



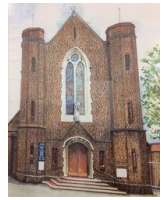
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

25TH / 26TH JANUARY 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) - Mass Book Pg 129

(Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 4:1-4;4:14-21)

Today's gospel gives us two beginnings. The beginning of the gospel itself, in which St Luke outlines what he sees as his task: creating an orderly account of the ministry of Jesus based on eye-witness testimony, so that his reader 'may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught'. And then the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, in which Our Lord announces his great task using the words of the prophet Isaiah. Good news for the poor, liberty for captives and the oppressed, recovery of sight to the blind. These words have a spiritual as well as literal meaning, for this 'year of the Lord's favour' will accomplish liberty for all held bondage to sin and death, true sight for those whose vision is clouded by sin, and good news for all who recognise their need of something the world cannot provide.



We have already encountered Luke during Advent and Christmastide. In between the two 'beginnings' we hear today Luke gives us the familiar accounts of the annunciation, the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of our saviour. But this Sunday we begin in earnest our journey through the gospel of the year, and it is fittingly designated the Sunday of the Word of God for this very reason. This is a relatively new celebration instituted by Pope Francis so that we may come to a deeper appreciation of the gift that is Sacred Scripture.

So who is St Luke, who we shall spend so much time with this year? He was not himself one of Our Lord's disciples. He was, however, a companion and disciple of St Paul, as well as being a physician (see Colossians 4.14). He is believed to have been personally acquainted with Our Lady, thus able to provide a glimpse of Our Lord's earliest beginnings. His gospel is the first part of a two-part account of the ministry of Jesus and the beginnings of the church, the second part being the book we know as the Acts of the Apostles. Luke approaches his task with the thoroughness of a historian, but also with a profound sense of conveying divine truth under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Indeed the Holy Spirit is a constant theme. The Gospel begins with Mary's overshadowing by the Holy Spirit at the annunciation and ends with Pentecost. Jesus ministry begins with the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, and his identification of himself as the one filled with the Spirit, which we hear today. Acts tells the story from Pentecost onwards of the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit at work in the church.

According to tradition Luke was also the first icon painter, and amongst icons venerated as his work (according to pious tradition rather than undisputed fact) are an icon of Our Lord and another of the Madonna and Child in Rome. We know that Luke spent time with Paul in Rome, and he is believed to have died as a martyr in Greece at the age of 84.

Today is close to the anniversary of the beginning of our own parish community. Two years ago Bishop Alan joined us to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the first St Joseph's Church on Sunnyside Gardens. We are indebted to the boldness, vision and generosity of those who made this happen. Just a decade or so later these qualities were evident again, as growth necessitated a new church, which we enjoy now. We are now looking to move forward, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, with those same qualities, not to build a new church but to contemplate how a new social centre may help our mission. Do come along to coffee this Sunday Morning to hear how this is going and to ask any questions you may have.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARISH MEETING: This Sunday (26th January) there will be a short open parish meeting over coffee in the Social Centre between the morning Masses. Please come along from 10 – the meeting will start around 10.15 and be finished by 10.45. The main purpose is to continue the conversation begun at the October Parish Meeting, regarding the possibility of a new Social Centre part-funded by the sale of St Peter's Hall in Cranham. If you weren't able to come in October this is a good chance to be part of this conversation; you can find a summary of that meeting on our website.

GIFT AID: We are approaching the time of year when we order the envelopes for those registered for Gift Aid. If you are not currently registered – which allows us to claim an extra 25% from HMRC on top of your giving to the parish – you can request a form from the parish office or download one from <https://stjosephschurchupminster.com/giving/>

CANDLEMAS (2nd February): Next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas. There are special ceremonies associated with this feast that we don't often have the opportunity to experience on a Sunday. Please note that the 11am Mass will be attended by our first communion group as one of their presentation Masses, and the 6.30pm Mass will be the enrolment Mass for the confirmation group.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUP: The next class for children preparing for First Holy Communion is this Monday (28th).

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE - SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, 19TH – 26TH JULY 2025: Open to anyone in school year 10 and above. Join the BCYS for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting the adult pilgrimage in a week of prayer, service and fun! All details can be found at <http://www.bcys.net/events/sl25>. Funding and bursary opportunities are available. Register by the end of January.

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

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.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Brenda Cridge, Elizabeth Joan Walsh and Juliana Skelker who died recently. , Brenda's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Thursday 6th February at 1.30pm and Elizabeth's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Wednesday 26th February at 1pm. Juliana's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Friday 7th March at 11am. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

LOURDES SICK HELPERS—SECOND COLLECTION: Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses over the weekend of 8th / 9th February in aid of the Lourdes Sick Helpers fund.

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>

RAINBOWS, BROWNIES & GUIDES: Spaces exists in our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide groups. Meetings take place on Thursday evenings at St Peter's Hall, Front Lane, Cranham. We are a friendly bunch and welcome girls who would like to make friends. Our activities are many and varied. Last year many learnt new skills through badge work. We enjoy playing games, craft and cooking. We have enjoyed trips to the cinema, pantomime and Thames Chase and the guides enjoyed 2 nights away at camp last summer. Girls are warmly invited to come along for a taster evening. Please email dianeconsultants@gmail.com

DOM'S FRENCH SUPPER 8PM SAT 1ST MAR 2025: in the Social Club in aid of Medecins sans Frontieres UK. £15 per head. Two courses: main (pork in cider) and dessert. I can provide a veggie/vegan main for no more than 8 diners. To attend please leave names and money in an envelope marked 'French Supper' with Parish Office or email me: dom.argenthall@btinternet.com

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Maureen Springham, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod, Lisa Bostock, Jason Hamilton-Ramm, Thomas Presland and Pat Danagher.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)
Mon 27th Jan 9.15am	Joan Finigan RIP 25th Anniv. (Mick)
Tues 28th Jan 9.15am	ST THOMAS AQUINAS, PR, D Dwayne Kee's Intentions (Mum) (With our year 6 children)
Wed 29th Jan 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Jerry Dennehy RIP Anniv. (Regan Family) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 30th Jan 9.15am	For the intentions of Brian & Maureen Springham
Frid 31st Jan 9.15am	ST JOHN BOSCO, PR Margaret De St Jorre RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sat 1st Feb 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)
Sun 2nd Feb 9.00am 11.00am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Pauline Clark & Walter Enns RIP (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**