



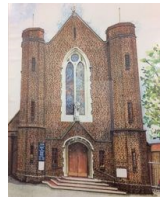
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

30TH NOVEMBER / 1ST DECEMBER 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) - Mass Book Pg 82

(Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

This Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent, and a new liturgical year. Advent is a season given to us to prepare for Christmas – the celebration of Our Saviour's first advent or arrival or coming among us. But even more, it is given so that we might prepare for his second coming – the advent of our saviour as Lord and Judge of all creation at the end of time. It is easy for us to bracket this away from our Christian lives, as something that is so remote from us that we give it little thought. But the Advent call is 'stay awake'. The best way to prepare for Christmas and the second coming is to be alert to the ways in which Our Lord comes to us now, in the life of his church: in those we encounter and serve in our daily lives, in the gathering of his people for worship, in the sacred scriptures, and above all in the eucharist.

Beginning a new liturgical year also means starting a new year of the three-year lectionary cycle: year C, the year when we predominantly hear from St Luke's gospel. Advent is a season which seems to immerse us in scripture in a particular way. The birth of a saviour, the long-awaited Messiah, represent the culmination of the great story of the chosen people which unfolds in the pages of the Old Testament. The story is in fact not so much a story of this people, but the story of God, choosing and calling a people to himself, revealing himself to them as a loving father. This people is set apart for a sacred task, so that through them the whole world will eventually be reconciled to him and learn to worship aright. In this season, especially in its final stages, a rich array of titles and images from the whole of the Old Testament is presented to us as signs of the one who is to come. The story of the Old Testament is thus not merely the story of the Jewish people, but our story too, as those who have come to believe in the Son of God and in him have become members of a new people entrusted with that same task of bringing the whole world to God. The unfolding of God's plan of salvation is a key element of the traditional service of lessons and carols which typically ends with the opening of John's gospel ("In the beginning was the Word"), which we will hear at Mass on Christmas day. What better way to prepare ourselves to welcome the Word Made Flesh, than by pondering the Word of God found in Sacred Scripture by which we are lead to him?

This year there is another reason for us to pay attention to the scriptures. After a lengthy process of deliberation the Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland announced that the translation of the scriptures we use at Mass would be replaced with a modified edition of the English Standard Version (ESV), the version already adopted in some other parts of the world notably India. As of today, this is the version we are to use for the Liturgy of the Word. Thus we have some fine new books for the

proclamation of the word from the Ambo, given by a parishioner in memory of her sister. We have also replaced the Parish Mass Books used by the congregation, some of which have also been donated in memory of loved ones. As an added bonus, the new congregation books have the current words for the prayers of the Mass. It will naturally take us time to adapt to a new style, and especially for those passages we are most familiar with, but my sense is that the changes are generally for the better. It is a commendable practice to prepare for Mass by looking at the readings beforehand. New editions of the Sunday Missal are available from booksellers (but make sure they are the new version), and you can also find the readings for the week ahead (with the new ESV texts) at <https://universalis.com/>. This week, there is an evening of fellowship and formation focused on the Word of God and the season of Advent – Thursday 5th from 7pm in the Social Centre (evening meal included). Do come along!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

ADVENT MEAL AND FAITH TALK: On Thursday 5th December (NB new date) there will be an evening meal in the social centre (free of charge) followed by a talk on relating to the season of Advent (and prompted by the new lectionary translation): how the Word of God prepares us for the coming of the Word Made Flesh. Supper from 7, talk from 7.45pm finishing 8.30pm (bar open afterwards).

ROME & ASSISI OCTOBER 2025: We are gradually filling the spaces for our parish pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome but there are still a few places available. We depart on Sunday 26th October 2025 for 5 nights, at a basic price of £1299 per person. The brochure and booking form is available in the porch or online at https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs_rome_2025. Please return the completed form to the parish office with your deposit (card details or cheque payable to the agent) as soon as possible.

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

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Lynda Oliver and Joan Garnier who died recently. Lynda's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 3rd December at 11am. Joan's funeral will be held here at 10am on Thursday 12th December 2024. May Lynda and Joan rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

2025 PARISH DIARIES: Diaries are now available from the back of the church priced 50p. Please put money into the wall box labelled papers.

MASS INTENTIONS: Please note that we now have our 2025 diary and mass bookings are filling up. The first weekday availability is not until mid-January and the first available weekend mass isn't until the end of January. If you would like a specific date please pop into the presbytery to avoid disappointment.

"VOICES FOR CHRISTMAS": The Hornchurch Passion Play presents the Nativity story told by the people who were there! Monologues written and directed by Kevin Walsh, this year performed by different actors, with popular carols for all to sing. Wednesday 18th December at 8:00pm. In the North Street Halls, Hornchurch RM11 1QX. Tickets on the door @ £8 including complimentary festive refreshment. All profits support Hornchurch Passion Play Reg. charity no. 1169216.

CANNING TOWN AND ROYAL DOCKS: Our traditional second collection will be held after all Masses during the weekend of 9th /10th December for those in particular need in Canning Town and Royal Docks parishes, to enable them to have more at Christmas.

CWL LUNCH CLUB: The last lunch club for 2024 will be Wednesday 11th, December. We will reopen on Wednesday 8th, January 2025. A big thank you to everyone who has supported us the past year. We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a healthy and blessed 2025.

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE: The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The 2025 Jubilee year will officially open on 24th December, 2024 with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square.

SAVE THE DATE! Canterbury Walk 2025 Christmas Disco Fundraiser: Date: Friday, 6th December. Time: 7:30pm - 11:30pm. Venue: St Joseph's Catholic Club. Tickets: £10pp (under 13yr go free). Buy your tickets from: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1411667> Raffle and prizes available, please join us for a night full of festive cheer.

SPENDING CHRISTMAS DAY ALONE? The New Windmill Hall will be providing Christmas dinner, live entertainment, carol singing and much more. Travel can be provided. For more information and to book please call 01708220242.

CAFOD-DEC MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL: The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: [//cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give)

BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 7th December 2023, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral: Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, and an Advent Reconciliation service in the Cathedral before Mass. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! Email info@bcys.net

SILENT WEEKEND RETREAT FRI 8TH - SUN 10TH DECEMBER: Organised by Allegra Mutanda. Venue: Sion Community, Brentwood. Our theme focuses on the need to learnt the 'art' of being still and at rest in the midst of a busy and noisy society. Guest speaker: Grace Nowakowska, full-time lay missionary member of Sion Community. This silent weekend retreat during Advent offers us the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in quiet prayer and reflection. 40-HOURS of CONTINUOUS Adoration, spiritual guidance & prayer ministry included. For more information or to book, visit <https://sioncommunity.org.uk/adults/> or email allegra.mutanda@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 30th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST ANDREW, AP, PATRON OF SCOTLAND ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Terry Smith RIP Anniv. (Ita and family)
Sun 1st Dec 9.00am 11.00am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT People of the parish Rosemary Underwood RIP Anniv. (Family)
Mon 2nd Dec 9.15am	MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT Bridget Gillan RIP (Byrne)
Tues 3rd Dec 9.15am 11am	ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PR Len Jones RIP B'day (Carter/Jones) (With our year 4 children) Funeral Mass—Lynda Oliver
Wed 4th Dec 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	WEDNESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT Rosemary O'Rourke RIP (Lynch) NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 5th Dec 9.15am	THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT Eddie O'Mahony RIP (Lynch)
Frid 6th Dec 9.15am	FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT Danny Riordan's Intentions (Redmond)
Sat 7th Dec 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST AMBROSE, BP, D ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Fr John Tuohy's Golden Jubilee Intentions
Sun 8th Dec 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT People of the parish Margaret De St Jorre RIP Birthday (Family)

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**