



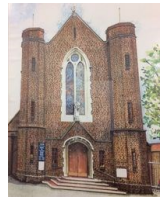
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

9TH / 10TH NOVEMBER 2024

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) - Mass Book Pg 75

(1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44)

Armistice Day, and Remembrance Sunday, fall during the month which in our tradition is dedicated to prayer for the holy souls. It is fitting then that we take this opportunity to pray for those who have died in war. At the same time, it is right that we should pray for peace: peace which is not merely a cessation of hostilities but the peace that comes when all people live in harmonious alignment with God's will for us. Today's gospel sheds light on both aspects of this commemoration.

At Acts of Remembrance one typically hears the line quoted from the war memorial at Kohima, in India: "when you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today". In the gospel of the Widow's Mite Jesus observes "she gave everything she had".

We speak of those who have died in war as making the ultimate sacrifice. A sacrifice, in everyday parlance, is something we give up, for the sake of another. It is therefore an act of love. We recall from last week's gospel that nothing matters more than the twofold and complimentary love of God and neighbour. In a religious context, a sacrifice refers to something given up as an offering to God, an act of worship which helps restore our proper orientation towards God. In the truest sense of the world Our Lord's death on the cross is the ultimate sacrifice, an offering of worship made once-for-all on behalf of the entire human race, to reconcile us to God.

A sacrifice is a true act of love because it is made for the sake of another, not out of self-interest. But in the measure that we make a complete gift of ourselves out of love, we increase our capacity to receive all that God wishes to give us. Our hearts are enlarged by generosity. Jesus' perfect sacrifice is life-giving, and our acts of generosity, the sacrifices we make out of love, become part of that dynamic whereby we are properly aligned with God and become more and more that perfect image and likeness of God that we are meant to be. Our sacrifices also become life-giving.

Thus, we see how today's gospel also points to that other aspect of our remembrance of the fallen: prayer for peace. It is a sad (and rather ironic) reflection of the polarisation of contemporary discourse that some might see prayer for peace as inconsistent with honouring the fallen or even favouring wrong side in a conflict. It is also rather absurd, as if those who have died would somehow be honoured with more dying. Our Catholic moral tradition recognises that justice permits and even requires defending oneself or defending someone who cannot defend themselves, in a proportionate manner. But the very fact that it is necessary is a sign that something

has gone wrong. Clearly, there will be no war in heaven when the kingdom of God is finally established. Our tradition also uses the language of warfare to describe our own struggle against temptation, recognising that there are spiritual forces as well as worldly ones that would lead us away from God. When we pray for peace, we are on the one hand praying for an end to the hostilities which cause so much needless destruction and suffering. But more, we are praying for the conditions that will allow true peace to prevail, which requires the generosity of heart that enables us to seek the good of others before our own. To love our neighbour as ourselves (with no limits to that love, nor the definition of neighbour) and to love God with all our hearts, which means loving his will before our own, and loving all those God loves. We can, of course, only start with ourselves, but if we are serious about peace, we have to start somewhere!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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 welcomers, 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.

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.

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

SVP SECOND COLLECTION: Our second collection this weekend **9th and 10th 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.

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.

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.

RIP NOTICE: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret O'Donoghue, Roma Young, Edith Keene and Rose Mary Jones who died recently. Margaret's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 10.30am. Edith's funeral will be held here on Monday 18th November at 1.45pm, Rose's funeral will be held here on Wednesday 20th November at 1pm and Roma's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 26th November at 10.30am. May Margaret, Roma, Edith and Rose rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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.

VOCATIONS: The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 12 November at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Mgr Gordon Read. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

CAMPION SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY –SUNDAY DECEMBER 15th: The Senior Citizens' Party at the Campion School will be held between 130pm and 5pm on Sunday 15th 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.

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.

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

ASSISTED SUICIDE BID BEFORE PARLIAMENT: Kim Leadbeater MP is introducing a bill to introduce assisted suicide, which will be voted on by MPs on the 29 November. We know that assisted suicide laws in other jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for the poor, disabled and marginalised. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs. Please contact your MP by visiting www.livesworthliving.org.uk

NEW WINDMILL HALL COMMUNITY CAFÉ: Every Friday from 11am-3pm at the New Windmill Hall, there will be a community café where there will be activities, lunch & crafts. All welcome. For more information call 01708220242 65 OR OLDER.

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 9th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Thomas Gallagher RIP (Horigan)
Sun 10th Nov 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Anne Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family) People of the parish / Requiem for War Dead
Mon 11th Nov 9.15am	ST MARTIN OF TOURS, BP Judy Morgan RIP Anniv. (Hugh)
Tues 12th Nov 9.15am	ST JOSAPHAT, BP, M For the intentions of the Fowley Family (Blake)
Wed 13th Nov 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Martin Walsh RIP (Anne & Steve Major) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 14th Nov 9.15am	Noreen Harris RIP (Pinder)
Frid 15th Nov 9.15am	For the intentions of Bill & Esther O'Regan (Regan)
Sat 16th Nov 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, BP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS <i>People of the parish</i>
Sun 17th Nov 9.00am 11.00am	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Jenny Maplesden RIP Anniv. (Paul) Leesa Otero RIP Anniv. (Gibbs/Quinn)

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**