



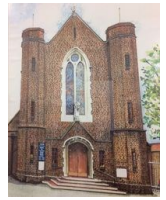
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

8TH / 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 135

(Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11)

On 11th February 1858 a 14-year-old girl from a poor family was gathering firewood with some friends, near a rubbish dump on the outskirts of the village of Lourdes, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. Suddenly she saw a beautiful woman dress in white, silently praying the Rosary. The young girl, Bernadette, returned to the spot a number of times in the days after, and on the third occasion the Lady asked her to return every day for the next 15 days. News of this occurrence spread around the town, attracting curiosity, feverish excitement and opposition. On 25th February, the Lady instructed Bernadette to wash in a spring that wasn't there; Bernadette scabbled in the dirt with her hands and soon water miraculously welled up from the ground. Days later the first miraculous healing of Lourdes occurred. Throughout this time the local clergy were careful not to give any support to the phenomenon. When Bernadette carried out the Lady's instruction to request that the priests build a chapel, and people come in procession, they responded that they needed to know the Lady's name: for Bernadette had made no claims about her identity, obvious though it may seem to us. At the end of the 15 days Bernadette received a response from the Lady, in the local dialect: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. This was enough to persuade the clergy – how could an illiterate peasant girl have known to refer to a doctrine only formally defined four years earlier? And if this was indeed Mary, the great Mother of God, how wonderful that she should confirm her identity by endorsing that extraordinary teaching which says so much about the working of divine grace and the unfolding of God's plan of salvation.



Lourdes has rapidly become one of the most visited pilgrimage shrines in the world: in recent times drawing more than three million pilgrims a year. Countless people have testified to the power of divine grace experienced through pilgrimage to Lourdes; 71 unexplained healings have been declared miracles of Lourdes following a rigorous process of investigation by doctors. The 71st such declaration, made the end of last year, concerns a wounded soldier from Liverpool, Jack Traynor,

dramatically cured of epilepsy and paralysis in 1923 during the diocese's first pilgrimage. But it is not just about miraculous healings: all who visit Lourdes with an open heart are changed in some way.

I have been privileged to travel to Lourdes nearly every summer since I was ordained, accompanying the young people who travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service alongside the main diocesan pilgrimage. It is always a joy to see the young people quickly enter into the spirit of the pilgrimage, heeding the call to serve others in this place where the sick and disabled are put first. This week I will be in Lourdes for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, on the anniversary of the first apparition, together with others involved in organising the diocesan pilgrimage in July. I will take the intentions of our Parish, especially the sick, with me.

The first Bishop of Brentwood had a particular devotion to Lourdes, and so it is under this title that Our Lady is invoked as principal patroness of our diocese. Every year at this time we hold a second collection to help with the costs of taking people with additional needs on pilgrimage, such as providing medical equipment and supporting the doctors and nurses who travel with us. Please be generous in supporting this appeal. And do consider whether, especially in this Jubilee Year, it might be possible for you to join Bishop Alan on pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARKING CAMERAS: Please be aware that the parking restrictions on Champion Road are now enforced by camera. Those who stop even briefly on the school zig-zag markings risk receiving a fine. If you are calling at the Presbytery (even if briefly dropping something off) please park in the church park.

THIS WEEK: Many thanks to Fr Gerald Gostling for suppling while Fr Matthew is in Lourdes. Please note that there is no Holy Hour before Mass on Saturday 8th, nor at lunchtime on Wednesday 12th. There will also not be a lunchtime Holy Hour on Wednesday 20th.

MARRIAGE WEEK: 7th-14th February is National Marriage Week. Please pray for couples living the vocation to marriage, for those preparing for married life, for those who are widowed, and those who are struggling with difficult situations in their family life. The Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 21st June - if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year please let your parish priest know. In a message for this week the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes 'the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us'. Read the whole message on the Bishops' Conference website cbcew.org.uk

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

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Joan Walsh, Juliana Skelker and Joseph Stedmon 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. May Elizabeth, Juliana and Joseph 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/

SOCIAL CLUB SIX NATIONS RUGBY: The Club will be open from 4pm on Sat 8th Feb, Sat 22nd Feb, Sat 15th March. This is to show the 4:45pm England games. All welcome. More details on our socials: https://linkpop.com/stjosephs_cc

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.argenthal@btinternet.com**

'SAVE THE DATE' SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS: Fri 14th Feb - Valentine's Day Cocktails (no ticket required), 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!

RAINHAM FOODBANK: A big thank you for donations received during the months of December and January. The items weighed 115kg in total. Please continue your generosity by giving non-perishable, in-date, unopened groceries and toiletries. They are much-needed during these winter months especially. Please put them in the black bin-shaped container at the back of church. Margaret Holden is happy to facilitate larger donations eg from workplaces and schools. Thank you.

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 8th Feb

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

David McCardle RIP Anniv. (Family)

Sun 9th Feb

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

People of the parish

11.00am

John Quinn RIP Anniv. (Quinn)

Mon 10th Feb

ST SCHOLASTICA, V

9.15am

Charles Cantwell RIP B'day (Pauline)

Tues 11th Feb

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

9.15am

Bernard Hall RIP (Talbot) (With our year 4 children)

Wed 12th Feb

9.15am

For the intentions of Thomas Presland (Leech)

12 noon—1pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 13th Feb

9.15am

Lawrence O'Brien RIP (Biggs)

Frid 14th Feb

ST CYRIL, M & ST METHODIUS, B

9.15am

For the intentions of the Fowley family (Matton)

Sat 15th Feb

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

John & Mary Donoghue RIP (Larner)

Sun 16th Feb

SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am

Fr John Tuohy's Anniversary Intentions (Leonard)

11.00am

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