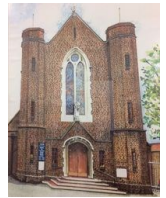




# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

22ND / 23RD MARCH 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C) - Mass Book Pg 160

(Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9)

The three middle Sundays of Lent have a special place in the preparation for those to be baptised at Easter. On each Sunday a rite known as a 'scrutiny' takes place. Catechumens are urged to scrutinise themselves in the light of the gospel, to be more aware of their need for God, the help of the sacraments, and the conversion of life that allows us to become more fully alive in God. It is, of course, good for all of us to become more deeply aware of these things as part of our own Lenten journey. The Scrutinies will be celebrated at the 11am Mass and we should keep our catechumen Hiren in our prayers, along with his family, as well as our candidate for reception into the full communion of the church, Niall. When the Scrutinies are celebrated we always use different prayers for the Mass as well as the year A readings (this week, page 163 in the purple book).



The gospels associated with the Scrutinies have since ancient times been seen to have a special resonance with the journey towards baptism. For the first Scrutiny this week it is the gospel of the Samaritan Woman at the well, who responds to Jesus' offer of living water with growing faith and desire for the newness of life that is on offer.

The year C readings which are used at the other Masses (p.160) have a different focus. In the first reading we hear of Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush. God reveals himself as the one who simply is – 'I AM' – as well as being the God who had first revealed himself to Moses' ancestors. And then he tells Moses that he has heard the cry of his people, and was going to bring them out of slavery into the promised land. Note that he does not offer them a quick fix: a long and difficult journey lay ahead of them. But he is faithful, and will not abandon them. This points us towards the beginnings of a response to the hardest question of all, which the gospel sets before us. Why does God allow suffering? It is a

question which we cannot avoid wrestling with, and for many it is an insurmountable obstacle to faith. We are confronted with terrible suffering on our screens, and perhaps in our own lives. Where is God? We cannot fully answer the 'why', but in response to the later question we can point to the cross. And we also point to the empty tomb, Christ's victory over suffering and death, and the promise that all will be made new. This is the hope that sustains us and calls us on, knowing that God will never leave us.

On Tuesday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation, another day 'off' Lent. A few years ago it coincided with Good Friday, and there is profound fittingness that the day the work of our redemption was 'finished' should occur at the same time of year as the day when it all began. Our Lord's 'yes' to the Father preceded by his mother's 'yes' to God, undoing the 'no' of Adam and Eve. There is a connection with the burning bush. God does not impose himself on us but acts with infinite courtesy. He does not override our free will; this is part of the reason evil and suffering exist for now. Thus like the burning bush our human nature, with its innate freedom and dignity, remains intact, unconsumed but transformed by the presence of the divine in our midst. May our hearts be set on fire with love for the one who loves us so dearly!

God bless, Fr Matthew.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Thanks to a wonderful team of Catechists we are able to offer a children's liturgy during the 9am Mass every Sunday in term time. However as numbers increase, it is essential that we have additional adults (with a diocesan DBS certificate) to ensure we operate with appropriate ratios and don't have to turn children away. If you think you can help, please email the parish office or speak to one of the existing leaders/helpers. It needn't be every week!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** This week our Friday Lenten devotion following the Way of the Cross takes place here at St Joseph's, at 7.30pm.

**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.

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN DAY OF RETREAT:** Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX. Wednesday 26th March 2025 10am—3pm. For more info please contact John Sparks [sparksjohn1964@gmail.com](mailto:sparksjohn1964@gmail.com)

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER:** The main timings for the Easter Triduum are as follows: Holy (Maundy) Thursday Mass at 8pm; Good Friday Liturgy at 3pm; Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 9pm. Please note that Easter Vigil is later than last year because Easter occurs later in the year, and the vigil cannot start until after nightfall. Mass times on Easter Day as usual.

**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.

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:** Clarence Barrett, Lilian Conrad, Mary Pennell, Wanda Wojtecki, Elizah James (Dot), Sr. Tarcisius, Margaret Eberle, Diana Fairchild, Ernest Anthony, Heather Thompson, Fr Malachy Kelly, Dennis John King, Doreen Glavin, Erna Crawley, Eileen Gilham, Joan Grant, Stephanie Dunn, Patrick Raftery, Eileen Noyes, Norah Goldsmith, Sister Clare Ronan, Alan Goss, Susan Waters, Pauline O'Kelly, Harry Doyle, Bridget Casey, Airi Cipa, Caroline Walsh, Alan Noyes, John Merritt, Terence Williamson, Jessie Speight, Elvera Fyne, Charles Clark, John Galvin, Maureen Alford, Eileen Moore, Charles Slattery, Geoffrey Rogers, Patrick Connolly, Catherine (Florence) Reeves, Anne Lester, Wyndham Shearn, Ann Mary Breeze, Thomas Hall, Mary (Maura) O' Loughlin, Percy Sharp, William Dawkins, Maureen Lygoe, Brendan Horgan, Roger Gorman, Abigail Cottingham, David de Cruz, Geoffrey Garvan, Percy Main, Pearl Tayler, Michael Morrissey, Kevin Grace, Patrick Grace, Peggy O'Neil, Margaret Thoroughgood, David Finch, Jim Hoey, Len Williams, Mary Pipe, Emily Hoard, Elaine Cooper, Frank Cott, Miriam Gregory, Beatrice Kensington, Leonard Russell, Lucy Dorling, Elizabeth Wilson, Alice McDonnell, Josephine Best, David Fayers, Patrick Walsh, William Whitby, Samantha Donnelly, Vera Shearn, Catherine Scully, Catherine Engledow, Joyce Kelly, James Harle, Terry Baker, David Wisker, Kevin Coady, Dorothea Wortley, Kathleen Pinner, John Wisely, Robert Williams, Jenny O'Sullivan, Dennis Steer, Annie Saunders, David Walsh, Colin Bottle, Ronald Wilson, Elizabeth Morris, Margaret Joyce & Kathleen Verner. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: 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, Martyr 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.

**DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES:** [https://](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/schoolvacancies/)

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/schoolvacancies/](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/schoolvacancies/)

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<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)
<b>Mon 24th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT</b> Teresa Staunton RIP (Burke)
<b>Tues 25th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b> David Wisker RIP Anniv. (Family) (With our Year 1 Children)
<b>Wed 26th March</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT</b> Ellen Rogers RIP Anniv. (Mark & Family) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 27th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT</b> Sheila Nugent RIP (Langsford)
<b>Frid 28th March</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT</b>
<b>Sat 29th March</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Patrick & David Walsh RIP Anniv. (Margaret)
<b>Sun 30th March</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> People of the parish Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

## 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**