



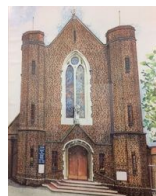
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

26TH / 27TH APRIL 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) - Mass Book Pg 256

(Acts 5:12-6, Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19, John 20:29)

Last Sunday we celebrated the greatest, most significant news in the history of the human race: the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. An event so momentous that we celebrate for 50 days, the longest season of the church's year (longer than Lent, for the season of rejoicing must be greater than the season of preparation). The joy of Easter flows in a particular way into the week that follows, sometimes described as a week of Sundays, the period known as the Easter Octave which comes to an end today. Today's gospel, describing two appearances of the Risen Lord a week apart, gives us an opportunity once more to reflect both on the loving mercy of God revealed in the still-visible wounds of our saviour, and the reality of the resurrection, in which the risen Lord appears in a glorified body, but still a human body – his body. The additional designation of this Sunday by Pope John Paul II as the Feast of Divine Mercy fits perfectly with these themes. It was truly wonderful to see so many coming to celebrate the resurrection, with the church overflowing with people of all ages at both of the morning Masses. This also is news-worthy, and indeed chimes in with stories that have appeared in the mainstream media over the Easter weekend of a growing



number of people turning to the Catholic faith.

It is within this context that we received another sadder piece of news: the death of our Holy Father Pope Francis on Monday morning. We know that his death does not trump the celebration of Easter but quite the opposite: it is the celebration of Easter which gives us the proper basis for understanding the death of our Pope, the death of all who are dear to us, and the fact of our own mortality. To a Christian sensibility, given that death must come to us all, how wonderful that this follower and shepherd of Jesus Christ should reach the end of his earthly pilgrimage having concluded the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord and blessed the faithful one last Easter Day. There is no better time to begin one's final journey to the Father's house.

Although I became a Catholic and was ordained during the pontificate of Benedict XVI, Francis has been the pope for most of my priestly ministry. I had the privilege of concelebrating with Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in Dublin. No doubt there are different images that each of us will hold on to when we think of his ministry as successor of Peter, but two in particular come to mind. One, very appropriate today, is the picture of him kneeling as a penitent at one of the confessionals in St Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis often spoke about the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation – famously his reply to the interviewer asking 'who is Pope Francis?' was 'a sinner'. Fittingly the gift of this sacrament is described in the gospel we hear today, on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Another image that comes to mind is of the Pope standing alone, blessing the city and the world with the Blessed Sacrament early in the Covid pandemic. This demonstrated a profound belief that prayer should be our first response to any situation we are confronted with, prayer centred on the one who chooses to abide with us and who suffered on the cross in solidarity with us, and above all provides us with a sure reason to hope.

Pope Francis's baptismal name was George (Jorge). It so happened that the day I was able to offer Mass for him during the week was the usual date of the feast of St George. As the Easter Octave displaces all other celebrations, our national patronal feast day is transferred to Monday, and I have chosen this day within the official mourning period to celebrate a Mass of Requiem for the late Holy Father, at 7pm.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

O God, who in your wondrous providence chose your servant Francis to preside over your Church, grant, we pray, that, having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth, he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



FROM FR MATTHEW: Many thanks for your generous gifts, cards and contributions to the Easter offering. This is much appreciated, as are your prayers.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: If you use the weekly giving envelopes, please remember to collect your box for the new financial year. After this week the boxes will be moved to the parish office.

RIP MAUREEN SPRINGHAM: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Springham who died recently. Maureen's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Tuesday 13th May at 12 noon. May Maureen rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th April at 2pm in social centre.

EASTER SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: Please pray for Hiren, Reena, Arvy and Jace to be baptised and/or confirmed at the 11am Mass this Divine Mercy Sunday. Please continue to pray for those received and baptised on Easter Day.

LONDON MARATHON - ANDY LEWIS WILL BE RUNNING 26.2 MILES FOR CAFOD THIS SUNDAY. Thank you to all those who have already sponsored and supporting fundraising. Please see here for more info and to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/andy-lewis-marathon-2025>

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CHOIR: If you enjoyed the music sung by the choir over the Easter Triduum then why not join us? The choir come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Christmas and Easter Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Obviously there is now a bit of a gap until we are together again, but if you are interested in taking part please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (18+), SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2025: A group of representatives from the BCYS (aged 18+), will join Bishop Alan and other parishes on pilgrimage to Walsingham, with opportunities for readers, servers, musicians and singers during the day. There will be Mass at the Basilica, walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey, Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. To apply to join the BCYS group and find more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

WALSINGHAM COACH: If you would like a place on the coach for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on 24th May (leaving St Mary's Hornchurch 6.45am) please contact Kathy O'Dea on 07932762608 or email St Mary's Parish office hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 26th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Sonny & Kathleen Brennan & Margaret RIP (Family)
Sun 27th April 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER People of the parish Robin Clist RIP (Family)
Mon 28th April 9.15am 7.00pm	ST GEORGE, M Michael Sullivan RIP (Campbell) Requiem Mass for Pope Francis
Tues 29th April 9.15am	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V, D For the intentions of the Ives family (Bridget)
Wed 30th April 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	WEDNESDAY AFTER THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Private Intention ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 1st May 9.15am	THURSDAY AFTER THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Paddy McLoughlin RIP (Mary)
Frid 2nd May 9.15am	ST ATHANASIUS, BP, D John Gibbs RIP Anniv. (Gibbs/Quinn)
Sat 3rd May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SS PHILIP AND JAMES, APP ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS John Scully RIP Anniv. (Mary)
Sun 4th May 9.00am 11.00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER People of the parish For the intentions of the Emodi Family (Emodi)

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* **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**