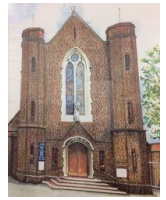




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

7TH / 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 56

(Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37)

This Sunday, the first in a new school year, is designated Education Sunday. It is a chance to pray for all those involved in education and especially our Catholic schools. We will hear from some Campion sixth-formers sharing their experience at the end of Mass. In our gospel today we hear about a healing miracle that is referred to in the baptism rite, when Jesus commands the mouth and ears of a deaf and dumb man to be opened with the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha'. Pope Francis recently reminded teachers that their vocation as a teacher is to 'live a mission' and that 'to educate is to transmit life.' In my homily I will reflect on that mission – which is not limited to the teaching profession – and how it relates to God's work of opening ears to hear the good news of salvation, opening mouths to sing his praises.

And with that little word 'sing' I'm now going to segue into another topic that is related not so much to education, but to the sense of beginning another year in the life of our community after the summer break.

Pope St Gregory the Great, whose feast we celebrated last week, is known (as well as for sending missionaries to England) for his desire to see the church offer of its very best in worship to God, including the singing that has been part of the liturgy from the beginning. A couple of centuries before, St Augustine of Hippo famously remarked that 'to sing is to pray twice'.

We are blessed with a number of generous and talented musicians in our parish, building on a tradition established by those who have gone before them, who help us worship without seeking to be at the centre of a performance. In addition, in my two years here I have witnessed an enthusiasm and willingness to participate (as well as a remarkable degree of tunefulness!) on the part of the parish as a whole – something visitors have also commented on. At a human level, singing together is well known to help physical and mental well-being, and at Mass it becomes part of a great movement upwards as we unite in lifting our hearts to God.

Earlier in the summer, picking up on a few (direct and indirect) comments from some parishioners who had reasons for preferring a 'quieter' celebration of Mass, I sought feedback from the parish. I was not overwhelmed with feedback, but the responses I did receive in the main echoed those comments. I have taken note of the view that there could be more variation between the different weekend Masses. In August things are inevitably a little different from the rest of the year, but now as we begin a new term I am proposing the following on a trial basis, taking into account the feedback received so far. At the Saturday evening Mass we will just sing the four hymns (plus psalm if there is a cantor), but the Mass parts and the priestly prayers will be said. On Sunday morning we will continue as we are, with hymns, mass parts, collect and preface all sung, as far as resources permit on any given weekend. This trial will continue until the end of November, and towards the end I will once again seek feedback which will help shape our pattern of music at Mass in the longer term. As you know, of course, you don't need my permission to share your views directly with me about anything at any time! Naturally, at Midnight Mass and for the Easter Triduum we will employ our full resources to sing as much as we possibly can.

Alongside this we are also intending to launch a new youth music group, which I am very excited about and hope will provide an opportunity for some of our talented young people to take a greater role in leading our worship on a regular basis – details to be announced shortly.

Finally, today is the birthday of Our Lady, though the Sunday celebration of her Son's resurrection takes precedence. May she who joyfully sang God's praises lead us to do the same, and may all that we do be to the glory of God.

God bless, Fr Matthew

SECOND COLLECTION: Last year on Education Sunday we had a second collection for our parish primary school, who were very appreciative of your generosity. That was an exception to the general rule, and this year we will have the usual Education Sunday collection for the Catholic Education Service of the Bishops' Conference. Please give as generously as you feel able to.

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.

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.

CWL NOTICES: The Wednesday lunch club reopens on September 11th, after the summer break. Lunch is served at 12pm. All welcome. CWL Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 27th, September, in the social centre. 10am until 12 midday. Please come along and help to support this marvellous charity. Home made cakes welcome, please bring along on the day.

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.

BACK TO NORMAL: As of this week, we resume Children's Liturgy during the 9am Mass, and coffee in the Social Centre between the morning Masses. Parents can take children to the Social Centre before Mass, or hand them over to one of the catechists in the porch just before Mass.

ADOREMUS WEEKEND: Next weekend a national eucharistic congress is taking place in Oscott College, Birmingham. Parishes across the country are asked to hold extra times of eucharistic adoration. In addition to our Saturday holy hour there will be a time of adoration between the two morning Masses, and after the 12 noon Mass next Sunday.

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>

ST JOSEPH'S KNITTING / CRAFT GROUP: The group, over the years have worked hard, even throughout Covid, to produce much needed items for a number of charities, both here and abroad. As with most organisations, we need to expand and vary our produce and feel it would be helpful to have some sewers/machinist join us to expand our choice of items. If you feel you could join our friendly group on the second Monday of each month you would be most welcome to help us with our charity work. You may not have done any craft work for some time but like all of us we all soon get back into the swing of it and enjoy our afternoons working to help those in need. All materials and a sewing machine will be provided. If you would like to pop in for a chat and meet the group we would love to see you. Our next meeting is on the 9th September, in the social club at 12.30pm—2.30pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided. You can contact me on telephone number 01708-228087. Yvonne Dickens.

'WORK AND PRAY' AT SION COMMUNITY, BRENTWOOD, 25TH SEPT - 2ND OCT 2024: An experience of Community life in Sion Community, following the encouragement of St Benedict to 'Work and Pray'. Come and join the us for a practical and faith-filled time working at our Evangelisation & Mission Centre. Together we will undertake necessary work in the garden, decorating rooms, spring cleaning & some essential maintenance work. For more information please contact Karen - karen@sioncommunity.org.uk

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 October, at 7pm - an evening of hope and joy to which everyone is welcome.

YOUTH GATHER: Essex Outdoors, East Mersea, 26th – 27th October. For anyone in year 9 and above, join us for a weekend of speakers, workshops, prayer and more, alongside the opportunity to try high ropes, archery or climbing at the amazing Essex Outdoors in East Mersea. Applications are now open and you can apply and find all information at www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 7th September

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 8th September

9.00am

11.00am

Mon 9th September

9.15am

Tues 10th September

9.15am

Wed 11th September

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Thur 12th September

9.15am

Frid 13th September

9.15am

Sat 14th September

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 15th September

9.00am

11.00am

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

James & Emily Holden RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

Phil Ryan RIP (Burke)

Richard Cooper RIP 1st Anniv. (Pat)

Ernie Hazelwood RIP 2nd Anniv. (Stella)

Enid & John Mangham RIP Anniv. (Bernadette)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Rose Dique RIP (Leonard)

ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BP, D

John O'Boyce RIP (Fowley)

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Ann Cremin RIP Anniv.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

John Gibbs RIP B'day (Gibbs / Quinn)

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**