



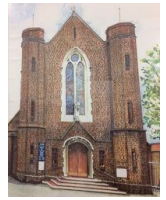
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

13TH / 14TH APRIL 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) - Mass Book Pg 135

(Acts 3:13-15.17-19, 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48)

For one more time during this season of Easter our Sunday gospel takes us back to the day of resurrection. We hear Luke's account of the appearance of the risen Lord in the Upper Room on Easter evening, just as the two disciples who met the Lord on the road to Emmaus return to tell of what they experienced. Two lines stand out for me: "Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it" and "you are witnesses to this". The first captures that sense of something too good to be true – they have moved beyond the initial confusion following the desolation of Good Friday then the discovery of the empty tomb, but they are still in a state of shock. Jesus gives them both a physical demonstration that it really is him risen from the dead, then a lesson in the scriptures so they can understand that God's plan of salvation has now been fulfilled. But the second line I mentioned involves them, and us, in that work of salvation which entered into a new phase with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Jesus helps them understand that the vocation of Israel – leading the whole world to know and worship its creator – is now entrusted to the church. We are those who Jesus referred to in last week's gospel as those who have come to believe without seeing for ourselves – relying instead on the testimony of others – but we still have a vital part to play in handing on the faith.

The mission of the church takes on various forms. It certainly does include being ready to speak about our faith in Jesus Christ, announcing that good news that Christ has risen from the dead and that in his name forgiveness and new life is offered to all people. But it also includes acts of loving service towards those in need. Love certainly prompts us to share the good news, but it is love seen in action that makes this message authentic and compelling.

Let us not forget about that joy mentioned in the gospel. In sharing our faith, we cannot hide the fact that the call to discipleship is one that can be costly to follow. Our Lord did say that we must be ready to take up our cross and follow him. The Christian gospel is a promise of new life, not of this-worldly comfort. But this is not the same as saying that the followers of Christ must be miserable – far from it.

Christian joy is not a matter of pretending that suffering doesn't exist or making light of such difficulties, but a deeper joy that doesn't depend on short-lived good fortune. A joy that comes from our friendship with the Lord, the certainty that we are loved by a good Father who desires the true and lasting happiness of all his children. Joy, even when carrying the cross, is one of the hallmarks of a saint. If we are to give witness to our faith, then radiating this deep joy is a necessary part of it. If people see that our faith makes a positive difference to our lives, and gives us a cause for deep joy even in the midst of the challenges life brings us, they will naturally be more curious than if they see us weighed down and miserable. Mother Teresa – who certainly knew about hardship and sacrifice – said 'Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.' May God help us radiate his light, joy and peace and use us to announce the gospel of salvation.

God bless, Fr Matthew

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Boxes of envelopes for the new financial year (beginning this weekend) are now available for collection in church. Uncollected boxes will be delivered in the coming weeks, but your help in minimising the number to be delivered is appreciated. Statements for the past year will be sent via email if we have an email address, or by post otherwise. Please note that the Gift Aid administration has now been passed on to Rachel Hayward, our parish secretary and finance officer; we extend our thanks to Kevin Armstrong for his work in this area up until now.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Len Williams whose funeral Mass will be held here at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th April. Please also pray for the repose of the soul Fr George Towler, who was an assistant priest in this parish in the mid-1990s and Tony Marsh, resident of Upminster Nursing Home, who died recently.

MARY-ANNE MADDEN: Please note that Mary-Anne has this week transferred to 1 Sewardstone Close, Sewardstone, Waltham Abbey, London, E4 7RG. Sewardstone is a specialist rehabilitation centre for people with acquired brain injury. Visiting times are not limited neither are the number of visitors allowed to visit. The contact number for the home is 0208-016-2004.

LONDON MARATHON SUN 21st APR: I will be running the 26.2 miles for BCCS (Brentwood Catholic Children's Society) this year, if you are able to visit my justgiving page and support this charity it would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively I will be collecting after masses next week. Many thanks, Adrian Ackred. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/adrian-ackred>
16937573550utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional_donation_received_--_nth_donation&utm_content=a8536ecb-8da1-4ee2-b0df-d4abdd843315&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1710614207895

FR JOHN TAYLOR RIP: There will be a parish Requiem Mass for Fr John at 8pm on Thursday 16th May.

CAFOD / SVP WORK EXPERIENCE: CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young adults. Candidates must be over 20 years old and have a passion for social justice. 7th July—13th July. All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office throughout the week are covered. For more information please contact Sarahb@svp.org.uk or khutchinson@cafod.org.uk

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, but there are limited places. Applications open until the end of March. Details: <https://boscocamp.co.uk/volunteer-applications>.

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

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: 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 1.00 p.m. for service at 1.30 p.m. 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: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ 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.

SION COMMUNITY: The next Maranatha Mass celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on Thursday, 18th April at 7pm. All welcome.

CARITAS: 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 27th April, 10.00 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford. 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

THE CAMPION SCHOOL OPEN EVENING: The Campion School would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on Wednesday 26th June from 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. The Headteacher's talk will be at 5.00 p.m. and repeated at 6.30 p.m. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.org.uk

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com). If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young or Suzanne Reeves at Lourdes@brcdt.org

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

GERRY CAHILL—SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE : Please note that there will be a Service of Remembrance for Gerry Cahill on the first anniversary of his death on Saturday 20th April at 11.15am here at St Joseph's.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 13th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Eileen Grannell RIP (Mary Scully)
Sun 14th April 9.00am 11.00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Grace Wingrove RIP B'Day (Cunningham) People of the parish
Mon 15th April 9.15am	Betty Whitehead RIP (Bemand-Qureshi)
Tues 16th April 9.15am	Trevor Downing RIP (Bemand-Qureshi) (With Year 6 children)
Wed 17th April 9.15am 12 noon 12 noon—1pm	John & Ellen Maplesden RIP Anniv. (Paul) Funeral Mass — Len Williams NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK
Thur 18th April 9.15am	Lar Fennessy RIP (Shaun, Lorraine & Family)
Frid 19th April 9.15am	Bridget Murphy RIP (Raife Family)
Sat 20th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Shirley Geaney RIP (Ryan Family)
Sun 21st April 9.00am 11.00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Brother Raymond Hynes OFM & Mick Nash RIP (Woulds) 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**