



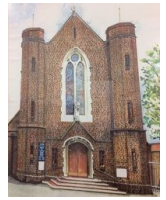
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

11TH / 12TH MAY 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) - Mass Book Pg 146

(Acts 1:15-17.20-26, 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19)

The Sunday after Ascension Day has for several decades been designated World Communications Day. It is linked to the final commandment given by Our Lord before his Ascension: to go out to the whole world, proclaiming the good news and making disciples of all people, bringing them into the body of Christ through baptism. It is also linked to the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost which enabled the disciples to carry out this apostolic task with boldness and so reach the hearts of many. The whole church is asked to pray for those engaged with the task of spreading and promoting the gospel through modern means of communication; either working for the church or as individuals who have a platform or position of influence which they can use for good. It is also an occasion to pray for ourselves, that emboldened by the Holy Spirit we can make use of any opportunity that comes our way to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

In this Sunday's gospel we hear from the High Priestly Prayer – a prayer Jesus makes to his Father at the Last Supper, which comes to us through the testimony of the beloved disciple. Our Lord prays for his disciples and those who will come after them – including us. He prays for the unity of the church, for its faithfulness and perseverance. A word that appears several times in the portion given to us today is 'truth'. We are to remain true to God's name, consecrated in the truth, which is God's word. Those involved in the media have a particular duty towards the truth, and so do we in all our communications whether online or offline. In a culture that speaks of 'my' truth and 'your' truth, in which Pontius Pilate would surely have felt at home, we go against the grain by proclaiming a truth that is universal and revealed by God. In many ways it is easier for us to accept the idea that our faith is just one of many equally valid ways of viewing the world, but Jesus calls us back to our identity as bearers of his Word.

Often people will say – perhaps we have ourselves said – 'it doesn't really matter what someone believes as long as they are true to their beliefs'. Or, especially of other Christians, 'we all believe the same thing really'. I became a Catholic because I recognised that only the Catholic Church taught unequivocally as true so many of the things that I had come to believe as essential truths. Our Christian faith leads us to stand up for religious freedom, and we are called to show courtesy and respect to others at all times. But love of neighbour also prompts us to speak of the love of God for all humanity revealed in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, crucified, risen and ascended, who is present in his Church through the power of the Holy Spirit, and who

alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Truth matters – this Truth matters above all - and Our Lord's prayer that all his followers would be one, united in the truth given to us, is a prayer we must make our own.

Finally, I hope that we will soon have another means to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ in the midst of our community. Last year I proposed marking our parish centenary with the installation of an angelus bell, as well as our newly-completed Prayer Garden. I have written a separate letter - and will say a few words at Mass - to update you and to encourage you to support (or continue to support) this project financially so that it doesn't need to come from general parish funds. If you have concerns or questions please do speak to me, but do also read the letter first.

God bless, Fr Matthew

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Congratulations and prayers for all the children of our parish who made their first communion last Sunday or who do so this Sunday afternoon. They will come together in a couple of weeks' time to give thanks with the parish on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

CONFIRMATION: Please pray for the 18 young people of our parish and one adult who will be confirmed during the 6.30pm Mass next Saturday evening, the vigil of Pentecost Sunday.

CENTENARY APPEAL COLLECTION: Next weekend there will be a second collection towards the cost of our new prayer garden and forthcoming Angelus bell, to mark the centenary of our parish celebrated last year. Please make sure you take and read a copy of Father Matther's letter or find it on our website.

FR JOHN TAYLOR RIP: On Thursday of this week we are offering a requiem Mass for Fr John Taylor, parish priest here from 1991-2011, who died on 20th February this year. This is an opportunity for us to give thanks as a parish for his life and ministry, and to commend his soul once more to God expressing our confident hope of resurrection to come. The Mass will be at 8pm, and the club will be open afterwards (non-members welcome).

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

ROSARY IN MAY: During Mary's month there are additional opportunities to pray the Rosary together. As well as being recited most mornings after Mass/adoration, a group will pray the Rosary at midday on Mondays, and during the Wednesday lunchtime holy hour.

CWL: 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.

YOUTH MASS, THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024, BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: This may be a busy and stressful time for many of you, particularly those taking exams. The Cathedral and Parish Hall will be open for you to socialise, pray and celebrate Mass with us, or pop in for a break from revision, change of scenery or quiet personal prayer. Pizza from 6pm in the Parish Hall, Mass at 7:30pm in the Cathedral.

NEW LECTIONARY: You may have heard that a new translation of the scripture readings for Mass has been authorised and will come into use from Advent this year. The new translation is the English Standard Version. This is an opportunity to hear familiar passages with a certain freshness. In practical terms it will mean that the lectionary books we use in church will need replacing - there will be four volumes for use by the reader at the ambo, and it is possible for these to be donated/dedicated in memory of someone. Additionally we will be looking to replace the mass books used by the congregation, which means that we will at last have the correct words for the Mass alongside the readings. Various editions of people's missals will made available from the usual publishers; if you are looking to buy one for yourself or as a gift do take care to make sure you get the new version which will typically only be on pre-order at present.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN AN ELECTION YEAR: On Saturday 15th June Raymond Friel OBE, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, will lead a Study Day, reflecting on Catholic Social Teaching and what the Church says about democracy and voting. Talks will be at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Coffee will be available from 10.30 am and the talks begin at 11 am, and conclude by 2 pm. This is an in-person event, also available online at www.whatgoodnews.org If you intend to be present please email gideapark@brcdt.org Please bring a packed lunch. No booking necessary for online participation. Simply go to the website. Talks will be available on the website after the event.

“REVIVE. DISCOVER. EMPOWER.” RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS, 22ND – 23RD JUNE AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK: This young adult retreat is an opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection, to **revive**, **discover** and **empower** you in your faith. This retreat is aimed at those aged 18+, having left school, to roughly 30. All details can be found at www.bcys.net/events

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS, 31ST AUGUST AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK: Celebrate 40 years of team at Walsingham House with us, beginning with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan at 12pm followed by celebrations at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood.

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

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS BY ELGAR. HUTTON AND SHENFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY: Saturday 8th June 7.30pm in Chelmsford Cathedral. See poster and fliers at the back of the church. Tickets available online or see Margaret Holden at 9am/9.15am masses. St John Henry Newman's great poem portrays the death and journey towards Purgatory of a Christian soul. Gerontius is assisted by the prayers of the church both in heaven and on earth. He is accompanied by the angel who has been with him since birth and who explains and guides him. Elgar's setting of Newman's wonderful text is profoundly moving, with beautiful lyrical tunes and settings of his joyful hymn Praise to the Holiest. It is filled with liturgical passages. Elgar signed off his score 'This is the very best of me'. Margaret has written an article about Newman's poem/choirs, and can make this available to anyone interested.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 11th May

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Shirley Geaney RIP (Mary Scully)

Sun 12th May

9.00am

11.00am

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr John Taylor RIP (Darvill Family)

People of the parish

Mon 13th May

9.15am

1pm

ST ERCONWALD, BP

For the Intentions of Angela Carter (Joyce)

Requiem Mass for Josephine Mary Brown

Tues 14th May

9.15am

ST MATTHIAS, AP

For the intentions of Valerie Belton

Wed 15th May

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Lar Fennessy RIP (Shaun, Lorraine & Family)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 16th May

9.15am

8pm

St Anthony's Charities

Requiem Mass for Fr John Taylor RIP

Frid 17th May

9.15am

Ted Costello RIP

Sat 18th May

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Edward Horigan RIP Anniv. (Etna & Girls) (Confirmation)

Sun 19th May

9.00am

11.00am

PENTECOST

People of the parish

Alf Driscoll RIP Anniv. (Family)

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCHARISTIC 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