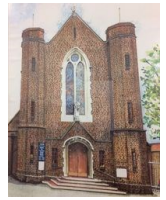




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

10TH / 11TH AUGUST 2024

NINETEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 47

(1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51)

17TH / 18TH AUGUST 2024

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 49

(Proverbs 9:1.6, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58)

We are partway through a series of Sunday gospel readings from the great Bread of Life discourse in John's gospel. Jesus shocks his audience by his claims to be one with God, and his insistence that he himself is the food they must eat in order to have life.

The Christian faith is not a purely spiritual path. We belong to a material world created and declared good by God. Every human person is a unique creation consisting of both soul and body. And at the centre of our faith is the extraordinary truth of the incarnation: that Jesus Christ is both God and man. The eternal Son and Word of God, through whom all things came into being, united our human nature, body and soul, to his divine nature in his mother's womb. In taking on our mortality, suffering and dying for us, he made it possible for us to share his immortality. His bodily resurrection and ascension are the basis for our hope, not just in the immortality of the soul, but in the resurrection of the body to a new and glorified existence.

It is entirely fitting that our living Saviour should continue to come close to us and give us a share in his life by means of created, material things that he has made holy. This is the reality Jesus speaks of in the Bread of Life discourse – a reality we can only begin to appreciate in the light of our Easter faith. In the eucharist, ordinary bread and wine are truly changed so that we do indeed eat and drink the flesh of our saviour – not just a piece of meat, but the living body, blood, soul and divinity of Our risen Lord – and we are able to do so in a way that doesn't offend our senses.

In the middle of August we are given another reminder of the significance of our human bodies: the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. Our faith tells us that at

the end of her earthly life Mary was taken straight to heaven, body and soul, to be the first to experience the fullness of the resurrection. It is fitting that she who was without sin is spared the effects of death. The human body which was the dwelling place of the Saviour for nine months and from which he received his humanity, is spared the corruption of the grave. Mary's humanity remains intact: the separation of body and soul which constitute the dis-integration of the human person in the moment of death is not for her. And for us, it is only a temporary separation: on the last day we shall be raised up, re-integrated as a unity of body and soul for eternity, no longer subject to corruption or decay. This has an implication for our lives in the present, for it means our bodies not something we can ignore and do with as we wish; nor are they inherently evil such that we must shun anything of the flesh. Our bodies can be a means of manifesting love and expressing worship, or they can be used to harm or exploit others. The more we choose the former, the more we live up to our human identity as the sons and daughters of God, made in his image and likeness.

Our new Angelus bell is due to be installed in time for the solemnity of the Assumption. Churches are meant to have bells, since a church building serves as a sign: not just a place for the people of God to gather, but also a sign of His presence among us; an extension of the incarnation. The bell will invite people to worship on the Lord's day, and it will also signal the good news of the incarnation in two important ways. It is a long-established tradition to recall this central mystery of our faith three times a day in the Angelus. This prayer takes its name from the moment when the angel announces the good news to Mary, and it is accompanied by the chiming of a bell to announce this good news to the world. His coming among us in the sacrament of the altar is announced to the world in the same way, at the moment of consecration.

Our new bell will be consecrated for its holy purpose at Mass prior to its installation, at 10am on Monday 12th August. Mass the following day is offered for the intentions of those who have contributed to our centenary projects. In recognition of the importance attached to bells, the blessing of a bell includes an anointing with the oil of Chrism as well as sprinkling with Holy Water. This is sometimes referred to as the baptism of a bell. Bells, clearly not human but nevertheless possessing a 'voice', are often given names: it seems fitting to name this bell 'Gabriel' in honour of the Archangel who appeared to both Mary and Joseph. Our Lady, St Joseph and St Gabriel, pray for us.

God bless, Fr Matthew

WEEKDAY MASSES: Mass on Monday 12th August will be at the later time of 10am. Our new bell will, d.v., be blessed during this Mass. On Thursday 15th August we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady according to the pattern for Holy Days of Obligation, with Mass at 10am and 8pm. Please note that there will be no weekday Masses from Tuesday 27th-Friday 30th August.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond Michael O'Connor. His funeral is due to take place here later this month: details will be announced when confirmed.

THANK YOU to Fr Marek from Goodmayes who stepped in at very short notice to celebrate the Sunday Masses last weekend when our pre-arranged supply priest was taken ill, and to Fr Mariusz from Rainham who helped facilitate this.

EXAM RESULTS: Prayers for those members of our parish who are receiving public exam results in the coming weeks, and making decisions about their future studies and work.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: There will be information next month about the process for applying for places at Catholic schools. Please note that a certificate of Catholic practice will no longer be required (or issued) when applying for primary schools in the deanery, though they still play a role in secondary school applications.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES: Information about First Communion, Confirmation, and Adult Initiation will be published in the newsletter next month.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS: This year marks 60 years since the opening of Walsingham House and 40 years since the first volunteer team took residence. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 31st August at midday celebrated by Bishop Alan in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Everyone is very welcome to attend with a special invite to those who have been part of the Walsingham House team over the last 40 years. After Mass you are welcome to stay for a picnic in the grounds.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME OCTOBER 2025: Next year is a Jubilee year. Would you be interested in joining a parish pilgrimage to Rome during October half term 2025? We are looking at 5-6 nights, estimated in the region of £1200 per person. To proceed, we need expressions of interest **as soon as possible** – no commitment at this stage but those who do sign up will have priority access to bookings. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/stjrome25>

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS: *Usually* Saturday evening 5.30-6.15pm and Wednesday 12 noon-1pm. Confessions also available on request when Fr Matthew is available or by appointment. Please note variations due to holidays.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm (except Wednesdays).

Fr Matthew (emergencies—voice only): 020 3332 0486

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 10th Aug 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST LAWRENCE, DC, M ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Teresa Faherty RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sun 11th Aug 9.00am 11.00am	NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Clare Argent-Hall RIP (Dominic) People of the parish
Mon 12th Aug 10am	Marie Mellon RIP Anniv. (Watson Family)
Tues 13th Aug 9.15am	For the intentions of Centenary Appeal donors
Wed 14th Aug 9.15am	ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PR, M James Irons RIP (Foy Family)
Thur 15th Aug 10am 8pm	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Pamela Bailey RIP Anniv. People of the parish
Frid 16th Aug 9.15am	Michael Reilly RIP (Bemand-Qureshi)
Sat 17th Aug 6.30pm	Allen & Eileen Noyes RIP (Burgess)
Sun 18th Aug 9.00am 11.00am	Maurice Kirwin RIP (Walsh) People of the parish
Mon 19th Aug 9.15am	Desmond Kellett RIP (Green)
Tues 20th Aug 9.15am	Elsie Galloway RIP (Allen)
Wed 21st Aug 9.15am	Repose of the souls in purgatory
Thur 22nd Aug 9.15am	Eileen Lovekin RIP (Pauline & Geraldine)
Frid 23rd Aug 9.15am	Sheila Murphy's Intentions (Chamberlain Family)
Sat 24th Aug 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Frank & Marion Dearson RIP (Cantwell)
Sun 25th Aug 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Patrick & Mary-Anne Brady RIP Anniv. (Green)

**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**