



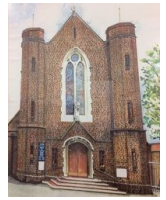
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

28TH / 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 62

(Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48)

In last week's newsletter I set out a vision for the parish in a series of bullet points, summarising the fruits of my own reflections in the two years since I took on the responsibility of being your parish priest. In the coming weeks I would like explore each point: this week I would like to go explore the second. *A community... who **support** each other, **welcome** newcomers, and **share responsibility** for the life and mission of our community according to their ability and resources.*

This vision is not radically different from what we are now, but we are works in progress, and must allow God to lead us to ever closer to the perfection he wills for us.

I've highlighted three elements. We need to **support** each other. I don't just mean you supporting me and vice versa, though that is part of it, but supporting one another as a community of brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all called to become saints, but it isn't a competition, and we would struggle to do it alone. We should hold each other in prayer, make sure we used our words to build up rather than tear down, and (though this is the hard part) with love and careful discernment help someone who has gone astray find their way back to the right path.

We need to **welcome** newcomers to our parish. We are all guests invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb, but as part of the household of God we also act as hosts, doing whatever we can to make those who cross the threshold feel that they are welcome and belong here.

Thirdly, we **share responsibility** for the life and mission of our parish community. This is exercised in different ways. We share responsibility for meeting our financial obligations now and in the future by giving according to our means. We also rely on many people who volunteer time, energy and skills. And we need a culture of open communication.

Last Sunday's parish meeting was an exercise of this shared responsibility, and I'm grateful to those who took part. I hope that if you weren't able to come you will take a few minutes to watch the presentation or at least look at the slides online, and read the summary of the meeting inserted in this newsletter.

There are different ways this communication can occur. Some parishes have a parish council, as we have had in the past. My own view is that open meetings are better way of giving every member of the community, however long they've been here, a chance to contribute to discussions about the direction of our parish.

We must also avoid forms of communication that are unhelpful. I would always far rather hear someone's views directly than second or third hand. Apart from the fact that it makes any sort of dialogue (or change) impossible, complaining to other parishioners is contrary to this vision of shared responsibility and open communication. Please: speak directly to me, or send me an email, or drop me a note sharing your own thoughts on a subject. I can't guarantee I will change something, but at least we have the opportunity to discuss and understand each other's position.

I know full well that the church as an institution, at every level, has not always been a good model of openness. In fact today's gospel hints at this reality, and the terrible acts which have been forced into the open in recent decades. Wherever corruption has entered the church, it must be rooted out, recognised for the evil that it is, and its consequences addressed in a new spirit of openness. Tempting though it is to despair if evil can worm its way into the church, we must instead remember the high calling we have as sons and daughters of God, anointed for the work of his kingdom, and walk always in the light of his love. As this Sunday coincides with the feast day of the Archangels, let us give thanks for the great heavenly army that is on our side, defending us from the already-defeated enemies of God. St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, pray for us.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bridget Gillan, Martin Walsh and Mary Lane who all died recently. Bridget's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Monday 14th October at 10.30am. Martin's funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium on Monday 7th October at 1.30pm. The details of Mary's funeral will be published once finalised. May Bridget, Martin and Mary rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

OPEN EVENING: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is holding an open evening on 2nd October at 6pm, with tours of the school and information about the admissions process. Prospective parents for entry in September 2025 are warmly invited.

PARISH MEETING: Please read the insert, and find more information online at <https://stjosephschurchupminster.com/our-future/>

BECOMING A CATHOLIC (RCIA): There will be a brief introductory talk for anyone who is interested in exploring the process to become a Catholic, whether baptised in another tradition or not at all, or adults who have not yet been confirmed, after all Masses next weekend. This will be repeated the following weekend.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY: Please join us in the church on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12 noon for the Rosary, Angelus and Divine Mercy Prayers.

CONFIRMATION 2025: Those in year 10 or above are invited to sign up for this year's confirmation programme at <https://tinyurl.com/stjconfirm25>

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice to support secondary school applications during two slots in the second week of October, in advance of the school deadlines: 5-7pm on Tuesday 8th and 4-6pm on Thursday 10th. No appointment necessary, just come and wait in the church. This is for those who have a typical pattern of weekly Mass attendance; others can still apply for a place without the Certificate. Supporting letters for other schools will be signed at the same time. Please note that a Certificate of Catholic Practice is no longer relevant to primary school applications in this deanery. If you need a Baptism Certificate please apply to the church where the baptism took place (if here, email the parish office).

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>

ALTAR SERVERS ALBS: I am looking for volunteers to join the rota for the washing of the Altar Servers Albs. It very simply means that when it's your turn on the rota you collect 8 albs from the cupboard and wash them and return them at your convenience. If you feel you can help please email me at monicawhitbread@googlemail.com—thank you.

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.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Catherine Juniper, Mary Farrell, Patrick Dean, Oliber McCourt, John Mann, Patrick McGreevy, Roger Woodbridge, Marie Harding, Alice Daley, Phoebe Bickers, Thomas Gilham, Ellen Shirley, Joseph & Catherine Herbert, Patrick Sullivan, Cecil Acott, Cecilia Sharp, Pamela Scott, Paula Phillips, Albert Morris, Angelina, Harkins, John Marquis, Michael Joseph Murphy, Katherine Horti, Anne Goldstein, Harriet Lofthouse, Bertha Murphy, James Cottingham, Dierdre Harman, Sr Angela Day, Peter Lowe, Catherine Lydon, Richard Cooper, Terence Finn, Katherine Wisely, Sr Alacantha, Richard DePol, Noel Lynch, Christina Lawson, Irene Hamond, Gerard Moran, Adeliza Gray Scogins, Enid Mangham, Maureen McTaggart, Winifred Burke, Desmond Campbell, Archbishop Beck, Nicholas Holden, Anthony O'Shaugnessy, Denise Kemery, Mgr Kearney, Anges Fowlie, Sr Agnes, Allen Helliar, Nancy Bolton, Mary Cahill, Isabella Player, Adrienne Fletcher, Vincent Baker, Vincent Connor, Alice Southerwood, Patrick Hallahan, Patricia Gard, Theresa Bater, Barbara Collins, Joe Treacy, Ellen Dewhurst, Colleen Ward, Mary Smith, Sr Maria Immaculata, Philip Salmon, Nichola Hallmark, Mary Gray, Mary Nathan, Thomas Halligan, Samuel Sinclair, Joy Redden, Harriett Stocker, Patricia Dorling, James Hill, David Gilmour, Agnes Gurney, Samuel Gagen, Malcolm Hallows, Michael F. Murphy and Denise Kemery. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 28th September

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Mon & Noel Lynch RIP (Keefe)

Sun 29th September

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

Seamus Burke RIP (Burke)

Mon 30th September

9.15am

ST JEROME, PR, D

John Fowley's Intentions (Bridget)

Tues 1st October

9.15am

ST THERESE OF THE CHILD OF JESUS, V, D

Terry Smith RIP Anniv. (With our year 4 children)

Wed 2nd October

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Grace Wingrove RIP Anniv. (Cunningham)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 3rd October

9.15am

The deceased members of the Moyles Family (Bridget)

Frid 4th October

9.15am

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Dwayne Kee's Intentions (mum)

Sat 5th October

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Fr Matthew's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)

Sun 6th October

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

Robin Clist RIP

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

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