



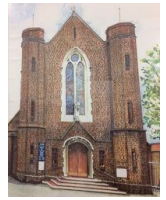
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

5TH / 6TH OCTOBER 2024

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 64

(Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16)

A couple of weeks ago I set out a vision for the parish; over the next few weeks I am offering a reflection on each bullet point in turn. Last week I skipped to the second, so today I want to explore the first: Our parish should be *A **community** of men and women of all ages who aspire to follow **Jesus Christ** within the fellowship of his church, local and universal.*

The word community implies a sense of togetherness and unity. In practice it's used in a much broader sense to describe quite disparate groups of people. For us, though it carries greater weight because of what unites us. We are not united merely by a shared interest, or loyalty to a sports team, or even just the fact that we live in a particular place. Our links to this place are a significant part of our identity as a parish community, but what unites us above all is Jesus Christ.

We are called to be his followers – disciples. To be his disciple means to listen to him, put into practice what he teaches, and imitate him. And then to be willing to play our part in his mission by doing whatever he asks of us. We know that following Christ entails sacrifice; it can be a struggle; we are called to take up our cross each day. But we are called to follow him all the way – through Calvary to the glory of Easter.

Jesus didn't just leave a set of teachings for his followers. He founded a church. The work used in the gospel literally means 'called out' – we are called out of the world and formed into a new community. Discipleship is not meant to be a solitary task or calling. We are in this together; and what binds us is baptism, a shared faith which we express week by week in the Creed, and an understanding that Christ has called some to exercise particular authority in his church – leading and teaching on his behalf.

When we use community in the strongest possible sense, it becomes more about relationships, not just something we happen to have in common. It is, properly speaking, a communion; a relationship between persons who give of themselves to each other. The model of all such communion is the Blessed Trinity. The most privileged *human* communion is the family, founded on the union of husband and wife, established by God (as our gospel today reminds us) precisely to be a mirror and sign of his own love.

The community of the church is a family, and we rightly speak of each other as brothers and sisters. It is a family which includes and values every generation from the youngest to the oldest. And though every generation is equally important, as a sign of hope for the future we should rejoice in our youngest members and do our best to support their parents who are bringing them up in the faith.

Our communion with one another through Christ is expressed powerfully in our receiving of Holy Communion – the body of Christ given to us as food which also forms as the body of Christ which is his church.

We are Catholic Christians, and so we recognise that our parish community is part of something greater. We belong to a local church, properly understood not just as this parish but as our Diocese of Brentwood, gathered round our Bishop as shepherd. And we are part of the universal church, under the authority of the successor of St Peter, the chief shepherd of Christ's flock. Both pope and bishop are named in the eucharistic prayer at every celebration of Mass to underscore the importance of this.

The church is often described as a mother – for like a mother the church brings us to birth, feeds us, teaches us, and sends us out into the world. Mary is both mother of the Church and its most exemplary member, the first disciple of her Son. This month of the Holy Rosary is a wonderful opportunity to pray with her for this parish, our diocese and the universal church.

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. Martin's funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium on Monday 7th October at 1.30pm. Mary's funeral will be held here on Thursday 17th October 2024 at 2.30pm. Details of Gerry's funeral will be published once confirmed. May Bridget, Martin, Mary, Kevin and Gerry rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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 HOLY COMMUNION: Registrations are now closed and parents who have registered should have received an email inviting them to the introductory meeting this Monday. If you haven't received the email, or would like to make a late application, please email the parish office.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI OCTOBER 2025: We are organising a parish pilgrimage to Rome during October half term 2025 for the Jubilee year. We will begin with a whole day in Assisi, then we will be based outside Rome at Palazzola for four days. Please visit our website for more information. Booking will open later in the autumn. 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>

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.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice to support secondary school applications during two slots this week: 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 (e.g. Coopers) 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).

LIVE STREAMING: From next weekend we plan to start live streaming Mass regularly, with the aim of helping those who cannot be at Mass to feel more part of our community. The live stream, as well as recordings of previous Masses, will be accessible in any web browser. See next weekend's newsletter or check our website later in the week.

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.

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.

CWL: We have a meeting on Friday 11th October in the social centre at 2pm. All welcome. Come along for a nice cup of tea/coffee and cake and find out about some of our plans for the next few months. You do not need to be a member to join us.

ST JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CLUB: We have lots happening at the Club over the next few months including fundraisers, wreath making and our Christmas party. Tickets are now all on sale via: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster> Please consider joining as a member to hear about events first: <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscc/>

LONDON MARATHON 2025 FOR CAFOD: Andy Lewis and Matt Tisi will be running the London Marathon for CAFOD next year. Our first fundraising night will be hosted in the parish Social Club on Saturday 16th November at 7:30pm - it will be a night of fun games and entertainment including a quiz, raffle and bingo plus music. We are asking entry donations be made to help with planning: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1415601>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

Mon 7th October

9.15am

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Eilish Madden RIP (Scully)

Tues 8th October

9.15am

ST OSYTH, REL

Fred Regan RIP Anniv. (Family) (With our year 3 children)

Wed 9th October

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PR

Eilish Madden RIP (Ryan)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 10th October

9.15am

Fred Regan RIP Anniv. (Family)

Frid 11th October

9.15am

Breid McGill RIP (Galt/Nicholson)

Sat 12th October

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Ss ETHELBURGA, HILDELITHE & CUTHBURGA, REL

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

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**