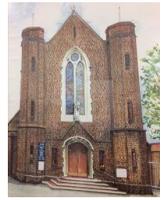




# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi  
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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

15TH / 16TH MARCH 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C) - Mass Book Pg 156

(Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Phillipians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28b-36)

The Latin words high in the sanctuary of our church connect our Lord's earthly life with his real presence in the sacrament of the Eucharist. "On the cross his divinity was hidden; here (on the altar) his humanity is hidden as well". The first part has an extra resonance today. It was not only on the cross that Our Lord's divinity was hidden, but for most of his thirty years on earth. Today's gospel is an exception: his true identity not merely discernible in a deed of divine power; but on show in a terrifying and dazzling display of divine glory.



This vision of our glorified Lord, accompanied by Moses and Elijah, is granted to Peter, James and John, to encourage and strengthen them for what lies ahead. We hear it on the second Sunday of Lent for the same purpose. In last week's gospel Our Lord shares our humanity to the full, experiencing temptation in the desert; today we see the other half of the divine exchange: the glory that he shares with us. This vision, recounted for our benefit, contains a promise of what we shall become if we allow Christ to remake us in his image.

The theme of the Jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope, also has a special resonance in this season of conversion. We journey through Lent, looking forward to the celebration of Easter; and we journey through life, with the hope and promise that risen life of Christ will be our life as well. Our hope is not limited to what this world might have to offer. Our hope is for nothing less than a share in divine glory.

As Pilgrims of Hope, we journey together, and are called to encourage one another, in other words, to be signs of hope to one another. Later in the gospel, at the last supper, Our Lord tells Peter to encourage and

strengthen his brothers, and we must do the same. For my part, it was a source of great hope and encouragement to see so many people at the two parish Masses on Ash Wednesday. I hope our young people preparing for confirmation will have been encouraged by their experience of joining with ten thousand young Catholics from around the country at Wembley Arena for the Flame congress taking place this Saturday. I know that the presence of our young people at mass is a source of hope for many of us (though many absent last week – for their confirmation retreat – as well as this week, because of Flame). Indeed, we never know how our presence at Mass – perhaps on a Sunday we didn't really feel like coming – will have encouraged another person in church who we might not even know.

We are here – week by week – because of the hope we have in Christ, and because being here reinforces that hope. Let us hold on to the other half of that inscription above the altar. Though hidden from view – his humanity as well as his divinity – in the form of bread and wine given to us as the food of eternal life, Jesus is truly with us as our companion on this pilgrimage. It is good for us to be here!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**CAFOD:** Following Friday's Cafod Lent Family Fast day, there will be a second collection this weekend in support of Cafod's work amongst those in need in our world. Throughout Lent it will be possible to contribute to this work via the donation screens in the porch.

**ROME PILGRIMAGE:** One or two places are still available on our Rome and Assisi pilgrimage in October, but bookings need to be finalised very soon. Please speak to Fr Matthew this weekend if interested.

**ST JOSEPH:** Together with the whole church we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph, patron of our parish and patron of the universal church, on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. We may relax our Lenten fast on this day.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Each Friday evening in Lent we share the Way of the Cross with our neighbours at St Laurence's. This Friday (21/3) this takes place at **St Laurence's church** at 7.30pm.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS:** Training for new altar servers (who have already made their first communion) will begin after the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, lasting about 20 minutes.

**RIP JOHN MYLOD:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Mylod who died recently. His funeral will be held here on Thursday 10th April at 10.30am. May John rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**DOM'S FRENCH SUPPER NIGHT 1 MARCH 2025:** Thanks to those who attended and several generous donations from those who could not attend and on the night, I am very pleased to report that £395 was raised for Medecins Sans Frontieres (UK) /Doctors Without Borders. Thanks also to Johnson and Sons Butchers, Corbets Tey Road, for a significant discount on the meat.

**ST PATRICK'S WEEKEND:** Saturday 15th March: The Club will be open from 1:30pm to show all 3 final 6 Nations games including Ireland at 2:15pm and England at 4:45pm. Sunday 16th March: The Club will be open 2 to 5:30pm for a family afternoon with activities, arts and crafts, snacks and music. Neither event is ticketed, and both are free entry to all! More details on our socials: [www.linkpop.com/stjosephs\\_cc](http://www.linkpop.com/stjosephs_cc)

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Please note that the last children's liturgy before Easter will be on 30th March and we will start back after Easter on 27th April.

**BRENTWOOD URSULINE - 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** To mark out 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025, followed by a community celebration at Brentwood Ursuline, from 1pm-5pm. For further details and to book a place at the event, please refer to the school's website: [www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk)

**ACCOMMODATION NEEDED:** Patience from our parish is looking for a 2-3 bedroom flat to rent in Hornchurch / Upminster. Please contact her on 0753-474-9109 if you can help.

**CANTERBURY WALK QUIZ NIGHT:** To support this year's walk, the Canterbury Walk Committee is hosting a **Quiz Night** at **St Joseph's Social Club on Saturday, 22nd March**. Tickets are **£10 per person** and can be purchased by emailing [stjosephscanterburywalk@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephscanterburywalk@gmail.com) or contacting **Andrew Pearce at 07903 654288**. Gather your team (maximum of six per table) and join us for an evening of trivia, fun, and friendly competition. Test your knowledge across a range of topics, take part in the raffle, and be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes. It promises to be a great night in support of The Canterbury Walk.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 15th March</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Dinkie (Dympna) Burke RIP 2nd Anniv.(Burke)
<b>Sun 16th March</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> People of the parish Margaret & Michael Nicholson RIP Anniv. (Galt)
<b>Mon 17th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>ST PATRICK, B, PATRON OF IRELAND</b> For the intentions of Thomas Presland (Slattery)
<b>Tues 18th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT</b> Sheila Nugent RIP (Ryan Family)
<b>Wed 19th March</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	<b>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> People of the parish <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 20th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT</b> Maria Chainey RIP Birthday
<b>Frid 21st March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT</b> Dolores Marie McLean's Intentions (Perry Family)
<b>Sat 22nd March</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Pat Harris RIP (Imelda & Family)
<b>Sun 23rd March</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> People of the parish Cornelius Coughlan RIP Anniv. (Cornelius)

## USEFUL INFORMATION

**EUCHARISTIC 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](http://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**