



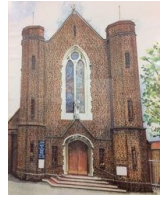
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

6TH / 7TH APRIL 2024

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) - Mass Book Pg 132**

(Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31)

A week after the resurrection of Our Lord, we are with the apostles in the Upper Room once more, and the Risen Lord appears to them again. This time Thomas is with them, having been missing on the evening of Easter day. His scepticism is not unreasonable. People generally don't rise from the dead. He understands that this doesn't mean much if it's just a spiritual phenomenon, Jesus appearing as if a ghost. He needs to be able to see and touch to be convinced. A human person is, after all, a unity of body and soul, so for the resurrection to be real, it needs to involve the body as well as the soul. The tomb needs to be empty; the risen one appearing to the disciples needs to be physically present, even if his glorified post-resurrection body also transcends the limitations of the material world. Thomas also understands that no mere mortal could have power over death like this; only one who is true man can die, only one who is true God can rise from the dead. As soon as he sees Jesus in the flesh and his doubts are removed, he acclaims 'My Lord and my God'. Doubt leads to profound faith.

This Sunday has a number of names. It is the Octave Day of Easter, the conclusion of the 'week of Sundays' that flows from Easter Day celebrating the joy of the resurrection at a greater intensity than we can sustain for the whole 50 days of Easter. It is Low Sunday, reflecting its lesser status in comparison to the greatest day of the year, though of course every Sunday throughout the year is a commemoration of the resurrection; that is why Sunday (not Saturday, the Sabbath) is for us the Lord's Day, the day of rest and worship. It is 'White Sunday' or 'Dominica in Albis', from a tradition that the newly baptised would take off the baptismal garment they have worn since Easter day. It is also known as Quasimodo Sunday, from the entrance antiphon 'Like (*Quasimodo*) new born infants' – the character in Victor Hugo's novel is so named as he was found abandoned on this day.

There is another name, Divine Mercy Sunday, since this Sunday was instituted as such by Pope St John Paul II in 2000, when he also canonised St Faustina, the Polish nun who had received a vision of Our Lord in which he requested renewed devotion to this mystery. Unlike most new feasts, there was no need for a new set of

prayers and readings. Indeed, it is most unusual for a new feast to be established on a Sunday. But it fits very naturally with what is already celebrated this Sunday. We look back at the events of Good Friday through the lens of Easter – Our Lord appears with his wounds still visible as a permanent reminder of his love – and recognise the entire Paschal Mystery as the ultimate expression of God's love and tender mercy. The Divine Mercy image shows rays of red and white light coming from Our Lord's heart, calling to mind the blood and water that flowed from his pierced side and signifying the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist, inextricably linked to his gift of himself on the cross and the means of sharing in his risen life.

In his resurrection appearances the Lord does not scold the disciples for abandoning him, but simply declares 'Peace' – the peace he brings is not a peace belonging to this world, a short-lived absence of conflict, but a much deeper and lasting peace that comes from everything being ordered to the perfect will of God, a peace that becomes possible now that humanity has been reconciled to him. And he bestows an advance gift of the Holy Spirit specifically for the forgiveness of sins, so that the apostles and their successors can make his mercy and his peace a reality in the life of the church, through the sacrament of reconciliation. Let us give thanks for all these things today, and in giving thanks open our hearts to receive these gifts more completely.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my personal thanks to all those who contributed to such a marvellous celebration of the Easter Triduum, whether visible or behind the scenes (in last week's newsletter I neglected to mention the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, who not only assisted in the liturgies but also take communion to the sick at home). I would also like to thank you all for your generous cards, gifts and contributions to the Easter offering, which are all very much appreciated, as are your continued prayers.

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.

**THIS WEEK:** Please note that Mass will be at 7.30am on Monday, and 8.15pm on Wednesday. There will be no eucharistic adoration this week except on Thursday and Saturday. Morning prayer will resume on Thursday.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> April. The Funeral Mass for Lar Fennessy will take place in St Alban's Church, Elm Park, Hornchurch, RM12 5JX on Tuesday 9 April at 6pm followed by repatriation to Ireland for burial in Newcastle, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. Please also pray for the repose of the souls of Fr John McCollough, priest of this diocese, and Tony Marsh, resident of Upminster Nursing Home, who have died recently.

**CWL:** There will be a CWL meeting on Friday 12th, April at 2pm in the social centre. Come along for a cup of tea or coffee and nice company. All welcome. You do not need to be a member to join us.

**LEGION OF MARY:** St Mary Mother of God Church Hornchurch's Lady Queen of Martyrs Legion of Mary will be going on their Annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, in honour of Venerable Edel Quinn. The coach will be leaving their parish car park by 09.00am and return before 7pm the same day. Coach fare: £18 for each person. Contact Michael Okafor on 07956586370 if you are interested.

**VOCATIONS:** The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 9 April at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Joseph Rodrigues. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

**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 27<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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)

**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)

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LUNCHTIME RECITAL:** Our next Lunchtime Recital will be on Wednesday 10th April at the usual starting time of 1.00 p.m. This will be given by our Cathedral Organist Stephen King who will be accompanied by Sophia Assitzoglou on the Violin and Owen Romhany who will be playing the Trombone and Cello. Please do come along and join us.

**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/](http://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](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 6th April</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Eileen Neal RIP Anniv. (Draper)
<b>Sun 7th April</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Bill Ficken RIP Anniv. (Newman) People of the parish
<b>Mon 8th April</b> <b>7.30am</b>	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b> Wishes for a speedy recovery (Family)
<b>Tues 9th April</b> <b>9.15am</b>	J J Murphy RIP (Margaret)
<b>Wed 10th April</b> <b>8.15pm</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	Sylvia Garod RIP (Georgina) <b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Thur 11th April</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST STANISLAUS, BP, M</b> John Foy RIP B'Day (Family)
<b>Frid 12th April</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Anne & Dave Steward RIP (Williamson)
<b>Sat 13th April</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Eileen Grannell RIP (Mary Scully)
<b>Sun 14th April</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Grace Wingrove RIP B'Day (Cunningham) 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](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**