



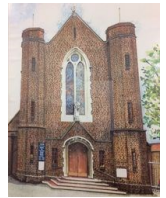
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

12TH / 13TH OCTOBER 2024

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 67

(Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30)

I have been setting out a vision for this parish community as we look to the future, building on our centenary celebrated last year. This week I would like to reflect on the centrality of the eucharist for a parish community. The reason a church was opened on Sunnyside Gardens in 1923, replaced by this church in 1939 to house an expanding congregation, was so that people could gather for the celebration of the Mass. The Eucharist is at the very heart of our identity. As I expressed it in setting out my vision a couple of weeks ago, we should aim to be a people who are *“Committed to the path of discipleship, with the Mass as the source and summit of all we do.”*

The description of the Mass as ‘source and summit’ comes from the Second Vatican Council. It relates to two ‘movements’ in the Mass - the vertical movement from earth to heaven, and the horizontal as we go out into the world.

Worship is a fundamental human activity; a corrective to what I have described as the gravitational pull of the self. We are made for communion, not for an individualistic existence. Above all, communion with God. He has made us so that we might find our fulfilment in him. Worship lifts us beyond the confines of this finite world. However it also involves a readjustment of our perspective and a realignment of our hearts which is not always easy. In fact true worship is only possible because God makes it so. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came down to earth from heaven in order to take us up to heaven. Only he, as true God and true man, can offer the worship that is needed. In the Mass we join ourselves to his perfect offering made once-for-all on the cross, faithful to his commandment ‘Do this in memory of me.’ That is why the Mass can rightly be considered the summit of our lives as Catholic Christians, and that is why the weekly gathering on the Lord’s day, the Day of Resurrection, is so important for us.

In the Mass we are fed and taught by the risen Christ himself, for our benefit of course, but not only for our benefit. In the gospels we hear that the disciples spend a great deal of time with the Lord, but they are also sent out by him on mission, first during his earthly ministry and then as he ascends to the Father entrusting them with the great commission to make disciples of the whole world. A missionary disciple – which is what every single one of us is called to be – spends time with the Lord and is then sent out by him. This is the horizontal dimension of our Christian lives, symbolised by the sending out at the end of Mass. We go out carrying Christ with us, to serve him in those we meet. But its not simply a matter of being better people who

can make the world a better place. We go out in order to gather people in, so that they too may be part of the great movement of humanity towards God in Jesus Christ. Without the Mass at the centre of everything, we lose this perspective. Thus the path of discipleship is one of constant movement between God and the world, in union with Christ who is the bridge between heaven and earth. It is a path which leads us to become more and more Christ-like, as we learn to love what he loves and to let go of those things which pull us away from him; until we are ready for that eternal banquet, of which the eucharist is a wonderful foretaste. It is a path we travel together as the pilgrim people of God.

Those members of our community who are unable to join us in person are nevertheless united with us in prayer and, for those who request this, in the sharing of holy communion taken out from Mass by our Extraordinary Ministers. It is not the same as being together, but technology nevertheless allows people to be connected across great distances. I hope that the live-streaming of Mass which begins this weekend will help cement a sense of belonging, not only for our regular home communicants, but also for those who find themselves unable to be at Sunday Mass due to sickness, caring for others, or shift work (which may be essential for society, or essential for someone providing for their family). It may also have a missionary dimension, drawing people in who stumble across us online. Please see details below and pray that it may bear fruit.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Bridget Gillan, Martin Walsh Mary Lane, Kevin Young and Gerry Presland who all died recently. Bridget's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Monday 14th October at 10.30am. Mary's funeral will be held here on Thursday 17th October 2024 at 2.30pm. Gerry's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Friday 8th November 2024 at 10.30am. May Bridget, Mary, Kevin and Gerry rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

LIVE STREAMING: Live-streamed Mass (and other services) as well as recordings of past services, are now available on any device which is connected to the internet and has a web browser (e.g. tablet, phone, laptop, streaming box/stick or smart TV). Simply visit <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-joseph-upminster> - you can also follow the link from our website or use the shortened url is.gd/sjupty. It is also possible to access the live stream via YouTube (@StJosephsChurchUpminster). Home communicants will receive more detailed guidance on how to set up access, and this information is also available on our website or on request. Those who sit near the front may be visible from behind, as well as everyone who goes up for communion; if you have privacy concerns please speak to Fr Matthew. Masses attended by classes from school will not be live streamed.

CONFIRMATION 2025: Those in year 10 or above are invited to sign up for this year's confirmation programme at <https://tinyurl.com/stjconfirm25>—there will be an information evening in the church on Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm. Parent / Guardian to attend with Candidate.

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.

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.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Penny Georgia Thompson, Alma Leigh Aminu, Kit James Howarth, Kache Lulu Amy Nguzo, Milly Emma Kear and Niall John Kennelly who were all received into our parish recently through the sacrament of baptism.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?: Fr Matthew will give a brief explanation of the process for becoming a Catholic (known as 'RCIA') after all the Masses this weekend, repeated next weekend. Please remain in church after the final hymn. This is for anyone who is considering becoming a Catholic, whether baptised or not, and also for Catholics who missed out on instruction and sacraments growing up.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: A reminder that the first session, for children who have already registered, is this Monday afternoon.

SECOND COLLECTION WORLD MISSION: Please note that we will be holding a second collection after all masses next weekend (19th / 20th October) in aid of World Mission.

ROME & ASSISI OCTOBER 2025: We have now received the official brochure and booking forms for our parish pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome, departing Sunday 26th October 2025 for 5 nights. Please complete the booking form (copies in porch or online at https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs_rome_2025) and return to the **parish office** with your deposit (**payable to the agent**) as soon as possible. We have been asked to return as many bookings as possible by the end of this month so that accommodation and flights can be secured.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing as part of a group? Then why not join St Joseph's Church Choir. We come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Christmas and Easter Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Our rehearsals for Christmas will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30pm, starting on Monday 14th October. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

CDOT CHRISTMAS CONCERT: In aid of the youth of the parish. Saturday 30th November at 7pm. St. Peter's Cranham. Once again we will be joined by the Year 3/4 choir from St. Joseph's Primary School. Refreshments and raffle. Adults - £10 and Children - £1. Tickets from St. Joseph's School or Bernadette in the Repository or 07825235717.

SION COMMUNITY MARANTHA: Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX, is on Thursday 17th October. The evening begins with Mass at 7pm followed by Prayer and Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and our Celebrant is Fr. Paschal Uche. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us and we would encourage you to bring a friend if you wish.

MASS INTENTIONS: We now have our 2025 parish diary. If you are wanting to book a mass for a specific date in 2025 please pop into the presbytery during office hours to avoid disappointment. Our weekend masses are currently full until the end of January.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 12th October

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Sheila Higgs RIP (Burgess)

Sun 13th October

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Rose Powell RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

People of the parish

Mon 14th October

9.15am

10.30am

Mary Doyle RIP (Gilham)

Funeral Mass — Bridget Gillan

Tues 15th October

9.15am

ST TERESA OF JESUS, V,D

Fr Paul Madden RIP (Scully / Ryan)

Wed 16th October

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Mary Doyle RIP (Hickey)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 17th October

9.15am

2.30pm

ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BP, M

Hannah Haughey RIP (Scully)

Funeral Mass—Mary Lane

Frid 18th October

9.15am

ST LUKE, EV

Franny O'Donnell RIP (Galt / Nicholson)

Sat 19th October

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Mary Doyle RIP (Whitbread)

Sun 20th October

9.00am

11.00am

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

John Street & Marie Pearce RIP Anniv. (Street)

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**