



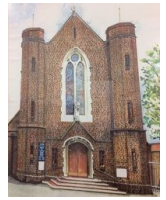
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

4TH / 5TH MAY 2024

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) - Mass Book Pg 141**

(Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17)

In today's second reading we have perhaps the most significant statement in scripture about God's nature: "God is love". We do not believe merely in a supreme being, greater than anything else we can conceive of, outside time and space – he is all that, but also, He is love. This statement is entirely consistent with our belief that God is a Trinity of three persons in one being; a concept that we can never fully grasp or explain yet seems best understood in the light of this truth, that God is love and as such must have some element of relationship in his very being.

Because God is love, he has a desire to create. As the creatures made in his image and likeness, we are made out of love, and we are made for love. God, though infinite and eternal, wants to be close to his creation. He becomes part of his creation in order to restore it to its original goodness, lost by sin. And having returned to his rightful place once his work was completed, as we celebrate this Thursday, the eternal Son of God, the Word made Flesh, continues to be close to us through the life of his Church. At the Last Supper he speaks of the love which he receives from the Father and which he shares with us. He desires our friendship, and asks of us only that we strive with his help to live up more fully to our truly human identity, made in the image and likeness of the God who is love. As Pope St John Paul II taught in his first encyclical, Christ doesn't only show us what God is like, he also shows us what we are meant to be like, and what by grace we can become.

Today and next week around 60 children of our parish will receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the very first time. They have been well prepared for this moment with the support of our team of catechists and their families who, perhaps, have been inspired by the faith of their children and stirred to a greater love of Our Lord in the Eucharist. Let us pray for them and for ourselves, that our love may increase, and that as we love more, even to the point of making costly sacrifices, we will become more and more alive in God.

This month of May begins with the celebration of the English Martyrs, those men and women of all walks of life who were willing to die rather than deny their faith, bearing witness to the importance of communion with the whole church, and to the centrality of the sacraments (for their 'crime' was often related to hiding priests, or celebrating or taking part in Mass). This month is also dedicated to the honour of Mary, the Blessed Mother of Our Lord who is given to us and the whole church as mother by her son: one who shares our joys and our sorrows, and who teaches us to place our

trust completely in God, to love him with all our hearts, and to seek his will in all things. We will honour her with the traditional May crowning at each Mass this weekend. May she continue to aid us with her prayers.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**ASCENSION DAY:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. As it is a holy day of obligation, Mass will be at 10am and 8pm. The Junior classes from St Joseph's Primary School will join the 10am Mass. Fr Matthew will also be celebrating a lunchtime Mass at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School (for the school community only).

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

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

**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.

**PRAYER MINISTRY:** Our parish prayer teams will be offering to pray with and for people after each Mass this weekend, located in one of the side chapels.

**NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK AGM AND OPEN NETWORKING DAY: Saturday 11th May 10.30am—4pm.** Taking place at CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd., London SE1 7JB. We will hear about the 'New definition of extremism 2024', what it will mean in practice, and how it affects climate activism. There will be time for discussions and networking. Tea/coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. For more information, contact [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**VOCATIONS:** The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 7 May at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Patrick Daly. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

**REVIVE; DISCOVER; EMPOWER' A YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT:** Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The retreat is open to those who are 19+. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events).

**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](http://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](mailto:Lourdes@brcdt.org)

**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.

**WALSINGHAM:** Saturday 25th May is the date of the annual diocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. I remember in our centenary year some forty 50-seater coaches disgorging thousands of pilgrims from all over the diocese. I dare to dream big that I will see this again in my lifetime. My immediate dream is smaller. I would love to see the serving team from every parish have 1 person serving at Walsingham this year. It is important that we engage our young people with the Shrine. Pilgrimage is an important part of our spiritual wellbeing and giving that to our youngsters will ensure that the future of our faith in their hands will be fruitful. The shrine is a wonderful place both spiritually and for the wonderful countryside which surrounds it. I know this is half-term but if you want to get-away for a few days why not choose Norfolk and start at Walsingham. Servers should be at the Basilica at 11:15am sharp, in the paved area between the grass and the church. Nicola will meet them there for a short rehearsal, and then to get vested. Black shoes should be worn. Nicola Christmas, Walsingham pilgrimage MC for the Diocese of Brentwood.

**ST BON'S RECONNECT EVENT:** Former students and staff of St Bonventure's School are invited to an event on 11<sup>th</sup> July. For more info including a booking link or to join the alumni network, visit [stbons.org/alumni](http://stbons.org/alumni).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Margaret Munnely, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Maggie Ollington, Maureen Springham, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod and Lisa Bostock.

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES:** Josephine Houghton, Albert Willsmer, Harry Westwick, John Gibbs, Thomas White, Catherine Thomas, Lawrence Clarke, Jillian Peters, James Woolward, Thomas Collier, Alicja Savrimoutou, David Wood, Bernadette Holland, Michael O'Donoghue, Elizabeth (Betty) Devine, David Isbell, Annie Pitt, Maureen Flower, Jacqueline Brown, Florence Pearson, Herbert Greentree, Anthony Crick, Cecilia Fletcher, Vera Steeden, Patricia Millward, Eileen Aitkin, Mary Kelly, Dominic Ivens, Ray Sarson, James Barker, James Cullen, Moira Raven, Laurence Hale, Rosemary Lawson, Susan Ross, John Pawlikowski, Joan Purcell, Fr Stanley Joynes, William Washbourne, Agnes Phillips, Mary Stenson, John Heelan, Kathleen Petenuzzo, Isabella Butler, Alfred Christmas, Katherine Cornwall, Sheila Barnett, Thomas Speight, Charles Fitzpatrick, Denis O'Riley, Lilian Mills, Anne Allen, Sophie Caruso, Frank Norley, Norah Hutchings, George Garnier, Elizabeth Atkins, John Fairchild, Ann Nash, Maureen Muldoon, Jeremiah Morrissey, Nora Herlihy, Susan Barrett, Edward Horigan, Gerald McCann, William Delaney, William O'Malley, Thomas Walsh, Patrick McConalogue, Alfred Driscoll, Bronislarva Wiszniewska, Gordon Davis, Helen Cakebread, Jacqueline Presland, Patricia Silverlock, Mary McSweeney, Eileen Lyngcoln, Donald Muldoon, Sylvia Macdonald, George Thompson, Beatrice Dampster, Clara Neala, Tony Nellist, William Butler, James Apicella, Mario Pettenuzzo & Ellen Walsh. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 4th May</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> John Scully RIP Anniv. (Family)
<b>Sun 5th May</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Norah Madden RIP Anniv. (Mary-Anne) People of the parish
<b>Mon 6th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST JOHN PAYNE, PR, M</b> Len Williams RIP (Armstrong)
<b>Tues 7th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Maeve Nolan RIP (Anne & Jim O'Brien)
<b>Wed 8th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>  <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	Thanksgiving to parishioners for their cards and masses on the death of Fred Regan (Regan Family) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 9th May</b> <b>10am</b> <b>8pm</b>	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> Kathleen Sheridan RIP (Pauline) People of the parish
<b>Frid 10th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	John Foy RIP (Family)
<b>Sat 11th May</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Shirley Geaney RIP (Mary Scully)
<b>Sun 12th May</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Fr John Taylor RIP (Darvill Family) 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**