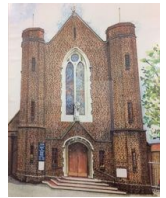




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

15TH / 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 139

(Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26)

The theme for this present Jubilee Year is Pilgrims of Hope. I have had the opportunity to be on pilgrimage in Lourdes during the past week, whilst making arrangements for the summer diocesan pilgrimage. During the course of the year some of us will have the opportunity to go on pilgrimage to Rome, the place most associated with the Jubilee. But I know that this is not possible for the majority of people. I am also hoping to arrange other pilgrimages for the parish during the course of the year, to Bradwell-on-Sea, where St Cedd landed from Lindisfarne to bring the good news to Essex (this will be a family day out for the summer months), and a walking pilgrimage to the mother church of our diocese, Brentwood Cathedral. A group will set out from our parish during Easter week to begin a somewhat longer walking pilgrimage to Canterbury, following a well established annual tradition.



A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place. The journey itself is an opportunity for spiritual growth, to become more aware of our need of the one who calls us onward. Every pilgrimage is filled with anticipation and hope: without hope, there would be no reason to continue on the journey. But what is it that we hope for? Surely, the fulfilment of our deepest longing, which is for God, the one who has made us for himself. We may certainly carry in our hearts many good desires which we would long – and even hope – to see fulfilled; the health and happiness of our loved ones, the peace and prosperity of our world, and end to the suffering of many people. But hope is above all a theological virtue, that is, something oriented to God, the infinite and eternal one, not confined to the possibilities of a finite world.

In our second reading today St Paul writes of the surest basis for our hope: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As St Paul says, 'If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.' Christ is risen, and we are risen: this is the joyful message we shall proclaim at Easter, but every Sunday, the Lord's Day, the beginning of a new week, is a mini-Easter, a celebration of the victory Christ has won for all of us. In Christ our hope is for nothing less than the eternal glory of heaven, and our life on earth is a pilgrimage to our true and everlasting home.

Pilgrims need sustenance, a sense of direction, and a reminder of their purpose. They may well need a guide, someone to accompany them who knows the way. In the Mass, we are given all these things: the food of holy communion, the guidance of the scriptures, a foretaste of the heavenly wedding feast, and the fellowship we enjoy with one another, and above all with Christ himself, the one who has gone before us to open the gates of life. May our hope be made secure by our risen Saviour.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

THIS WEEK: Fr Gerald Gostling will be celebrating the weekday Masses. There will be no lunchtime holy hour on Wednesday however the Saturday evening holy hours will take place as usual on 15th and 22nd.

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Joan Walsh, Juliana Skelker, Joseph Stedmon and Sheila Kathleen Furey who died recently. 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 and Joseph's funeral will be held here on Thursday 6th March at 2pm. Sheila's funeral will be held here on Thursday 13th March at 12.30pm. May Elizabeth, Juliana, Joseph and Sheila rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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 half term.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Friday 18 to Friday 25 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-brentwood/

SION COMMUNITY MARANATHA: Join us for Prayer and Praise on Thursday 20th February from 7.00 to 9.00pm. This month we will also include hosting The Rescue Project which seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over eight sessions. Join us for the first one at the Sion Community - Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX - All are welcome and there is no need to book, just come along. Teresa Carvalho and team.

SOCIAL CLUB SIX NATIONS RUGBY: The Club will be open from 4pm on Sat 22nd Feb and Sat 15th March. This is to show the 4:45pm England games. All welcome. More details on our socials: https://linkpop.com/stjosephs_cc

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

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

SAVE THE DATE' SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS: Thurs 27th Feb - Last few tickets for CAFOD Sip & Paint: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1531787> Sat 8th March - CAFOD Disco and Karaoke Party Night with DJ Freckle aka Chris Graves: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1569816> - tickets selling fast!

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 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) is a Christian voluntary group in our parish dedicated to tackling poverty in its many forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Visiting is at the centre of what we do; spending time befriending people is our greatest gift. As well as offering friendship and support, we help with food, clothes, furniture and financial help where possible. If you know of any individual or family in our community who may need our support then please let the SVP know, either by contacting the parish office or Peter Jones on 07932 539106 or email PresidentA030708@svp.org.uk

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 1st March (9.45 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.) Further information at www adaywithmary.org/ or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

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 and John Mylod, Lisa Bostock, Jason Hamilton-Ramm, Thomas Presland and Pat Danagher.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES: Emilio Papa, Bernadette O'Riley, Mike Gulvin, Stephen Devine, Gillian Cross, John Dance, Norah Houghton, John Donaghue, Elsie Morris, Betty Dean, Francesca Coda, Henry Patience, Grace Louise Robinson, Mary Oliver, Frederick Caldon, Anne Johnson, Ann Vincent, Jean Simpson, Andrew O'Callaghan, Hilda Dawkins, Jean Meldrum, Margaret Booth, David McCardle, Elvira Rayment, Julie Pursey, John Quinn, Suzanne Desport, Mary Collins, Zoe Burns, John Foley, Timothy O'Driscoll, Mary Dolby, Alice Phizacklea, Bridget Woolward, Tom Hunt, Gertrude Tucker, Jean Power, Doris Hay, Thomas Ellis, Lilian Kane, Mary Donoghue, Monica Allen, Violet Gilham, Michael Rynne, Anne Richards, Margaret Donald, Josphe Newman, James Gillan, Allwynne Aberdeen, Julian Winn, Oliver Baker, Kathleen Francis, Ethel Bowden, Brenda Wood, George Attwood, Julia Croly, Eileen Walters, Cissie Scullion, Thomas Coffey, Mary Humphreys, Dermot Horgan, John Kirk, Rosa Moysé, Florence Phillips, Madge Servis, Amelia Benjamin, Keith Ridley, John Dampster, Joan Cathery, Patrick Conlon, Ron Gilbert, Henry Marler, Elizabeth Faughnan, Asher Goldstein, Herbert Dolby, Maurice Keys, Henry Murphy, Hilda Kelly, Charles Butcher, Dennis Brazeley, Lilian Dunne, George Holden, Peggy Paveley, Lucy Pritchard, Kathleen Keilich, Isobelle Lamma, Sarah McEvoy, William Austin, Margaret Hinchin, Charles Croly, Edward Cross, Dr John Ellis, Florence Frappell, Catherine Hunte, Frances Good and Thomas Tevenan. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 15th Feb

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

John & Mary Donoghue RIP (Larner)

Sun 16th Feb

9.00am

11.00am

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Fr John Tuohy's Anniversary Intentions (Leonard)

People of the parish

Mon 17th Feb

9.15am

Robin Clist RIP (Family)

Tues 18th Feb

9.15am

Pat Ives RIP (Catenian Association)

Wed 19th Feb

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

John Quinn RIP (Lynch)

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 20th Feb

9.15am

Rita Clooney RIP (Ledwidge)

Frid 21st Feb

9.15am

Patrick Conlon RIP Anniv. (Davin)

Sat 22nd Feb

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

Sun 23rd Feb

9.00am

11.00am

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Ngoni Wilfred Pawadyira RIP 1st Anniv. (Folk Group)

Michael Cooper RIP Anniv. (Cooper 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