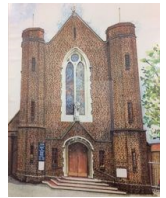




# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi  
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward  
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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

26TH / 27TH OCTOBER 2024

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 71**

(Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52)

I concluded a recent list of bullet points setting out a vision for the parish with "Trusting that **anything is possible** to God, if we seek **his will** in all things."

Whatever else we might say about a parish community, if we aren't trying to do and be what God wants us to do and be, then we are wasting our time. Whilst if we limit ourselves to what we have always done, or what we think is manageable or practical, then we are also going to sell ourselves – and God – short. Fortunately we have a constant reminder in our church building of the Holy Spirit, represented as a dove, the form he took at Our Lord's baptism, high above the sanctuary.

Our Christian life is naturally ordered towards heaven. Our worship of God is of central importance because it reminds us of this, and lifts us beyond the limited horizons of this world. We are a pilgrim people, called to journey onwards to the promised land, but never making the mistake of thinking we can get there by our own efforts alone. The church came to birth on the day of Pentecost through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and it is this same Spirit, constantly at work in the Church, that brings about the growth of every single one of her members. Trusting that all things are possible with God goes hand in hand with seeking his will. The story of salvation is one of God working through those he was called, and who have freely responded to his call; whilst the story of our own personal salvation is one of cooperating with God, who helps us but does not override our personal freedom. As a parish community, therefore, we need to give God the opportunity to work through us, prayerfully discerning the way ahead in every task we undertake, and prayerfully examining our own motives to ensure we are always acting for God rather than for ourselves. But it also means being generous in our response to God, ready to play our part rather than sitting back and waiting for something to happen. And recognising that for some of our community, prayer might be the special part they are able to play at a particular stage in their lives.

Towards the end of this week, as October rolls into November, we mark a significant feast in the church's calendar which celebrates the whole body of Christ and reminds us of the bonds that unite us with those who have gone before us. Many people will celebrate Hallowe'en without realising that there is a Christian thread along with the other aspects. More than a celebration of darkness, it should be a reminder that the light of Christ overpowers the darkness, light which is reflected in the saints (the Hallowes referred to in the name), and that his rising has conquered mortality itself so that the host of plastic skeletons are a reminder of the dead who are in fact still alive;

reminded too of our own need to live as those for whom death is a gateway to the fullness of life.

The definition of a saint is someone who seeks God's will in all things – and more than seeking, actively delights in it, knowing with complete trust that God's will is for our good. The vision for our parish community concludes therefore with a reminder of our destiny, to become saints robed in glory and light, and of our great task in this life which is to become God-centred rather than self-centred. And if this seems too hard – something for others but not for me – let us trust that anything is possible to God! That even sinners can become saints, and so gain everlasting life in the company of all the saints. Even if we haven't overcome our self-will in this life – as most of us probably won't – we will be made ready for the perfection of heaven through the work of Christ and his church. As the members of the church on earth we play our part in that through our prayers for the souls of the faithful departed, as we in turn will benefit one day for the prayers of those who come after us, and we are all helped by the prayers of the saints in heaven, urging us on to the finish line. May we desire to be with them, as much as they desire us to be with them.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**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](https://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](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.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm-9pm in Church. All welcome, including those seeking a refresher in their Catholic faith.

**SVP SECOND COLLECTION:** Our next second collection over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> of November will be in aid of our parish SVP, to help those in need through any form of poverty in the local area. This is the first such request of the parish by our SVP for a few years. We thank you for helping us to raise funds and in praying for those who need our support and friendship.

**THIS WEEK:** There is no lunchtime Holy Hour on Wednesday. Mass on Wednesday and Thursday will be at the later time of 9.30am, but 9.15 as usual on Monday and Tuesday. Friday is a Holy Day– see below. With grateful thanks to Fr Liam Hayes, Fr Gerald Gostling and the priests of Our Lady of La Salette for celebrating Masses in the first half of the week.

**ALL SAINTS' DAY:** On Friday we celebrate the feast of All Saints, following our Holy Day of Obligation timetable with Mass at 10am and 8pm. Friday abstinence from meat does not apply.

**ALL SOULS' DAY:** Saturday is All Soul's Day. Mass will be offered for the Holy Souls at 11am. The evening Mass will be the vigil for Sunday as usual.

**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.

**SVP QUIZ NIGHT THANK YOU:** The SVP would like to thank everyone who contributed to the recent quiz night, especially the organisers Bernadette Tsocos and Dominic Argent-Hall, for helping to raise the very generous total of £632 to enable us to help those in need.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Margaret Munnely, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Maggie Ollington, Maureen Springham, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod, Lisa Bostock & Jason Hamilton-Ramm.

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:** Irene Acott, Cornelius O'Mahoney, Muriel Brown, Terence Smith, Kevin Danagher, Bernadette Humphreys, Eileen Cooke, Catherine Goddard, Anne Blaney, Maureen Faughnan, Elizabeth Widger, Patrick O'Shea, David Tarplett, Veronica McKeone, George Williams, David Perry, Catherine Ferguson, Victor Hughes, Caroline Saunders, Rosemary O'Hallaran, Sylvia Kinghorn, Isabella Markham, James Harkins, Rose McKeown, Sheila Higgs, Margaret Storey, Fred Regan, Jessie Burns, Margaret Ratcliffe, Michael Markham, Lauren Dixon, David Steward, Irene Ritchie, Sabrina Roberts, Stephen Barrable, Robin Clist, Gwendoline Coat, Barnara O'Brien, Lynne Salmon, Bridget Martin, John Foy, Maureen Pereira, Rose Powell, John Rix, Mgr McKenna, Maureen Pereira, Maria Judge, Kathleen Butters, Peggy McKeown, Joseph Pereira, William Shave, Christina Pinder, Colin Baker, Alan Best, Catherine Gillespie, Marie Pearce, David Lawless, William Croly, Margaret Casey, Cornelius Coughlin, John Street, Joseph Barrett, Sarah Dailey, Joseph Burke, Madeleine Ferry, Danny (Desmond) Jones, Fr Clay, David Judge, Katelyn Hope Henry, Agnes Mason, June Gilson, George Gurney, Eileen McCheyne, Jessie Rapp, Fred James, Patrick Curtin, Emilia Taylor, Peggy Hill, Moira Kennedy, James Leonard, Frank Hosey, Mary Clark, Marie Barrett, Jane Winn, Theresa Saunders, Cyril Henden, William Hudson, Joan Behan, Eileen Furzer, Maureen Baillache, Patrick Hinchin, Margaret Kennedy, Daniel Corrigan, Margaret Connolly, Christine Wright & Winifred Walk. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 26th October</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST CEDD, BP</b> <b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK</b> Eileen Furzer RIP Anniv. (Laura)
<b>Sun 27th October</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> Terence Gay & William Dolan RIP (Woulds) People of the parish
<b>Mon 28th October</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>SS SIMON AND JUDE, APP</b> Noreen Harris RIP (O'Malley)
<b>Tues 29th October</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Michael O'Dowdall RIP 10th Anniv. (O'Dowdall)
<b>Wed 30th October</b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	<b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Thur 31st October</b> <b>9.30am</b>	Eveline Guerin's Intentions
<b>Frid 1st Nov</b> <b>10am</b> <b>8pm</b>	<b>ALL SAINTS</b> Martin Walsh RIP (Rudgeley) People of the parish
<b>Sat 2nd Nov</b> <b>11am</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED</b> Mass for the Holy Souls <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Sun 3rd Nov</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> David, Andrew & Margaret Milliken RIP (Griffin) Maureen Baillache RIP Anniv. (Claude)

## 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](http://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**