



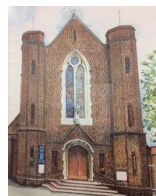
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

**Champion Road, Upminster**

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

**Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward**

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**14TH / 15TH JUNE 2025**

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (C) - Mass Book Pg 81

(Proverbs 8:22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15)

1700 years ago, Emperor Constantine called a council of bishops from across the empire, recognised as the first attempt to summon a general council of the whole church, i.e. an Ecumenical Council. Meeting in Nicaea in modern-day Turkey, its purpose was to resolve a number of disputes, notably regarding the date of Easter and, most significantly, the nature of Jesus Christ and his relation to God the Father. It produced the first version of the creed we say each week at Mass, expanded later that century by a new generation of bishops gathered for the second great council in Constantinople in 381 to set out in more detail the role of the Holy Spirit.



Today we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity – God's unique existence as communion of three persons whose distinct personhood does not compromise the oneness of God. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, to give it its full name, sets out our Trinitarian faith in a very careful and deliberate way. The central point under dispute at Nicaea was whether Jesus Christ could be considered fully divine and fully human. There were some – followers of the Bishop Arius - who argued that he was created, greater than the rest of creation but created nonetheless; neither fully divine nor fully human but somewhere in between. This was seen to be an easier answer than accepting two logical impossibilities; that one person could be both fully divine and fully human, and that God could still be considered one, even with a distinct Son considered God alongside the Father (at this stage the Holy Spirit hadn't quite received the same attention!). Those who stood on the side of orthodox truth (including Bishop Nicholas of Myra who famously came to blows with Arius in defence of the truth) realised that if the Father was eternally Father, then the Son must also be eternal. There could not have been a time when he was not. The poetic phrases we recite at Mass – 'God from God, light

from light, true God from true God', and the more challenging phrase 'consubstantial with the Father' – were chosen as a way of expressing this conviction in a language which couldn't be explained away by the Arians.

This might seem rather dense and too abstractly theological for some. But the Trinity is not merely a puzzle for academic theologians. It is the core of our belief, expressed every time we make the sign of the cross. It matters deeply to us, because it shapes our relationship to God and the purpose of our lives. It matters because we are made in the image and likeness of a God who is a perfect communion of love. We are therefore made for communion, not only with one another but also with God. In Christ, we are drawn into the very midst of this communion. That is why Our Lord speaks often at the Last Supper of our abiding in him. And it matters that we are followers and imitators of one who is not merely a human teacher, but true God, and that we are saved by one who shared every aspect of our humanity in order to share his divine glory with us. A saviour who is able to be close to us through the life of the church because he is God, and who gives us new life through that same Spirit which animated the church from the very beginning not as a mere 'force' but as one who is also God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**RIP NOTICES:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Marshall who died recently. Margaret's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 10.30am. May Margaret rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**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](http://tangney-tours.com/brentwood)

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses this weekend in aid of Day for Life. There will also be a second collection after all masses next weekend in aid of the Retired and Sick Clergy.

**FEEDING OUR FAITH:** Our next parish faith formation evening, accompanied by a shared supper, is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Social Centre from 7pm. Fr Matthew will help us to better understand the Nicene Creed which we recite at Mass each week, in this 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the council it emerged from.

**NEXT WEEKEND:** Due to the Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral, there will be no Holy Hour next Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>). Next Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Each Mass will conclude with a short period of Eucharistic adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The children of our parish who recently celebrated their first holy communion will come together at 11am for a Mass of Thanksgiving which will conclude with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament (hopefully outside).

**SUPPORT LOURDES PILGRIMS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS:** For many years Fr Bob's Group of men and women with additional needs have been a key part of our Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. They are looking for additional funding, and have set up a fundraising page <https://gofund.me/30c3681c>

**ALTAR LINENS:** If you are in a position to help washing and ironing the small cloths used at Mass, that would be greatly appreciated: please leave your details at the parish office.

**SOCIAL CENTRE:** Please have a look at the initial proposed floor plans for our hoped-for new Social Centre, and share your views using the online survey – see noticeboard in the church porch or the Social Centre.

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB:** Membership renewals have now begun. Please renew online at: <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscc/> - just £10 per adult for the year. New members are always welcome, and there are events for all the family. Open Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun evenings.

**JUBILEE YEAR – Pilgrims of Hope: FORTY HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – ‘QUARANT ORE’** – will be celebrated at the Cathedral parish of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood commencing with Mass at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 26th June and concluding at 5.45 p.m. on Saturday 28th June. Please see parish website (<https://brentwoodcathedral.org.uk/>) for full details. All are welcome.

**LEADBEATER ASSISTED DYING BILL:** Please join us on Friday 20th June at Old Palace Yard, near The Houses of Parliament between 8.30 – 3pm to encourage MPs to vote against the Leadbeater Assisted Dying Bill. The nearest Tube station is Westminster.

**SION COMMUNITY MARANATHA** - Join us for Prayer and Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, from 7.00 to 9.00pm at the Sion Community - Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX - All are welcome and there is no need to book, just come along. Teresa Carvalho and team.

**VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS:** <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 14th June</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b> People of the parish
<b>Sun 15th June</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY</b> Tony Brennan RIP (Byrne) Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)
<b>Mon 16th June</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Penelope Theresa Fernandes' Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
<b>Tues 17th June</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Maureen Springham RIP (With our Reception children)
<b>Wed 18th June</b> <b>9.15am</b> <b>12 noon—1pm</b>	Joan Bearney RIP (Kehoe) <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 19th June</b> <b>9.15am</b>	Private Intention (Bemand-Qureshi)
<b>Frid 20th June</b> <b>9.15am</b>	For priests ordained in May
<b>Sat 21st June</b> <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, REL</b> <b>NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK</b> John, Delia and Brendan Sammon & Linda Travell RIP
<b>Sun 22nd June</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	<b>THE MOST HOLY BODY &amp; BLOOD OF CHRIST</b> Isabelle Marie Tierney's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi) 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](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephschurchupminster) **Web:** [www.stjosephschurchupminster.com](http://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**