



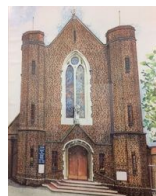
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

19TH 20TH APRIL 2025

EASTER SUNDAY (C) - Mass Book Pg 252

(Acts 10:34a,37-43, Colossians 3.1-4, John 20.1-9)

ALLELUIA! THE LORD IS TRULY RISEN!

A new day dawns, a day that is much like any other: except for those who on waking must remind themselves that something has gone for ever, a new reality that is only just beginning to sink in. Like those women who set out in the early light, filled with grief, to complete the burial rites that had been interrupted by the sabbath. And Mary Magdalen, who simply wanted to be close to the body of her Lord. And the eleven, in hiding, uncertain what to do next. But it soon becomes apparent that this new day is not just like any other, and the dawn brings to light an even newer reality, a newness which confounds what everyone knew for certain about life, and death.

The good news of Easter isn't just a vague hope that things will turn out ok, not quite as bad as once thought. It is something utterly new. The one who was crucified and buried is not just brought back to life like a reanimated corpse, but risen and glorified, and his victory over the grave releases all of humanity from death's final power.

The day which saw the discovery of the empty tomb and those first encounters with the risen Christ, cannot be compared with any day before or since. Early Christians described Easter Sunday as the 8th day – the beginning of something utterly new, a new creation. We are invited to live in this new day. That is why every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, a mini-Easter, the Lord's Day.

In a world that is always looking for something new, and gets tired of the old very quickly, let us rejoice in the eternal newness of Easter: for though it is grounded in historical events that took place centuries ago, the Christian message is indeed always 'new'. So new for the disciples they



could not believe it at first. Dead people stay dead, and Jesus was, without a shadow of a doubt, dead. But when they did believe, and came to understand the significance of what had happened, they were ready to die for it! It should be new for us too, each time we hear it, because it is so utterly beyond our comprehension: that God should love us so much that he wants us to share our life, and that he wants this so much that he found a way to do the one thing he couldn't do as God, that is, to die! He took our mortal flesh, suffered and died, so that we could have a share in his divine life, and become immortal.

It only stops being new if we reduce it to a nice story, something that doesn't directly impact on us and call for a radical change of life. Of course, for many people it is just that: a nice story, at least if you play down the nasty bits and focus on the happy ending. Or, more cynically, its just wishful thinking, something that is of no relevance to us. Do we not still die, after all? Better to live for this world, than to worry about what something that may or may not have happened once upon a time.

But what if God does in fact care so deeply that he entered into our wounded existence, to transform and heal it from within, without taking away our freedom but in fact setting us free from all that holds us back, so that we can live life to the full. This would indeed be something new, but it requires us to place our trust in him, and be ready to live in this new reality, rather than remain in the old way.

As we renew our baptismal promises today – or indeed if we are making them for the very first time – we should know that we do so in company with an extraordinary number of people who have come to place their trust in the one who has made all things new. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are what make God's love real for us, and make it possible for us to know God and love him, and live with him for ever. Let us rejoice today: for Christ is alive; love is proved stronger than death; and the whole world is bathed in the light of his glory.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

THANK YOU: On behalf of the whole parish, heartfelt thanks to all those who have worked extremely hard to contribute to our celebration of Holy Week and Easter, behind the scenes and in visible roles: including cleaners, flower arrangers, musicians, servers, readers, welcomers and extraordinary ministers of holy communion.

EASTER MONDAY: Please note that Mass will be at the later time of 10am on the bank holiday Monday.

CANTERBURY WALK: The group of pilgrims from our parish walking the ancient pilgrimage way to Canterbury will set off after the Mass on Wednesday of this week, which is at the earlier time of 9am.

HOLY HOUR: Please note there is no holy hour this Wednesday due to the funeral of James Kearn's at Upminster Crematorium.

EASTER OFFERING: The collection at Mass on Easter day forms a significant part of the priest's income. Please note that standing orders are not counted as part of this, only what is put in the collection bag on Easter day, or what is otherwise given specifically for the Easter offering (either in an envelope, online or by card). The Easter Offering can be gift-aided in the usual way.

EASTER SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: Congratulations to Niall and Nina, to be received into the full communion of the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil, and Violet, Arthur and Olivia who are to be baptised at the 11am Mass on Easter Day. Please pray for Hiren, Reena, Jace and Arvy to be baptised and/or confirmed at the 11am Mass next Sunday, and for all those who are to be baptised, confirmed or make their first holy communion during the Easter season.

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

BRENTWOOD URSULINE - 125TH ANNIVERSARY: To mark our 125th anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26th 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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 24TH MAY 2025: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. A coach has been arranged to pick up from St Mary's Hornchurch at 6.45am and will return at around 7pm. The coach cost is £20 per person, but spaces are limited, so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If you would like to join, please contact Kathy O'Dea on 07932762608 or email St Mary's Parish office hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB - Please note the Club is closed 19th/20th April. GERTCHA live music - Saturday 26th April: last few tickets remaining: <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/1637058>

CASUAL EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS are required for May, June and July at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster. There will be opportunities for part-day and full day work depending on our needs and your availability. We are seeking responsible people who enjoy working with young people. The pay rate is £14.56 per hour. If you are interested, please email the school on kjones@mary.havering.sch.uk for an application form.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 19th April

5.30pm—6.15pm

9pm

Sun 20th April

9.00am

11.00am

Mon 21st April

10.00am

Tues 22nd April

9.15am

Wed 23rd April

9.00am

12 noon—1pm

Thur 24th April

9.15am

Frid 25th April

9.15am

Sat 26th April

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 27th April

9.00am

11.00am

CONFESSIONS

Easter Vigil—For those being received and baptised

EASTER SUNDAY

People of the parish

Patrick and Mary O'Bonnell RIP (O'Donnell)

EASTER MONDAY

Pat Coleman RIP (Meany/Calver)

EASTER TUESDAY

Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

EASTER WEDNESDAY

Pope Francis RIP (*with our Canterbury Walk Pilgrims*)

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

EASTER THURSDAY

Sylvia Hance RIP (Lucy)

EASTER FRIDAY

Dennis O'Sullivan RIP B'day (O'Sullivan)

EASTER SATURDAY

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Sonny & Kathleen Brennan & Margaret RIP (Family)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

People of the Parish

Robin Clist RIP (family) (*with holy baptism and confirmation*)

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**