



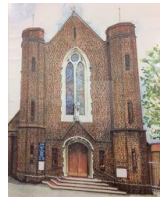
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

27TH / 28TH JULY 2024

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 43

(2 Kings 4:42-44, Ephesians 4:1-6, John 6:1-15)

3RD / 4TH AUGUST 2024

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 45

(Exodus 16:2-4.12-15, Ephesians 4:17.20-24, John 6:24-35)

The gospel we follow for most of this year of the lectionary cycle is Mark. Since Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, however, during the summer we have five weeks devoted to one of the great discourses in John's Gospel, known as the 'Bread of Life' discourse. Taking up a significant part of chapter 6 of the gospel, it anticipates Jesus's actions at the Last Supper and provides a basis for understanding the eucharist as something far more than a symbolic memorial meal. On the first Sunday covered by this double newsletter we hear an account of the feeding of the five thousand. Although John himself doesn't describe Jesus giving himself to the disciples in the bread and wine offered at the Last Supper – it is the other three gospels and St Paul who describe that moment for us – the account of the feeding of the multitude uses language that echoes the actions of the early Christian community in their celebration of the Mass. In John's mind, Jesus is not merely taking pity on a hungry crowd, but setting the scene for what is to come. Indeed it quickly becomes apparent that Jesus is concerned with more than physical hunger. The crowds pursue him, thinking that he will meet their immediate physical needs. They are not only disappointed, but deeply disturbed when he speaks in a manner which is both blasphemous in their eyes – equating himself with the one God – and offensive in his implications of cannibalism. Jesus uses increasingly graphic language, rather than taking the opportunity to explain it away as metaphor or symbolic language when he sees that he is losing his audience.

Many of us may be uncomfortable with the language of 'real presence' when speaking about our faith to others. Even with fellow Catholics we might slip into speaking of bread and wine when referring to the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps we might think of it more easily as a nice symbol, rather than actually being the body, blood, soul and divinity of our risen Lord and God Jesus Christ. But to quote the American author Flannery O'Connor "If its only a symbol, to hell with it!". Or perhaps we don't give it much thought at all, because if we do stop to think it blows our mind. Jesus really does give himself to us as the food and drink of eternal life, in a

marvellous, miraculous and mysterious way that does not offend our senses but does require faith. We are of course accustomed to taking many things on trust. Why not with this? As St Thomas Aquinas put it in one of his Eucharistic hymns: "Truth himself speaks truly, or there's nothing true." These few weeks when we follow the Bread of Life discourse are truly a gift, and we should make the most of this opportunity to think deeply about the significance of the eucharist in our lives. We might do well to ponder the question, what do I hunger for more than anything else?

On Saturday 14th September a National Eucharistic Congress "Adoremus" is taking place in Oscott Seminary, in Birmingham. Each diocese is invited to send a coach-load of pilgrims. If you would like to be part of this, please contact the parish office for more information. The coach for our diocese will leave from Romford.

I hope you will find time for some rest during August, and if going away then I wish you safe travels.

God bless,
Fr Matthew

WELCOME to anyone who is new to or visiting our parish. If you would find it helpful, please ask the welcomers for a card with the order of Mass. New parishioners are encouraged to complete a registration card, available in the porch or online via our website (or visit tinyurl.com/stjosephsup).

SUMMER NEWSLETTERS: During the summer holidays the newsletter will be produced on a fortnightly, rather than weekly basis. This newsletter therefore covers two weeks, and the next one will be published for the weekend of 10th/11th August.

THANK YOU to Frs Jerold Savio, Bob White, Kris and Mariusz, who will be celebrating Mass here at various points during the next two weeks. Please note that when Fr Matthew is away, the church will close earlier than usual. There is no public Mass on Monday 5th August.

HOLY HOUR: There will **not** be a holy hour before the vigil Mass on Saturday 3rd August. There will also **not** be a lunchtime holy hour on Wednesday 31st July.

SCHOOL CAR PARK: During the summer holidays, work will be taking place to improve the school staff car park on St Mary's Lane. Whilst work is in progress it may not be possible to park there at the weekend.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Thank you from the young people of our parish who travelled to Lourdes with BCYS, to those who contributed to their coffee morning collection, and also to St Joseph's Catholic Club for their support.

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>

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES: The Wednesday lunch club has closed for the summer and will re-open on Wednesday 11th, September. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and we wish you all a lovely summer, whether you are staying at home or travelling further afield.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: Please note that our last meeting before the summer break will be on Tuesday 16th July.

WEEKDAY READERS: During the school holidays we will need a few more readers for 9.15am mass. Any students on holiday from school or university would be especially welcome if they wanted to try out this important form of service. Training is available from Margaret if you would like. Please send an email to the parish office.

ITALIAN SUPPER NIGHT FOR BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - Once again I am so chuffed with the support for these types of dos in our parish's social club. I am glad to report that the profit on ticket sales and donations on the night raised £340.

INSPIRE, NURTURE AND ACCOMPANY YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF EAST LONDON: The parishes in the Romford Parish Partnership are recruiting a Parish Partnership Youth Coordinator. Salary £30,000/year, closing date September 10th 2024, start date no later than January 2025. . Full details: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

JULY ANNIVERSARIES: Rosa McEnnerney, Robert Burge, Billy French, Sarah Murphy, Kathleen Rumsey, Frank Hennin, Alan Yamamoto, James Lee, Fr Curran, Andrew Pinder, Ivy Dimmock, Rose Cates, Paul Conboy, William Mansell, Mark Darby, Ronald Parkins, Henry Dickens, Margaret O'Brien, Patricia Sullivan, Norah Driscoll, Dorothy Houghton, David Allen, Sister Paschal, Hugh O'Neill, Timothy Clarke, Ronald Stevens, Thomas Dixon, Francis Spring, Anastasia Jackson, Mike Ney, Stanley Welton, Margaret Warwick, Margaret McAndrew, Kathy Dunn, Flora Fitzpatrick, Sylvia Silver, Frank Millward, Eileen McCabe, Eileen Fox, Peter Hercocz, Kathleen Thompson, Pasqualina Cush, Zenon Tkaxyk, James Carney, Michael Rogers, Francis Murphy, Rosina Taiani, Leonard Orme, Margaret Spaan, Doug Hayward, Charles Taylor, Peter Graham, Finola Jones, Mary Carver, Edwin Whetton, Betty Harper, John Lyons, Lilian Stephens, Kathleen Baker, Kathleen Moran, Nora Moss, Christopher Dolby, Mary Januszka, Kathleen Keyes, Catherine Armstrong, Violet Keefe, Ivan Cooper, Joseph Ritchie, Mary Fielder, Peter McEvoy, Annie Avery, Jonathan Green, Emma Gregory, Fr Harding, Jack Crowley, Mary Payne, Thomas Nickelson, George Soutter, Violet Cavalier, Kathleen Jackson, Anthony Picchi, Ronald Frost. 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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 27th July

6.30pm

Len Williams RIP (Melanie Hollinshead)

Sun 28th July

9.00am

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

James Louden RIP Anniv. (Jill)

Mon 29th July

9.15am

SS MARTHA, MARY & LAZARUS

Sr Frances de Sales Oakley RIP (Springham)

Tues 30th July

9.15am

Sam Wingrove RIP B'day (Cunningham)

Wed 31st July

9.15am

Ron Frost RIP First Anniv. (Teresa)

12 noon—1pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 1st Aug

9.15am

ST ALPHONSUS MARY DE'LIQUORI, BP, D

Eddie Presland RIP 3rd Anniv. (Gerry)

Frid 2nd Aug

9.15am

Conleth Rooney RIP & Family (Mullen)

Sat 3rd Aug

6.30pm

People of the parish

Sun 4th Aug

9.00am

EIGHTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mary Mullins RIP (O'Grady)

11.00am

Fr John Taylor RIP (Marion & Dave Goldfinch)

Mon 5th Aug

9.15am

NO MASS THIS MORNING

Tues 6th Aug

9.15am

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Irene & Ronald Robinson's Intentions

Wed 7th Aug

9.15am

Con Dineen RIP (Lynch)

Thur 8th Aug

9.15am

ST DOMINIC, PR

Neil Mitchell RIP (Maguire)

Frid 9th Aug

9.15am

ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, V, M

Eileen McCardle RIP (Horigan)

Sat 10th Aug

5.30pm—6.15pm

ST LAWRENCE, DC, M

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Teresa Faherty RIP Anniv. (Family)

Sun 11th Aug

9.00am

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Clare Argent-Hall RIP (Dominic)

11.00am

People of the parish

**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**