



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

31ST MAY / 1ST JUNE 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) - Mass Book Pg 275

(Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26)

The time between the Ascension of Our Lord (last Thursday) and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (next Sunday) is the original Novena – nine-day period – of prayer. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that following the Ascension the apostles returned to the Upper Room from the Mount of Olives and “with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers” and again, “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.”



In our gospel we are given a privileged glimpse of Our Lord's own prayer, which occurs at the Last Supper. In this prayer known as the High Priestly prayer – for it anticipates Jesus' offering himself on the cross as the sacrifice of the new covenant – Jesus prays specifically for his disciples and all who will come to believe in him through their testimony. He prays above all that they may not fall under the influence of the evil one, that they will remain in the truth, and that they will be one. These themes are connected, for the evil one is the father of lies and the one who scatters, causing suspicion, enmity and division amongst men and woman, and between God and man.

In the passage given to us this year, the final part of the prayer, the focus is on the unity of his followers in every age. The unity of the church is founded on the unity of God, a Trinity of three persons in one perfect communion. It is not merely an aspiration: we profess the Church to be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic when we say the Creed, because the church is the body of Christ; Christ is one and he is holy, and the mission he gave his church is a universal one, founded on the teaching of the apostles. It is a unity not merely by the fact of our belonging to a single institution, but above all a unity in love, for love is the essence of the

Trinity. The love that flows within the perfect communion that is God also flows within the members of his church, drawing us ever close to him, and to one another. This unity is not only an end in itself, but also a sign that we are called to give to the world, so that all may see and believe.

We are nevertheless works in progress. Our love is imperfect and often clouded by self-interest. Pride gets in the way; we think we know best. The story of the past two thousand years is one of sinners striving to be saints but certainly not always getting it right. At certain points disputes within the body of Christ have led to a breaking of the bonds of charity and communion which are meant to hold us together in the family of the church, and it has proved almost inevitable that groups who have broken away from communion with Catholic church have experienced further division within themselves. Our Lord prays at the Last Supper knowing the struggles his church will face. His prayer for unity must be our prayer too, and in praying we must strive to be ever more fully aligned with God's will, so that the love we have received may shape our every action and word. Let us pray for all who bear the name 'Christian', that we may be united once more in the breaking of the bread and the teaching of the apostles, and by our unity show that Christ is truly the Son of God sent as our saviour.

God bless, Fr Matthew

RIP NOTICES: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael McEneaney, Maureen Lockwood and Margaret Marshall who died recently. Michael's funeral will be held here on Wednesday 11th June at 11am and his body will be being received into the church on Tuesday 10th June at 4pm. Maureen's funeral is also being held here on Wednesday 4th June at 1pm. Margaret's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 10.30am. May Michael, Maureen and Margaret rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

CONFIRMATION: Please pray for the 36 young people of our parish who are due to be Confirmed at the 6.30pm Mass next Saturday evening, the vigil of Pentecost. This Mass is open to all, but is likely to be busier (and a little longer) than the Saturday evening Mass usually is.

CHURCHES TOGETHER UPMINSTER CRANHAM AND NORTH OCKENDON are celebrating the WEEK OF PRAYER (for Christian Unity) from Mon 2nd June. Join us at 11.30am Monday to Friday at St Joseph's Church for half hour of prayer and reflections. The Sunday Service is at 6pm at Upminster Baptist Church, Springfield Gardens. All welcome.

SAVE THE DATE: Enjoy some food, fellowship and faith formation in the Social Centre on Tuesday 1st July, more details to follow.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – MONTHLY YOUTH

MASS: On Thursday 5th June, Youth Mass will be held at Brentwood Cathedral, with a workshop looking at the key themes of Pentecost, and how we live out discipleship in the modern world. Join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for Pizza, refreshments and workshop, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral from 7:30pm. There is no need to book and no cost for this - please feel very welcome to come along and simply find out more about the BCYS and what they offer!

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025: Join Bishop Alan Lourdes from **Friday 18th to Friday 25th July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886666 or book online: tangney-tours.com/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**, 12.30 – 3.30 p.m. 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. 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/

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 7th June 2025** from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30 a.m. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

SION COMMUNITY CHARISMATIC TEACHING WEEKEND: From 6pm Friday 13th June to 2pm Sunday 15th June 2025 Theme: 'Moving in the Anointing'. This weekend is a great follow-up to 'Life in the Spirit' seminars and is especially aimed at those wishing to grow in the Charisms and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and learn to exercise them with more confidence. Guest Speaker: Allegra Mutanda. Cost: £130 residential, £100 non-residential. To book a place or for more information, visit <https://sioncommunity.churchsuite.com/events/ztjfwuwu>

CDOT SUMMER CONCERT IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER UK: Please note that this has been postponed—new date will be advised in due course..

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 31st May	DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN, BRENTWOOD
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 1st June	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00am	Winifred & Ronald Threadgill RIP (Threadgill)
11.00am	Joan Bearney RIP (Kehoe)
Mon 2nd June	
9.15am	Len Jones RIP Anniv. (Carter / Jones)
Tues 3rd June	ST CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPS, MM
9.15am	Noreen Harris RIP B'day
Wed 4th June	
9.15am	Dan Coakley RIP Anniv. (Family)
12 noon—12.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
1pm	Funeral service— Maureen Lockwood
Thur 5th June	ST BONIFACE. BP, M
9.15am	Caroline Campbell RIP (Galt)
Frid 6th June	
9.15am	Breege Kane RIP (Sammon)
Sat 7th June	
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 8th June	PENTECOST SUNDAY
9.00am	Catherine Smith's Special Intentions (Mum)
11.00am	June Corrigan RIP (Cantwell)

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.

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