



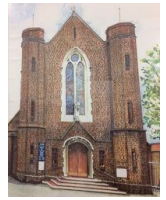
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

24TH / 25TH AUGUST 2024

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 51**

(Joshua 24:1-2.15-18, Ephesians 5:21-32, John 6:60-69)

**31ST AUGUST / 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 54**

(Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8, James 1:17-18.21-22.27, Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23)

At the end of the Bread of Life discourse Our Lord asks his disciples if they want to leave, like the rest of the people. The disciples no doubt have also found Jesus' teaching challenging, but their response is different, because they have come to believe in him. There are times for all of us when we are challenged by some aspect of our faith or another – perhaps we even find ourselves beginning to doubt whether any of it can be true. What we need is not the certainty that comes from having worked everything out for ourselves, but the confidence that comes from knowing and trusting someone. There will usually be someone who has led us to faith, someone we trust and whose opinions we value. Our faith may seem strange to many people, but as we get to know other members of the community of faith, we will realise that we are in fact in good company; there are others who have come to believe, who no doubt also struggle at times but nevertheless have recognised in the message of Christianity something compelling and, ultimately, true. As well as the people we know personally, this faith is shared with a great many good, intelligent, thoughtful people who live or who have lived in many different places and times: among them scientists, philosophers, artists, saints and sinners. At the heart of it is not a set of propositions we must give assent to, but a person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God who has risen from the dead, who alone has the message of eternal life. This message is not some secret piece of knowledge imparted to a few but an invitation to turn to God and follow him with all our hearts, within the community of faith that he has founded.

All priests are required by Canon Law to go on an annual retreat. As such, I will be spending a few days this week with a Benedictine community, sharing most of their pattern of prayer and life. This is a real privilege – a time of spiritual renewal and

reorientation towards the things of heaven. As we return to Mark's gospel after our few weeks with John (for the second weekend of this newsletter) we are reminded that true worship is directed to God, and not meant to be inward looking or self-referential. True worship is, moreover, for our benefit not God's, as it stops us being people who are inward looking and self-referential, but people who know they are made for communion. As things return to normality after the summer break, it is good for us to have this gentle reminder that God must truly be at the centre of everything. This is the very reason we are here Sunday by Sunday, to be fed and thus transformed by the one who feeds us, so that we can become more fully alive in him and fulfil our true potential, to the glory of God. We may not all have the opportunity to spend time away on a retreat, but let us try and keep each Sunday as a special day to reorient us to the Lord.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**WEEKDAY MASSES:** There will be no Mass or Eucharistic Adoration here from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, while Fr Matthew is on annual retreat. The church will be open for private prayer.

**PARISH MEETING:** There will be an open parish meeting at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, primarily to discuss future plans for our parish and the material resources including buildings that will further our mission. All welcome.

**WEDDING:** Congratulations to Emma Woods and Alex Eyton, married here on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**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.

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Olivia Bailey, Joseph Wilson, Johnny Burns, Leo Kelly and who were baptised recently. Congratulations to them and to their families.

**MOTHERS PRAYERS:** We will meet again on Tuesday September 3rd at 2pm in the social club to pray for our children and all children throughout the world. All ladies welcome.

**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>

**RAINHAM FOODBANK:** Thank you for all your donations—the latest weight of items donated will be in the next newsletter. Just a reminder—we can't accept donations of alcohol (including wine), non-perishable goods and out of date items. Thank you.  
Margaret.

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Eric Grace, Monica Goold, Robert Watson, Christine Kelliher, Amy Atkins, Monica Pugh, Daniel Casey, Giuseppe Biagioni, Madge Everett, Beryl Mattis, Patricia Lane, Annie Hawes, Thomas Stenson, Jean Stubbs, Thomas Brennan, Anthony Gregory, Sr Raphael, Cyril Cooke, Anne McGreevy, Timothy Clarke, James Davis, Elsie Milburn, Beryl Gallagher, John Parish, Aileen McGovern, Daisy Mowatt, Rose Gooch, Anne Wells, Irene Waters, John O'Sullivan, Ivy Partridge, Mary Lynch, Anne Richards, Mary Tylar, Colin Brooks, St Columba, Georgette Horlock, Sr Dorothy Clinton, Freda Hallum, James Griffin, Michael (Jack) Murphy, Eileen Finigan, Patrick Walsh, Thomas Bailey, Henry McKeown, Patrick Kelly, Ethel Cave, Elizabeth Leech, Ronald Hope, Michael Rogers, Catherine Gricks, Olga Marchetti, Elsie Rogers, Keith Dagnall, George Farrell, Eileen Shave, Stephan Grubb, Lilian O'Donnell, Henry Rochford, Maxwell Lightbody, Sylvia Ford, Tony Faughnan, Jane Megoran, Mary McCarthy, Roland Stables, Hugh Farrell, Billy Murphy, Thomas Halligan, Phyllis Burke, Michael Kinchin, Edward White, Douglas Black, Marjorie Copland, Daniel Barclay, Bernard Gallagher, Teresa Payne, Jack Crowley, David Chlosey, Molly Ramsay, Rose Taylor, Winifred Pavitt, William McCarthy, Jessie Callaghan, Nicholas Anfiligoff, Thomas Pearson, Margaret Garvan, Rose Ann Murphy, Dennis Richards, Mary Precieux, Cornelius Scully, John Haran, Patricia Kingsman & Margaret Caldon. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

#### 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](http://www.stjosephschurchupminster.com)

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 24th Aug

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

## ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Frank & Marion Dearson RIP (Cantwell)

Sun 25th Aug

9.00am

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

Patrick & Mary-Anne Brady RIP Anniv. (Green)

Mon 26th Aug

9.15am

For the intentions of young people making choices

Tues 27th Aug

9.15am

## ST MONICA

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Wed 28th Aug

9.15am

## ST AUGUSTINE, BP, D

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Thur 29th Aug

9.15am

## THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Frid 30th Aug

9.15am

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Sat 31st Aug

6.30pm

John Foy RIP (Family)

Sun 1st Sept

9.00am

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

Margaret Veal RIP (Lyme)

Mon 2nd Sept

9.15am

Rose Powell RIP (Margaret)

Tues 3rd Sept

9.15am

## ST GREGORY THE GREAT, P, D

Leroy Chan & C.S. Leong RIP Anniv. (Bedding)

Wed 4th Sept

9.15am

Phillip Rogers RIP (Watson)

Thur 5th Sept

9.15am

Madeleine Morton RIP B'Day (Williamson)

Frid 6th Sept

9.15am

Annie & Patrick Doherty RIP Anniv. (Etchells)

Sat 7th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm

## ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm

People of the parish

Sun 8th Sept

9.00am

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

James & Emily Holden RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

11.00am

Phil Ryan RIP (Burke)

**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**