



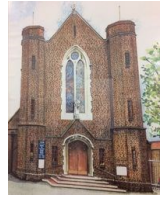
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

19TH / 20TH OCTOBER 2024

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 69

(Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45)

Continuing to reflect on a vision for our parish community, the penultimate bullet point in my original list was “Seeking to **deepen our faith**, so we can better **share** it with others.”

What does deepening our faith involve? Faith is about a relationship with Jesus Christ more than it is accepting a set of teachings, but we cannot do entirely without the latter. Jesus was not just a great teacher, but he does teach. His teachings are concerned with the kingdom of heaven: that realm where all things are shaped according to the perfect will of God and thus perfectly fulfil the meaning of their existence. It is a kingdom that is to be definitively established at the end of time, but is also present on earth to the extent that we strive to live as those who belong to it. Thus, we certainly do need to hear, understand and act on his teachings, in order to play our part in building up this kingdom and to be ready to take up our places in it in the world to come. Moreover Our Lord did not simply leave us teachings to follow: he established a church in which his believers could be united as one body, guided by those given authority and the help of the Holy Spirit to sanctify, govern and teach in his name.

To deepen our faith we need to practice it. We need to develop habits of prayer, recognise the centrality of the Mass in our lives, and become more and more familiar with sacred scripture – for as St Jerome stated, ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Word Made Flesh, the perfect self-revelation of God, and it is to him that the written word of God bears witness, Old and New Testaments alike. We need to listen to those who act as shepherds and help us understand the implications of what has been revealed to us (see, for example, Cardinal Nichol's recent pastoral letter on Assisted Suicide, link in notices below). And we need to allow this faith to shape our lives, above all living out the commandment to love God and love our neighbour with unstinting sacrificial generosity, following not only the teaching but also the example of the one who “did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”.

If we are to share our faith effectively, then the witness of our lives is essential. Authentic, faith-shaped lives are a powerful sign in themselves, but without this any words we may speak will be unconvincing. Though of course we always speak with the honest recognition that we are not perfect, and are utterly dependent on the grace of God to become the people we are made to be, not defined by past sin but by the expectation of glory. Those who see us close up will be able to take notice of

the priorities and values that shape our lives and will see through any inauthenticity – children are particularly good at spotting inconsistency between words and actions.

But what about the words we are to use to share our faith? St Paul says that we should be able to give reasons for the hope we have in Christ. This means being able to share the story of human salvation and our own personal story. The more we discover about this story and the marvellous workings of God, the more we want to learn, and the more we want to share these discoveries. Many of us haven't received formal instruction in our faith since childhood. Many of the church's programmes in this regard are indeed focused on preparation for sacraments of initiation, and my hope is that we will be able to offer more opportunities for people in different situations. We also live in an age with unprecedented access to information – there is a vast range of Catholic podcasts, videos, articles and books available. Sifting the wheat from the chaff can be a daunting task, but I can personally recommend anything from Word on Fire (headed by Bishop Robert Barron in the US), the trilogy on Jesus of Nazareth by Pope Benedict, and the official Catechism of the Catholic Church (either the full edition or the more accessible Compendium or YouCat versions). As in previous years, anyone who would like a refresher is welcome to come along to the Journey in Faith sessions starting next month along with those preparing to join the church – see notice below.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP NOTICE: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerry Presland who died recently. Gerry's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Friday 8th November 2024 at 10.30am. May 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/sjuptv. 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.

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.

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

CWL THANK YOU: Many thanks to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning. It was a great success and we are able to donate £342 to the charity.

THIS WEEK: There is no eucharistic adoration this week. Weekday Masses will be at the slightly later time of 9.30am. With grateful thanks to Fr Liam Hayes, and the priests of Our Lady of La Salette in Rainham, for celebrating Masses this week. If you need a priest in an emergency please contact one of our neighbouring parishes, or if in hospital ask for the on-call chaplain. The church will only be open in the morning.

JOURNEY OF FAITH (RCIA): The programme of instruction for those who wish to be received into the church at Easter (or are thinking about this) will begin on Thursday 14th November, 7.45pm-9pm in Church. All welcome, including those seeking a refresher in their Catholic faith.

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.

ASSISTED DYING: Cardinal Vincent Nichols has published a pastoral letter addressing the issue of Assisted Dying, or more accurately Assisted Suicide, which is soon to come before parliament. You are encouraged to read it: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-calls-on-catholics-to-take-action-to-oppose-assisted-suicide/> - you may wish to contact your MP (our parish lies in more than one constituency but the MP for Upminster and Hornchurch is Julia Lopez), and please pray about this as well, perhaps making it a special intention in this month of the rosary.

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.

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR: Will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 3rd November from 10.30am - 4pm. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be over 40 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. BCCS will have its own stall selling donated gifts and crafts and there will be a fundraising raffle during the event. If you have any crafts, unopened gifts or homemade jams and chutneys you would like to donate to us and are able to drop off to our premises in Billericay, we would be delighted to receive them.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRL'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET: Saturday 16th November 4pm—8pm. Entry £2 children free. BBQ, refreshments, Santa's grotto, carol singings and much more including a huge range of craft stalls.

BCYS YOUTH MASS: Our monthly youth mass is on the first Thursday of the month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6.00 p.m. Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese. There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more! Youth Mass is then celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. Next date: **Thursday 7th November.**

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)
Mon 21st October 9.30am	Deceased members of the Byrne Family (Byrne)
Tues 22nd October 9.30am	Fr Anthony Roham's Intentions (Redditch)
Wed 23rd October 9.30am 12 noon—1pm	Robby Smith RIP NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK
Thur 24th October 9.30am	Madeleine Bevan RIP (Shanahan Family)
Frid 25th October 9.30am	For John Fowley's Intentions (Matton)
Sat 26th October 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST CEDD, BP NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK Eileen Furzer RIP Anniv. (Laura)
Sun 27th October 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Terence Gay & William Dolan RIP (Woulds) People of the parish

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**