



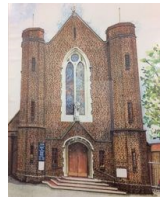
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Uxminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

uxminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

27TH / 28TH APRIL 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) - Mass Book Pg 139

(Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8)

This week the clergy of the diocese are spending three days with each other and the Bishop away from the diocese. The last time we did this was in 2017 in Ars (the village where St John Vianney ministered as the Curé of Ars) – this time we will be in a less spiritually significant but possibly more comfortable conference centre in Hertfordshire.

A gathering such as this is valuable as it helps the clergy of the diocese (including the Bishop) get to know each other better, encourage one another in our ministry, and reflect on where God is calling us in our parish ministry and as a diocese. The last gathering was part of our Diocesan centenary celebration. This time it does not mark an anniversary but it comes at a time of renewal, as we recognise the need to work more effectively with our neighbouring parishes to carry out the mission of the church. I cannot tell you in advance what the Bishop and the visiting speakers will say to us but I hope that it will help shape my own sense of how God wants us to be as a parish community, building on the milestone of our centenary last year and the successful (and hopefully not forgotten) parish mission last autumn.

The gospel readings for this week and next come from Jesus' teaching at the Last Supper; a significant discourse which takes up four chapters of the gospel of John (not including the prayer Jesus addresses to his father which we hear from the following week). This week we are given the image of the vine; an image which speaks of the bond between Christ and the members of his church. The fact that this comes at the Last Supper when the eucharist is instituted and given to us, and the choice of image (vines provide us with grapes for making wine) is very significant. The celebration of the eucharist is when we are most visibly united to one another, to our brothers and sisters everywhere, and to Christ himself in his offering of worship to the Father. In holy communion Christ abides in us sacramentally. Our word communion reminds that this is not an individual, solitary act: in receiving communion we are united intimately with Christ who is truly present, and we are also united with every other member of his body.

Sharing in the eucharist signifies and strengthens the bond that unites us as members of Christ's church. Through baptism we belong to something that is bigger than ourselves; bigger than our own local parish or diocese; bigger even than the visible communion of Catholic Christians spread around the world today. We are one with every generation that has gone before us, and will be joined by every generation

to come until the end of the world. Being a Christian is not just a matter of following a set of teachings, but being joined to Christ, sacramentally, and by our desire to serve him in all things. That is what it means to be part of the vine that is Christ; to abide in him and for him to abide in us. Our shared vision for our parish and our diocese must be centred on Christ, with a profound sense of our belonging to something bigger than ourselves, connected in a real way with all our fellow travellers. As a single body we have a common mission that has been entrusted to us by Christ: the conversion of the whole world so that all may have life in him. With God's help may we, as part of the one vine, bear the fruit that he desires.

God bless, Fr Matthew

THIS WEEK: Please note there are changes to this week's schedule as a consequence of the diocesan clergy conference. There will be **no Mass or Holy Hour on Wednesday**. The church will be open for prayer during the day, and you are invited to visit if possible and pray before the tabernacle for the intentions of our bishop. There will be a 9am Mass at St Alban's, Elm Park celebrated by Fr Joseph Farrell. On **Thursday** Mass will be at **8pm**. If you need a priest in a real emergency please call Fr Matthew's emergency number (not the Presbytery) and leave a message; he will do his best to arrange a visit from a retired priest (if in hospital please ask for the on-call Catholic chaplain, as provision has been made).

MASS SETTING: We are in the process of introducing a new setting for the parts of the Mass, the 'Pershore' Mass. Depending on which Mass you attend we are at different stages so may only use part of the new setting. The music is in the supplement to the Laudate hymn book and can be found at the following numbers: Lord have mercy 523, Gloria 524, Holy, holy, holy 579, Lamb of God 589.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY: Please note that we will be holding a second collection after all masses over the weekend of 11th /12th May in aid of World Communications Day. Please support this worthy cause.

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

RAINHAM FOODBANK CORRECTION TO LAST WEEKS NOTICE: The amount of items given by St Joseph's since February THIS YEAR—to 12th April is 125kg— ie in 8 weeks only. SO A BIG THANK YOU.

ST JOSEPH'S KNITTING & CRAFT GROUP: The next group meeting will be on 9th May and not 15th May as previously arranged due to a private function in the club. Yvonne Dickens 01708 228087.

TERESA FROST—CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please note that Teresa will be moving away from the parish and that from 8th May her new postal address will be 41 Knights Lodge, North Close, Lymington, SO41 9PB. Teresa and her late husband Ron were very active members of our parish over many years and were heavily involved with the RCIA programme. We wish Teresa much happiness in her new home.

MOST HOLY REDEEMER PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP: Come along to find comfort, support and understanding at our welcoming and informal bereavement support group. Sheila Delander and Liz Hill will lead the group. We invite you to join us as we navigate through grief together. Our next meeting will be held **Wednesday 1st May, at 2pm** in St. Anthony's Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill. There will be subsequent meetings scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of every month. All are welcome. Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided.

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

THY KINGDOM COME - PENTECOST PRAYER NOVENA 2024: There will be 24/7 prayer running from 2pm on Sunday 12th May to 10pm on Saturday 18th May at the Sion Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us any time from 6am to 12 midnight. It would be very helpful if you could book an hour slot in the prayer room by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm which is taking place each evening. We look forward to welcoming you for this special prayer time. For more information, please contact admin@sioncommunity.org.uk Sion Community, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE: Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCY AT ST JOSEPH'S, UPMINSTER: St Joseph's is looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher, starting from 1st September 2024. The Governors and Headteacher invite applications from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably- qualified practising Catholic leaders. Full details can be found on the school website: <https://st-josephs-upminster.net/vacancies/> Applications must be submitted by 9am on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: Every Month there is a meeting at the Cathedral for anyone from our diocese who is interested in the Diocesan Priesthood. We commence with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Pray the Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood. We retreat to Clergy House, the Dean's Room, usually to hear a guest speaker, usually a priest from the diocese, and a short discussion takes place. This concludes with dinner at one of the local restaurants. If you're interested, please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 27th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Laurence O'Brien RIP B'day (Ann, Jim & Family)
Sun 28th April 9.00am 11.00am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER People of the parish Robin Clist RIP
Mon 29th April 9.15am	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V,D Brian & Maureen Springham's Intentions
Tues 30th April 9.15am	Patrick Coleman RIP Anniv. (Meany & Calver) (With Year 4 children)
Wed 1st May 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	<u>NO MASS THIS MORNING</u> NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK
Thur 2nd May 8pm	ST ATHANASIUS, BP, D John Gibbs RIP Anniv. (Gibbs / Quinn)
Frid 3rd May 9.15am	SS PHILIP AND JAMES, AP Good luck wishes for Jack McCathy for exam success and with his future (Nan)
Sat 4th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS John Scully RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sun 5th May 9.00am 11.00am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Norah Madden RIP Anniv. (Mary- Anne) 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**