



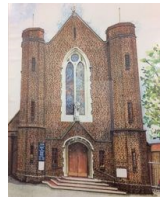
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

2ND / 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 73**

(Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34)

November is the month of the holy souls. It is an opportunity for us to remember the duty we have to pray for those who have gone before us, including those who have no one else to pray for them. Inevitably we are reminded of our own mortality. We pray for the dead because we believe they are still alive and are in a position to benefit from our prayers. In the centuries before Christ, the instinct that God would not allow death to have the final word is expressed in the actions of the great warrior Judas Maccabaeus, who arranged for sacrifice to be offered on behalf of those who had died in battle having fallen into sin. "In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (2 Maccabees 12)

Today's gospel speaks of love, of God and neighbour. To pray for the dead is an act of love, one which we hope to be recipients of one day. It is love which makes the separation wrought by death so painful. It is knowing God's love for us, however - love which is made visible on the cross and vindicated in the empty tomb - that gives us supreme confidence that this separation is only a temporary one. One day we shall be reunited with those who have died in Christ (and it is, thankfully, not up to us to determine who falls into that category) in the presence of God, to share in the fullness of life which he has always intended for his beloved children.

Our approach to life should be influenced by our understanding of death. Recently I read in the newspaper about someone who was hoping to live to at least 150 by adopting various lifestyle measures, including regular kale smoothies and sleeping inside a faraday cage. But the life we hope for is not merely a prolonging of this life. God has so much more in store for us than this. This finite life has to come to an end in order that we might experience life in its fullness, the infinite life of God himself. Eternity is not just an open-ended span of time, but life lived at an incomparably higher pitch of existence than we can even dream of.

Death, as the natural end of this life and the gateway to the next, is therefore something to be accepted. We may certainly weep, as our Lord did, at the pain and sorrow death inflicts on the human race but, in the light of Easter, our grief takes on a different hue. As St Paul exhorted the Thessalonians, we do not mourn like those

who have no hope. The wish to minimise suffering and indignity as death approaches, which lies behind the calls to legalise some form of euthanasia, is a natural one. Others have voiced very real concerns, by no means all motivated by religious perspectives: concerns that any so-called safeguards will prove ineffective in time, that the most vulnerable will be unduly influenced by a wish not to become a burden on others, that palliative care - already insufficiently funded - will be seen as a luxury when a cheaper alternative is available, that eligibility criteria will be drawn wider and wider, and that the relationship between doctor and patient will be fundamentally changed. All these things have been seen in places which have introduced such legislation. We can add to this a more basic principle. People say that animals are not allowed to suffer as humans are. But we are not like any other animal. Each and every human person is a uniquely precious unity of body and soul created and loved by God. Life is his gift to us; life in this world has a purpose which we may not fully grasp in this life. Suffering is finite; the separation of body and soul which occurs at death, like our separation from our loved ones, is temporary. In this month of the holy souls let us pray not only for our dead, but for ourselves and all people, seeking the gift of faith that allows us to trust in God, who has made us all for life.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**NEW LECTIONARY:** the new translation of the lectionary (the readings we hear at Mass), based on the English Standard Version, is to be used from Advent Sunday. We already have a beautiful set of new books to be used by those proclaiming the word of God from the Ambo. These have been generously donated by a parishioner in memory of a family member. New editions of the Parish Mass Book, which are given out by the newcomers, are on order. Each volume costs £5 - we have ordered 250 (including some large print editions). Since there are two volumes per year this will cost £7500 over three years. If you would like to donate £30 to dedicate a set of 6 volumes in memory of someone please contact the parish office.

**PRAYER FOR THE DEAD:** You are invited to place a list of your own departed friends and family in the basket in front of the altar and they will benefit from daily prayers and occasional Masses offered for the holy souls in this month dedicated to their honour.

**VOTIVE CANDLE STANDS:** The candle stands by the Sacred Heart and Our Lady have been equipped with electric candle lighters. This is to avoid the regular occurrence of matches or conventional lighters running out. Instructions are posted near the stands.

**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.

**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.

**LIVE STREAM:** Visit [is.gd/sjuptv](https://www.gd/sjuptv) in any web browser to access live streamed and recorded Masses. Visit our website for more information.

**RIP NOTICE:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Gerry Presland, Margaret O'Donoghue and Roma Young who died recently. Gerry's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Friday 8th November at 10.30am. Margaret's funeral will also be held here on Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 10.30am. Roma's funeral arrangements will be published once confirmed. May Gerry, Margaret and Roma rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**PRAYER MINISTRY:** After each Mass this weekend (and the first weekend of each month) members of our parish prayer ministry team will be available in St Joseph's chapel to pray with anyone who wishes to receive this ministry.

**SVP SECOND COLLECTION:** Our next second collection over the weekend of **9<sup>th</sup> and 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.

**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.

**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/>

**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.

**CAMPION SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY –SUNDAY DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>:** The Senior Citizens' Party at the Campion School will be held between 130pm and 5pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 with lunch served at 130pm. St. Joseph's has been allocated 15 places. Transport can be provided if necessary. Please phone or text with your details, letting me know of any allergies and those preferring vegetarian or vegan options. Peter Jones - 07932 539106.

**SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING:** Thursday 13th November. Headteacher's address at 6pm and 7pm. We look forward to welcoming you to our community.

**HAROLD HILL PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP:** Come along to find comfort, support and understanding at our welcoming and informal bereavement support group. Sheila Delander and Liz Hill will lead the group. We invite you to join us as we navigate through grief together. Our next meeting will be held **Wednesday 6th November**, at **2pm** in St. Anthony's Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill. There will be subsequent meetings scheduled for the **1st Wednesday of every month. You're not alone on this journey!** All are welcome. Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 2nd Nov</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <i>11am</i> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Mass for the Holy Souls 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)
<b>Mon 4th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST CHARLES BORROMEIO, BP</b> Hannah Haughey RIP (Ryan)
<b>Tues 5th Nov</b> <b>9.05am</b>	Shirley Loftus RIP (Horigan) (With our Year 1 children)
<b>Wed 6th Nov</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	John Foy RIP (Family) <b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK</b>
<b>Thur 7th Nov</b> <b>5.30pm</b>	Joan Day RIP Anniv. 23 years (Mike)
<b>Frid 8th Nov</b> <b>10.30am</b>	Funeral Mass—Gerry Presland
<b>Sat 9th Nov</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Thomas Gallagher RIP (Horigan)
<b>Sun 10th Nov</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> Anne Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family) 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* **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**