



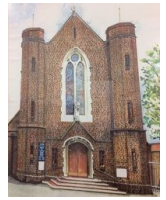
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

25TH / 26TH MAY 2024

TRINITY SUNDAY (B) - Mass Book Pg 24

(Deuteronomy 4:32-34.39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20)

I remember being struck, during a university theology lecture, by the comment 'God is simple' – and not just as a passing aside, but as a serious comment on the very nature of God. This seems to contradict the sense we have of God being an unknowable mystery. The doctrine we celebrate on Trinity Sunday – the existence of the one God as a communion of three persons – hardly seems simple to us!

To say 'God is simple' does not mean God is easy to understand. The nature of God is a mystery – by which we don't mean a complex problem to get our heads round, but something that is infinite, literally out-of-this-world. The mistake we sometimes make is to 'reduce' God to just one more complex reality in our extremely complex universe. But God is not a thing, something we can look for, categorise and analyse using the scientific method. He is the creator of everything, *being itself* – not part of creation or 'a' being. To say 'God is simple' is to place God outside of everything that we can grasp, and recognise that he simply 'is' – which accords with God's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush with the words 'I AM'.

So what do we mean when we say God is Trinity? It means that God's unique existence is that communion of perfect love we name as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is not something invented by man but revealed by God. Our Christian faith – centred on the one who is true God and true man – utterly depends on this revealed truth. Without it, we deny the divinity of Christ, who becomes just another religious teacher, or we deny that God is truly one, and our faith becomes indistinguishable from pagan religions with their mixed bag of deities.

The Trinity is not just an abstract concept, but the heart of our lived faith. God wants us to know him, and has made us to share his divine life. The incarnation – the eternal Son and Word of God becoming man – is the dramatic demonstration of the lengths to which God goes to reach out to us and draw us back to himself. During Eastertide we have heard Jesus speak of us abiding in him, and God abiding in us. How can this be possible? Only because God wills it so. When we pray, we aren't simply sending begging favours from a remote deity. We pray to the Father through the Son, with the Holy Spirit. We pray from within the very heart of God. God is love, and this love is inseparable from the communion of persons that is the Trinity. We are made out of love, made in the image and likeness of the God who is love itself. We are made for communion, and ultimately made to share in that perfect communion which is God's very nature. He shares everything with us.

Rather than seeing this as beyond our grasp, let us marvel that in the mission of God the Son, God the Father has been made known to us as a good and loving Father, and our hearts have been opened to receive God the Holy Spirit who gives us life to the full. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**NEXT SUNDAY – CORPUS CHRISTI:** The children who have recently made their First Holy Communion will come together at the 11am Mass to give thanks. This Mass will finish with a eucharist procession, culminating in Benediction outside (weather permitting).

**THIS WEEK:** Many thanks to Fr Gerald Gostling who will celebrate the weekday Masses at the usual time. Please note there will be no eucharistic adoration during the week, but the Saturday Holy Hour will take place as usual. The May rosary will continue on Monday and Wednesday.

**MASS SETTING:** We are in the process of introducing a new setting for the parts of the Mass, the 'Pershore' Mass. When used, the music can be found in the supplement to the Laudate hymn book at the following numbers: Lord have mercy 523, Gloria 524, Holy, holy, holy 579, Lamb of God 589.

**CENTENARY APPEAL:** Last week's second collection raised an additional £1,034.66 towards the cost of our newly-completed prayer garden, and the angelus bell to be installed this summer. The appeal is ongoing, and you can contribute online via our website, using the screen in the porch, or placing a donation in an envelope marked Bell or Centenary in the offertory or through the letterbox. Cheques payable to "Catholic Church Upminster". See the appeal leaflet or online for more information and other ways to give.

**KIDNEY RESEARCH:** Roxanne Lewis (baptised at Easter) is climbing Snowdon with her family this weekend to raise funds for Kidney Research, having benefited personally from their work. If you wish to contribute please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/roxanne-lewis-1716228495549>

**CDOT VOICES PRESENTS ITS SUMMER CONCERT AT ST. PETER'S:** Saturday 6th July in aid of two homeless charities: 'The Passage' and 'Only A Pavement Away' as part of our Live Simply campaign to support those in need. Once again we will be joined by the choir from St. Joseph's Primary School. Adult tickets - £10/Children - £1/under 5s free. Choir family tickets from St. Joseph's school. Other tickets from Bernadette in the Repository or 07825235717.

**SECOND COLLECTION—SICK & RETIRED CLERGY:** We will be holding a second collection after all masses next weekend—1st / 2nd June in aid of the Sick and Retired Clergy Fund. If you are a registered gift aider in the parish please use your special collection envelopes.

**RIP NOTICES:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Eileen McCardle and Daphne Dickens who died recently. Eileen's funeral will be held here on Thursday 6th June at 10.30am. Daphne's funeral will also be here at St Joseph's on Monday 10th June at 11am. May Eileen and Daphne rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Olivia Mathurin, Charlie McCullagh, Nuala Lusty and Niahm Wilson who were received into the church last weekend through the sacrament of baptism.

**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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) If you intend to be present please email [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto: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.

**ST BONAVENTURE'S RECONNECT EVENT** at St Antony's Catholic Club – The Red House on 11th July 2024 from 6.30 p.m. The goal of this event is to bring together former students and staff, celebrate their life achievements, reconnect and share stories and memories and support the school's Alumni Fund in assisting students in need with resources that enhance their educational outcomes. For more information email [alumni@stbons.org](mailto:alumni@stbons.org)

**DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD VACANCY:** The Diocese of Brentwood are looking for an Assistant Secretary to work for the Bishop's Office at Cathedral House, Brentwood. The primary purpose of the role is to assist the Bishop's Secretary with providing office management and secretarial support to the Bishop. The post will be full time working Monday to Friday. Full job description: Assistant Secretary – Bishops Office – Job Description. If you have any queries regarding the role or if you wish to apply, please email your CV and cover letter to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is 22nd May 2024.

**CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY DEBT HELP:** Lifting the weight of debt. Free debt advice and personal support in your community. If you are feeling weighed down by debt please contact us. You may think your situation is impossible but there is hope. Our friendly team will give you a listening ear in confidential appointments and provide a practical solution to your debt. Our service is completely free as we are a charity and receive donations from churches and individuals who want to help people. Call our new enquiries team free on 0800-328-0006 or visit [capdebthelp.org](http://capdebthelp.org). There are some leaflets at the back of the church if you'd like more information on our service.

**BATTLE OF THE ORGANS:** On Saturday June 29th at 8pm, a one-off event will take place in Brentwood Cathedral...a Battle of the Organs. The mighty Cathedral instrument, originally built by Hunter, and rebuilt in 1990 by Daniel of Clevedon, will go head-to-head with a new Allen GX350. Allen Organs UK are very kindly lending us the instrument not only for the Battle, but also for the following morning to allow the Cathedral Choir to sing one of the great French double organ Masses at the 11.30am Mass. In charge of these instruments on the night will be Donald MacKenzie (Organist of the Odeon, Leicester Square) and James Davy (formerly Master of Music of Chelmsford Cathedral and currently Organist at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook). We can promise you highly entertaining evening as these two amazing organists put these organs through their paces, and 'pull out all the stops' to give us a concert to remember. Tickets are £15 and £7.50 for under 16s, and are available from Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/83220321803> Further details available from Richard Nott at [organisttraining@brcdt.org](mailto:organisttraining@brcdt.org)

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 25th May</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST BEDE THE VENERABLE, PR, D</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Jodie Murphy RIP Anniv. (Raife Family)
<b>Sun 26th May</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</b> Sam Wingrove RIP Anniv. (Cunningham) People of the parish
<b>Mon 27th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY</b> Lar Fennessy RIP (Ann & John Keaney)
<b>Tues 28th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Isabel Martins & Dino & Manuel Viera RIP Anniv.
<b>Wed 29th May</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	Noreen Dineen RIP (Lynch) <b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 30th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> Sarah Murphy RIP B'Day (Sheila)
<b>Frid 31st May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN, BRENTWOOD</b> Donie & Maureen Muldoon RIP Anniv. (Pavitt)
<b>Sat 1st June</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST JUSTIN, M</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Sun 2nd June</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST</b> Winifred & Ronald Threadgill RIP (Michael) Len Jones RIP Anniv. (Carter / Jones)

### 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**