



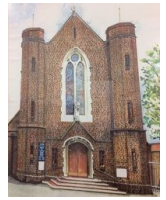
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

14TH / 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 58

(Isaiah 50:5-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35)

This weekend a national Eucharistic congress - 'Adoremus' - is taking place in Birmingham, with representatives from every diocese including our own. Coinciding with this, every parish across the country has been urged to hold extra times of Eucharistic adoration. Thus, in addition to our usual Saturday evening adoration, there will be periods of adoration between the Sunday morning Masses, and after the 11am Mass.

What is the significance of Eucharistic Adoration? The word 'adoration', related to the word 'adore', is linked both to worship and to an intense form of love. It comes from the Latin phrase 'ad ore' - 'to the mouth'. We use our mouths to eat, breathe, communicate (with speech and expressions), and to express in different ways affection between spouses, parents and children, family and friends. Mouths can even be used to resuscitate one who is unable to breathe.

All these meanings are in the background when we consider adoration in relation to God. To be 'to the mouth' to God implies a 'face to face' personal relationship. We also think of Adam, receiving the breath of divine life at the moment of his creation. When we adopt a stance of adoration towards God, we worship him in his infinite majesty, whilst also delighting in a relationship of extraordinary intimacy. We recognise him as the one who gives life to us, and the one who does so because he wants to share everything with us, purely out of love.

What better focal point to lead us into this stance of adoration than the Eucharist? We have been reminded during the past month, in our reflections on the Bread of Life discourse in John's Gospel, that the Eucharist is the food and drink of eternal life. But it is not only food, it is the real presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The one is true God and true man, who comes close to us especially in his Eucharistic presence, to give us life. We therefore rightly worship him as God-with-us, Emmanuel, when we kneel before him in his real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. We can of course do this any time in church as he is always present in the tabernacle, but when we are able to see the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance on the altar during times of Eucharistic Adoration, we become even more conscious of his presence.

What are we meant to do during Adoration? Simply, be still, physically and mentally. Of course, it's never quite as simple as that. Distractions inevitably come to us when we try and pray. To aid our prayer we might bring to mind episodes from the life of

our Lord, or reflect on a verse of scripture. There are many traditional prayers of the church which we might find helpful. And we can combine these things in the rosary - a devotion which I think is entirely appropriate for Eucharistic adoration since Mary always leads us to her son. We can take our time with these things, and allow as much still, silent space for God as we can. It is absolutely fine also to think about whatever is on our mind, family or work situations, things we are sorry about, grateful for, or worried about, as we might talk to a friend - for that is indeed what we are doing. (As an aside, particularly when Eucharistic Adoration is held before Mass it is understandable that we might want to talk to our friends in the congregation who we see once a week; but perhaps we might keep it to a brief greeting at this point, talk to God before Mass, and each other after Mass.)

At present in our parish we routinely have Eucharistic Adoration nearly every day, and the church is open extensively for prayer in the presence of the tabernacle outside these time. Even a brief visit - or even making the sign of the cross as we walk past a Catholic Church housing the Bread of Life - brings to mind the one calls us into an intimate, life-giving relationship. As I write these words I am reminded of what the Archbishop of Paris said in a TV interview following the terrible fire that devastated Notre Dame: when asked what this magnificent building was for he said, 'a piece of bread' – the bread which we honour because it is also our living God, who chooses to be present to us in this way. Let us adore him for ever.

God bless, Fr Matthew

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents of children now in year 3 who wish to be prepared for first reconciliation and first holy communion in the coming year are asked to register as soon as possible (and certainly by the end of the month) at tinyurl.com/stjfhc . Details of an introductory meeting will be sent to those who register.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME OCTOBER 2025 - UPDATE: We have some more information regarding plans for our parish pilgrimage to Rome during October half term 2025 for the jubilee year. This has been emailed to those who expressed interest, and information is also available on our website and flyers in the porch. If you haven't done so yet please add your name to our list of potential pilgrims (no commitment at this stage) - visit <https://tinyurl.com/stjrome25>

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

SION COMMUNITY: The next Maranatha Mass celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on Thursday, 19th September (please note revised date), at 7pm - an evening of hope and joy to which everyone is welcome.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: There will be information later this 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.

RIP NOREEN HARRIS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Noreen Harris who died recently. Noreen's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Tuesday 24th September at 10.30am. May Noreen rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF THE S.V.P: Saturday 19th October at 8pm in the Social Centre. Tables up to 8 people. £ 8 per person. Table snacks. Drinks to be purchased from the bar. Please put the money and names in an envelope into the presbytery marked Quiz Night - S.V.P. Thank you Bernadette Tsocos and Dominic Argent-Hall

HORNCHURCH PASSION PLAY FUNDRAISER: 80's DISCO At Collier Row Catholic Club, Lowshoe Lane, Romford, RM5 2AP 6.30-11.15pm 11th October. £10 per person for tickets go to :<https://tickets.hornchurchpp.co.uk>

RAINHAM FOODBANK: Many thanks for your generous donations everyone. In the month of August you donated a total of 90.54kg of groceries and toiletries. Just a reminder. We can only accept in-date, unopened imperishables and long-life milk and juices. As winter draws near there is an even greater need. Please put them in the large labelled bin at the back of church. Thank you.

THE BRENTWOOD URSULINE CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL: We will be holding an Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students with their parents who wish to consider entry to the school in September 2025. For prospective Year 7 students the Open Evening will be on Thursday 26 September 2024 from 6.30pm - 9.00pm. The Headteacher will give a talk at 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Please note that there are no on-site parking facilities available.

CATECHIST TRAINING AND RESOURCES DAY: We would like to invite anyone working with young people in the Diocese of Brentwood, to join us for our annual Catechist Training and Resources Day run by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. This includes, but is not limited to, all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, Parish Partnership Youth Coordinators and Youth Leaders as well as those who look after the children's liturgy, We would particularly like to welcome any young people (16+) who already are or may be interested in working as young leaders and catechists in the parish, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation. During the day we will be joined by national charities and organisations, hear from guest speakers, share exciting opportunities, have resources and information available to take away with you, as well as a chance to meet and share with fellow catechists and youth leaders. For more information, including a proposed timetable for the day, please visit www.bcys.net/events/catechist-training-and-resources-day-2024. *Please note we are using a different venue this year – Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Queen's Road, Brentwood.* To reserve your place for this FREE event, please email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org (or reply to this email) with the following information of each person attending; Full Name, Role (First Holy Communion Catechist / Young Catechist / Confirmation Catechist / etc), Parish name and town, Email Address.

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 14th September <i>5.30pm—6.15pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Ann Cremin RIP Anniv.
Sun 15th September <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.00am</i>	TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish John Gibbs RIP B'day (Gibbs / Quinn)
Mon 16th September <i>9.15am</i>	SS CORNELIUS, P AND CYPRIAN, BP, M Tracey Regan's Intentions (Regan Family)
Tues 17th September <i>9.15am</i>	John Fowley's Intentions (Bridget) (With our year 6 children)
Wed 18th September <i>9.15am</i> <i>12 noon—1pm</i>	Anyaa Gritten RIP (Sheridan) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 19th September <i>9.15am</i>	Doris Collins RIP (Murphy)
Frid 20th September <i>9.15am</i>	ST ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PR, PAUL CHING HA-SANG & COMPANIONS, MM Olive Irwin RIP (Bemand-Qureshi)
Sat 21st September <i>5.30pm—6.15pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	ST MATTHEW, AP, EV ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Jackie Presland RIP (Wedding Anniv). Gerry
Sun 22nd September <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.00am</i>	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF YEAR People of the parish Susan Carol Grant RIP (Braidwood)

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* **Web:** *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**