



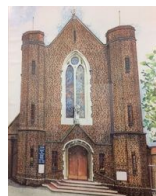
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

3RD / 4TH MAY 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) - Mass Book Pg 259

(Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19)

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary. Why is this? After all, the main feasts of Our Lady fall at other points in the year. Perhaps it is because the blooming of flowers and blossoming of trees reminds us of the unfolding of God's plan in her, through the extraordinary outpouring of divine grace and her ready co-operation with God in all things. Perhaps the beauty of creation, emerging in its glory after the greyness of winter, reminds us of this woman who is the greatest of all God's creatures, as well as providing us with a means of honouring her (and of course, ultimately, honouring God for what he has accomplished in and through her). There is also the fact that Eastertide largely contains the month of May – we share her joy at her Son's resurrection, having seen her unique participation in his suffering. Though she is mostly in the background, we know that she was close to the disciples, joining them in prayer as they gathered in the Upper Room to await the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Though we expect (and hope) that a decision will be reached long before we get to Pentecost, we know that Our Lady will be close to the Cardinal-electors as they begin their sacred task of discerning who should succeed Peter as the chief shepherd of the church.

Today's gospel includes the dialogue between Peter and Jesus which we heard at Pope Francis's funeral Mass. The charge given to Peter is given also to his successors, and requires of them, as St Peter came to realise, a complete reliance on the grace of God. Peter knows he has failed to show the highest measure of love that Jesus calls for; that may explain his growing frustration in this dialogue. But Jesus also points to a time when Peter will be called upon to make that ultimate sacrifice out of love.

Some theologians in recent decades have spoken of the church as having - and needing - both Marian and Petrine dimensions. The 'Petrine' dimension points to the apostolic ministry, established by Christ in the service of his people and entrusted to Peter in a particular way. A ministry

of encouraging his brothers and with them strengthening the life and faith of the whole communion of believers.

The 'Marian' dimension refers to the openness to the Holy Spirit, total surrender to the will of God, and responsiveness to the initiatives of divine grace, which Mary exemplifies perfectly. Mary is the great woman of faith: in every moment, from the staggering announcement of the incarnation to the harrowing experience of the cross, she trusts in God.

If Peter signifies the awesome responsibilities that Christ places on the earthenware vessels he calls to be his apostles in every generation, then Mary signifies the grace that fills those vessels. The grace that allows faith to continue and even grow during moments of great trial, such as Mary's great sorrow at the foot of the cross.

These two dimensions are not remotely in opposition. They can and must coexist not only in the church as a whole, but in each one of us. It is no coincidence that the most recent successors of St Peter have been very explicit about their devotion to the Mother of God. Faith - knowing and trusting Christ as saviour and friend - is the necessary glue that holds both dimensions together. Whatever qualities are deemed essential in our new Pope, surely none matters more than he be a person of deep prayer and personal faith.

Finally, if you have watched the film Conclave (or read the book), you don't need me to tell you it is a work of fiction. There has clearly been some effort put into creating a realistic depiction of the setting and procedures, but with a dramatic emphasis on politics, scheming and intrigue and not enough on prayer. But the media – which isn't supposed to be fiction – also tends to present things in one-dimensional terms, lacking nuance or a real understanding of the church. Let us entrust the process to God, pray for the Cardinals, and pray for whoever is elected as our next Pope. Our Lady, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St Peter, pray for us.

God bless, Fr Matthew

***O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your
Church who will please you by his holiness and
to us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.***



SECOND COLLECTION VOCATIONS: Please note that there will be second collection after all masses next weekend 10th / 11th May in aid of Vocations.

BAPTISMS: Congratulations to Henrietta Violet Bourne, Isla Mae Tynan, Penelope Patricia Tappenden who are being baptised this weekend. Also George Dawson-Clegg who is being baptised at the 11am mass.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES: Please pray for the children of our parish preparing to receive holy communion for the first time in Masses take place in the afternoon on the next two Sundays.

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.

ANGELUS, ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET HERE AT ST JOSEPH'S: During the month of May join our parishioners in celebrating Mary, the mother of God. Mondays and Wednesdays 12 o'clock for Angelus, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Pope Francis promoted reciting the Rosary and included the Memorare and Holy Michael prayers. He advocated strongly on Divine Mercy. During this May in addition to praying for Pope Francis we pray also for his successor after the forthcoming conclave.

PRAYER MINISTRY: Please note that members of our prayer ministry team will be available after all masses this weekend.

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.

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

DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/schoolvacancies/>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)
Mon 5th May 9.15am	MONDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Robert Healy RIP
Tues 6th May 9.15am	ST JOHN PAYNE, PR, M Mary Kelly RIP Anniv. (With our Year 5 children)
Wed 7th May 9.15am 11am	Maureen Springham RIP (Brian) Funeral mass—Annie Childs NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 8th May 9.15am	THURSDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER June Corrigan RIP B'day (Corrigan)
Frid 9th May 9.15am	FRIDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER For the intentions of Felicity Bemand-Qureshi
Sat 10th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS James Sweeney RIP (Eleanor & Clare)
Sun 11th May 9.00am 11.00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER People of the parish Alf Driscoll RIP Anniv. (Family)

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**