



# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

**Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi**

**Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward**

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**17TH/ 18TH MAY 2025**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) - Mass Book Pg 265

(Acts 14:21b-27, Apocalypse 21:1-5a, John 13:31-33a, 34-35)

This Sunday sees the solemn inauguration of the Petrine ministry of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. This has been the practice since Pope John Paul I, who felt the times called for something simpler than the customary papal coronation, a ceremony people would typically associate with claims of worldly sovereignty.



Part of the old coronation ritual nevertheless provided an important counter-balance to such ideas of worldly power, and offers food for contemplation in the light of this week's gospel. During the entrance procession a papal MC would halt the procession three times and, holding a bundle of burning cloth, declare '*Sic transit gloria mundi*' – 'thus passes the glory of the world'.

We are, in fact, made for glory: that is a key part of the Easter proclamation. But not the glory of this world. At the last supper, just as the events leading to the passion are set in motion, Jesus declares 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.' Paradoxically, it is in embracing his suffering and death, thus rejecting all that the world holds dear, that Our Lord is glorified. And, even more staggeringly, the glory of God himself – Father Son and Holy Spirit – lies not in the vastness or diversity or beauty of creation, but in the most extravagant gesture of loving solidarity with his creatures. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> century church father Irenaeus of Lyons puts it, 'the Glory of God is man fully alive' – and we, the creatures made in his image and likeness, are no more fully alive than when we are alive in him, raised up to the heights of heaven by the one who came down to earth and descended to the depths of the underworld.

We tend to refer to the Holy Father by the word 'Pope', derived from 'papa', an affection term for a father in Greek that finds its way into other

languages including English. You may have noticed another, more formal-sounding word, used both in prayers and in media coverage (the media seem to like variety in their choice of words!) – ‘pontiff’.

Pope Leo in his first address described his desire to be a bridge builder; this is the literal meaning of ‘pontiff’ and thus a key part of his ministry. In first place, with those who share his apostolic ministry, it is to build a bridge between earth and heaven, a bridge founded on Jesus Christ himself, the original bridge. Also, between different groups within the church whose differing priorities sometimes have made it hard to see eye-to-eye; between the church and those on the margins, those who do not believe the church has anything to offer them; and perhaps, even helping to build bridges between warring factions through prayer and a witness to common human dignity.

Pope Leo’s motto, ‘In the One we are one’ expresses both the hope of what bridge-building might accomplish, and the reality of what we are as members of Christ’s body. ‘In the One’ we are not only one with each other, but one with Christ, and thus fully alive – sharing his glory, and giving glory to him. To God be glory for ever.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS:** Please pray for those members of our parish family who are to receive Our Lord in the eucharist for the first time this Sunday afternoon.

**CONFIRMATION GROUP:** Please pray for the young people of our parish preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Pentecost. They will take part in the Rite of Election with the Bishop in Brentwood Cathedral this Sunday afternoon, and will mark this parish’s choice of them as candidates for confirmation at the vigil Mass this Saturday. Confirmation itself will take place at the vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost.

**EASTERTIDE MEAL & FAITH TALK:** This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which give rise to the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass week-by-week. To celebrate the season of Easter and this anniversary you are invited to a shared meal, which will be followed by a talk on the background to the Creed and its significance to our faith. This will be on Tuesday 1st July.

**MARRIAGE MASS:** Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 21st June. If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year and would like to receive an invitation to this Mass please contact the parish office.

**EXAMS:** Prayers and good wishes to all in our parish community currently undergoing public exams. Remember the church is open for you if you ever want to pop in for a prayer or to light a candle before or after an exam.

**SPRINGHAM FAMILY THANK YOU:** Brian Springham and his family would like to thank all the parishioners at St Joseph's church and St Teresa's church Newbury Park for their condolences, love and support during this difficult time. It was wonderful to see so many at Maureen's funeral and to know how much she was loved. God bless you all.

**CDOT SUMMER CONCERT IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER UK:**

Saturday 14th June 2025 at 7.30pm St. Peter's Centre Cranham. Raffle/light refreshments. Adults - £10 and children £2. Tickets from Bernadette in the repository or phone/text 07825235727.

**ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP 2025:** For children aged 9-12 years old (school years 5-7), a week of great fun, activities including climbing wall and zip wire, fishing, football, archery and much more, all in a beautiful setting. The Camp has a Catholic ethos, and exists to give children a magnificent holiday. 26<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August. For more details, and application information: [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood.

**THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THEIR SUMMER LUNCHEON!** Join us for an elegant afternoon on **Friday, 13th June**, at The Lawn – a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house in Rochford. Enjoy exclusive use of the venue as we serve a delicious two-course luncheon in the Orangery, overlooking beautifully landscaped gardens. **Date:** Friday, 13th June **Venue:** The Lawn, Rochford. **Time:** 12.30 to 3.30pm **Seating:** Tables of 10 **Price:** £37.50 per person. Tickets are available now! Reserve your place by visiting our website: [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/) Or simply scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets directly.

**CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY:** This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 11am until 2 pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 17th May</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY AFTER THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> Edward Horigan RIP Anniv. (Family)
<b>Sun 18th May</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> People of the parish Bridget & James Gillan RIP (Gillan)
<b>Mon 19th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>MONDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Steven Goodsman RIP (Matton)
<b>Tues 20th May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>TUESDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Pete Sammon RIP (Sammon) (With our Year 3 children)
<b>Wed 21st May</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> For the intentions of Martin Nicholson (Galt) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 22nd May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>THURSDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Mary Coleman RIP (Dennehy)
<b>Frid 23rd May</b> <b>9.15am</b>	<b>FRIDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Donie & Maureen Muldoon RIP Anniv. (Angela)
<b>Sat 24th May</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>SATURDAY AFTER THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> James Sweeney (Grandad) RIP (Annabel & Charlotte)
<b>Sun 25th May</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> Kathleen Newell & Raechel Mathews RIP (Perry) 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* **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**