the nature of death for the entire human race, goes against what we understand to be the normal laws of nature. The historical facts of a religious teacher being arrested and put to death by an occupying power are both well-attested and perfectly reasonable. The resurrection is much more challenging. Let us not forget how challenging it was for the apostles too. The discovery of the empty tomb was unsettling; the appearances of the risen Christ too much to take in at first. Gradually they began to recognise the risen Christ and understand the implications of this fact. That evening, when the two disciples had made their swift return from Emmaus and reported what had happened, the other disciples said 'yes, it really is true'. A week later after Thomas had seen (and touched) for himself his doubts turned to faith as he declared 'My Lord and my God'.

Let us be very clear then: the resurrection is not just some nice happy ending to a story that no one is really meant to take seriously. Nor is it merely a spiritual phenomenon outside our material world – the tomb really was empty, and the Lord really did appear in a tangible, but glorified, bodily form. What we profess week by week in the creed, and in a special way when making or renewing our baptismal promises as today, is something we really do believe to be true, a faith that unites us with Christians around the world and over two thousand years, including those who were privileged to be eye-witnesses, and countless others who have been ready to suffer and die for their faith. If we are ever a little hesitant or uncertain, we are no different from those first disciples, but let us pray for those doubts to be overcome by an encounter with the risen Lord, who we may not see face-to-face in this life but who certainly comes close to us through the life of his Church; who truly shared our human mortality so that we might share his immortality and divine glory for ever. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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 (or visit tinyurl.com/stjosephsup).

THANK YOU: On behalf of the whole parish, heartfelt thanks to all those who have worked extremely hard to contribute to our celebration Holy Week and Easter, behind the scenes and in visible roles: including cleaners, flower arrangers, musicians, servers, readers, welcomers.

EASTER MONDAY: Please note that Mass will be at the later time of 10am on the bank holiday Monday.

NEXT WEEK: Advance notice that there will be some changes to the times of Mass next week: 7.30am on Monday 8th April, and 8.15pm on Wednesday 10th April. Other days as normal.

CANTERBURY WALK: The group of pilgrims from our parish walking the ancient pilgrimage way to Canterbury will set off after the 9.15am Mass on Wednesday of this week. You are encouraged to attend Mass and send them on their way, or even walk part of the first day's route with them.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Len Williams and Larry Fennessy, who died during the week. Len's funeral Mass has been arranged for 12 noon on Wednesday 17th April.

EASTER OFFERING: The collection at Mass on Easter day forms a significant part of the priest's income. Please note that standing orders are not counted as part of this, only what is put in the collection bag on the day, or what is given specifically for the Easter offering (either in an envelope, online or by card).

EASTER LILIES: Please offer a prayer for the repose of the souls of those for whom lilies and other flowers have been offered to adorn the Church in honour of the resurrection.

EASTER SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: Congratulations to Alex, received into the full communion of the Catholic church, and Roxanne, Autumn, Mylah, Sandra, Max and Mya, baptised at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for them as well as for all who are to be baptised, confirmed or make their first holy communion during the Easter season.

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 next weekend) are now available for collection in church. The boxes are arranged by gift aid number. Statements for the past year will be sent via email if we have an email address, or by post otherwise.

GUIDES / BROWNIES & RAINBOWS: There will be a Brownie Unit opening up at St Peters, Cranham on the 18th 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 We are also recruiting more guides aged 10-14yrs. Please contact dianeconsultants@gmail.com

JOHN SULLIVAN PARIS MARATHON: John is hoping to complete the Paris marathon on 7th April and is raising money for Treasured Memories at Queen's and King George's Hospitals. Sponsorship can be made through <https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-sullivan-1706481135990?> or the following QR code.



CWL LUNCH CLUB: The CWL lunch re-open as normal on 3rd April. Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Easter.

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.

BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT: Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church. Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese. Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

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 or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 30th March 5.30pm—6.15pm 8pm	HOLY SATURDAY ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER People of the parish
Sun 31st March 9.00am 11.00am	EASTER DAY Sung Mass Derek Cavalier RIP (Brennan) Sung Mass John Foy RIP (Family)
Mon 1st April 10.00am	MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER Eileen Murphy RIP (Ann Cooper)
Tues 2nd April 9.15am	TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER Eileen Grannell RIP (Regan Family)
Wed 3rd April 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER Ted Hallahan RIP (Pepper Family) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 4th April 9.15am	THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER Mary Catherine Brady RIP (Green)
Frid 5th April 9.15am	FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER Thomas Cunnane RIP (Woulds)
Sat 6th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Eileen Neal RIP Anniv. (Draper)
Sun 7th April 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Bill Ficken RIP Anniv. (Newman) 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**