



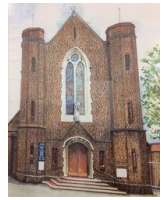
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

18TH / 19TH JANUARY 2025

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) - Mass Book Pg 127

(Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-11)

We are back to green and the season of ordinary time (the first green Sunday is the *second* Sunday of ordinary time because the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is counted as the first Sunday). The Christmas decorations have come down, but the crib remains until the feast of the Presentation 40 days after Our Lord's birth (2nd February -this year falling on a Sunday). Before we begin our sequential reading of Luke's gospel, we linger on the theme of Our Lord's identity being revealed in key 'epiphany' moments. The first miracle at Cana, water turned into wine at a wedding feast, is often counted as the third epiphany – last week we sang of all three: 'And at Cana wedding guest, in thy Godhead manifest'.



This episode is full of meaning. It is not an arbitrary or frivolous display of divine power, a 'party trick'. Jesus, prompted by his mother (her last recorded words an important instruction to all of us: 'do whatever he tells you') not only saves the embarrassment of his host but directs us to the 'hour' that will come at the end of the gospel. Today, an extraordinary quantity of water turned into the finest wine; on Calvary, blood poured out in an extravagant overflow of divine compassion.

At this wedding, Jesus is a guest. But he who refers to himself elsewhere as the bridegroom will give himself completely to his bride the church in that 'hour'. In the Mass a still greater transformation occurs: bread and wine become the true body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ himself, and we become not only participants in the sacrifice of Calvary but also in the heavenly wedding feast of the Lamb.

A New Year is a time for us to consider again what God is asking of us. We are all called, above all, to love. For some of us, that involves the total, exclusive gift of oneself to another in marriage. For some, it involves a different kind of total gift to God. Love is also expressed in our readiness to serve others: family members, fellow parishioners, people we work with, strangers. It may be God is calling us to something new; it may be that God is calling us to approach an existing vocation with greater resolve. It may be that we recognise areas in our relationships with God, spouses, family, friends, colleagues that need some attention: rebalancing priorities, greater attentiveness to the needs of others, readiness to forgive or seek forgiveness. The theme of the present Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope' reminds us that we are called ever onwards; not to remain frozen on the spot. Taking the

necessary next step often requires courage, honesty, self awareness and trust; but above all the gifts of faith, hope and love. Today we see how God is able to take what is ordinary and transform it into something extraordinary. Our great hope is that by his grace we will become sharers in his divine glory, but he does not force this upon us. May Our Lady show us the way. Let us all do whatever he tells us.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Will be led by Bp Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood>. We hope you will join us.

NEW SERVERS: Those who have made their first communion and would like to learn how to serve at the altar during the Mass are asked to give their details (sent from a parent's email address) to Fr Matthew via the parish office email address, ideally by the end of the month.

PARISH MEETING: There will be a meeting between the morning Masses over Coffee in the Social Centre on Sunday 26th January, principally to continue the conversation begun in October regarding the possibility of a new Social Centre.

MUSIC FEEDBACK: In September we began a trial period of a new approach to music at our Saturday/Sunday Masses, with reduced signing (just hymns) at the Saturday evening Mass. This was prompted by feedback sought from the parish in the summer. If you have any views on music going forward – principally whether or not we should continue with this approach or try something else – please send an email to the parish office.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Frances Bethell, Brenda Cridge and Juliana Skelker who died recently. Juliana's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Friday 7th March at 11am. Frances' funeral will be held at English Martyrs Church, Hornchurch on Friday 24th January at 1pm and Brenda's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Thursday 6th February at 1.30pm. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

PAX CHRISTI—SECOND COLLECTION: Please note that there will be a second collection this weekend in aid of Pax Christi.

CRIB COLLECTION: You are invited to make an offering when you visit the crib to support the work of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, a charity which provides various forms of support for children and their families. You can also give using the self-service screen in the porch. For more information, to give online or become a supporter please visit bccs.org.uk. The crib will remain in place until Candlemas after other decorations in church are taken down.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Ivy Estcourt, Harry & Freddie Ottey and Louis Dunne who were received into the parish last weekend through the sacrament of baptism.

WHY DO PEOPLE NO LONGER COME TO CHURCH? The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are hosting a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes at New Hall School. The talk, followed by discussion, starts at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd January. Refreshments will be served from 6.30 p.m. No cost to attend. All are welcome but need to register via the following link: <https://canonesses.co.uk/event/why-do-people-no-longer-goto-church-wed-22-jan-2025/>

CAFOD “SIP AND PAINT” NIGHT: Thursday 27th February @ 7pm in the Club, hosted by <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1531787> Part of Andy Lewis' London Marathon fundraising for CAFOD: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/andy-lewis-marathon-2025>

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 Easter will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30pm, starting on **3rd February**. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

OPENING THE DOORS TO FREEDOM FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Thursday 6th February 7.30pm—9pm via Zoom. The National Justice and Peace Network are delighted to invite you to their first event of this Jubilee Year. Facilitated by Brian O' Toole, who is a member of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT Ireland), the Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking in Europe (RENATE) and Talitha Kum. At this event you will learn a little more about the insidious issue of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in the UK and importantly what we can do as "Pilgrims of Hope" during this Jubilee Year to help victims of Human Trafficking as we shine a light on this important issue. You can register your interest to attend this event by emailing admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk and a Zoom link will be sent out to you nearer the time.

MCS' AND SENIOR ALTAR SERVERS' GET-TOGETHER: Guild of St Stephen - Brentwood Diocese. The Committee have arranged a Social get-together, for MCs & Senior Servers on: Saturday 1 March 2025 12pm to 4pm At The Plough, 169 Roman Road, Mountnessing, Essex CM15 0UG.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS): Is delighted to host a **Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea** at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

VESPERS FOR UKRAINE There will be a special Vespers in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 26th February** at 6.00 p.m. to pray for peace in Ukraine on the eve of the third anniversary of the Russian invasion. The service will feature a mixture of Ukrainian music and familiar English church music, including a contribution by Ukrainians who are now part of our community. We will be privileged to be joined by the Ukrainian Eparchy (Bishop) for Great Britain, Rt Rev Kenneth Nowakowski, who will preach at the service. There will be refreshments available in the Parish Hall after the service. All welcome.

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 18th Jan 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Maggie Ollington RIP
Sun 19th Jan 9.00am 11.00am	2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Christopher (Henry) Nye RIP Anniv. (Family) People of the parish
Mon 20th Jan 9.15am	Christopher (Henry) Nye RIP Anniv. (Family)
Tues 21st Jan 9.15am	ST AGNES, V M For the intentions of Kevin, Lucy & Francisca (Reinhardt) (With our year 6 children)
Wed 22nd Jan 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	P.J. Shannan RIP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 23rd Jan 9.15am	Joyce Jones RIP Anniv. (Jones / Carter)
Frid 24th Jan 9.15am	ST FRANCES DE SALES, BP, D For the intentions of Jack McCarthy (Nan)
Sat 25th Jan 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, AP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 26th Jan 9.00am 11.00am	3RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR John Douglas Bolton RIP (Rebecca & Family) Gillian Cross RIP Anniv. (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**