



# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

28TH/ 29TH JUNE 2025

SS PETER & PAUL, APP (C) - Mass Book Pg 180

(Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19)

In May, the world was glued to TV footage of a chimney, accompanied by the occasional seagull, waiting for the smoke that would indicate a successor had been chosen, not merely to the late holy father Pope Francis, but to St Peter himself.

The annual celebration of the two great apostles St Peter and St Paul is sufficiently important in the life of the church that it takes precedence over an ordinary Sunday, and in other years is celebrated during the week as a holy day of obligation. Peter and Paul both ended their apostolic ministry in Rome, the imperial capital: Paul had exercised his right as a Roman citizen to be judged by the emperor; Peter had come to Rome as the first bishop. Both were martyred in that place, albeit several years apart.

Today's feast is about more than two holy men, worthy of veneration though they are, for it also says something about the nature of the church. Honouring these two quite different men on the same day underscores the **unity** of the church, founded on their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, professed by Peter and taught by Paul. Their readiness to die for that faith bears further witness to their supreme confidence in his victory over death.

Had these two men, and so many others, been willing to compromise rather than stand apart from society, they would no doubt have saved their lives. But they knew there could only be one Lord – Jesus Christ – not Caesar. They could not even go through the motions of worshipping false gods. An early (2<sup>nd</sup> century) text highlights the strangeness of Christian ways: *As citizens they participate in everything with others, yet*



*they endure everything as if they were foreigners. ... They marry, like everyone else, and they have children, but they do not destroy their offspring. ... They share a common table, but not a common bed. ... They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, all the while surpassing the laws by their lives. ... They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned. ... They are dishonoured, and yet in their very dishonour they are glorified.* This readiness to stand apart is a sign of **holiness**: total dedication to the one God. Perhaps Christians will be known in years to come as those strange people who do not destroy their offspring (or sick or elderly) and remain faithful to one spouse.

St Paul is recognised for his particular determination to share the faith beyond the Jewish world. St Peter's bold preaching on the day of Pentecost brought many of God's chosen people into the fold of the church. As the liturgy puts it 'each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ'. Their zeal and determination to spread the faith far and wide is a sign of the universality or **catholicity** of the church, whose message of salvation is indeed for all people and all time.

We honour these two men as heroes and pillars of the church, built by Christ but entrusted to the apostles and their successors. We share in that great **apostolic** task of bearing witness to the faith in world which does not know Christ. We do so in communion with those who share in that apostolic ministry in a particular way as the shepherds and overseers of the church who we name every day in the Eucharistic prayer, our own bishop, and the holy father, the successor of St Peter. Let us rejoice today in the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic church', with confidence in Christ's promise that the gates of hell shall never prevail against the church he established as his body. St Peter and St Paul, pray for us.

God bless, Fr Matthew

\*\*\*

**LOURDES COFFEE MORNING:** Some of the young people of our parish travelling to Lourdes next month with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service will be hosting the Sunday coffee morning this weekend (as they did last weekend). There will be a collection basket in the hall, and any proceeds will be shared by the young people as a contribution to the costs of the trip.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses this weekend supporting the ministry of the Pope, known as Peter's Pence.

**FEEDING OUR FAITH:** Our next parish faith formation evening, accompanied by a shared supper, **is this coming 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.

**CHRIS & JOAN ALLEN GARDEN OPEN:** Please note that Chris and Joan will be opening their garden on 6th July from 1pm—5pm for charity. Address; 12 Cedar Avenue, Upminster, RM14 2LW. Tea, coffee and cake available - music by Jacques Allen.

**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.

**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.

**CWL NOTICES:** The lunch club on Wednesday 16th July will be fish and chips. £12 a ticket. If you would like to book a place, please come into the club on Wednesday to pay a deposit of £5. As our fish and chip lunches are always very popular; it will be on a first come first served basis. Wednesday 23rd July will be the last lunch club as we break for the summer and a well-deserved rest. We will reopen on Wednesday 10th September. There will be a CWL meeting on Friday 18th July in the social centre after morning mass. Come along and find out our plans for the CWL and to offer any suggestions you may have. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be a member to come along. Just come for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat if you prefer.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – JULY YOUTH MASS:** On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Youth Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral. There will be pizza in the parish hall from 6pm, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral from 7:30pm where Bishop Alan will bless all those travelling on our youth pilgrimage to Lourdes this Summer. All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book! Get in touch at [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net) for more information.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Sat 28th June</b> | <b>ST IREANAEUS, B D M</b>                                   |
| <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                             |
| <b>6.30pm</b>        | Paul & Valerie Bemand-Qureshi RIP Anniv. (Bemand-Qureshi)    |
| <b>Sun 29th June</b> | <b>SS PETER &amp; PAUL, APP</b>                              |
| <b>9.00am</b>        | People of the parish   |
| <b>11.00am</b>       | Charles Cantwell RIP Anniv. (Pauline)                        |
| <b>Mon 30th June</b> |  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)                                |
| <b>Tues 1st July</b> |  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Patsy Fowley RIP Anniv. (Bridget) (With our Year 4 children) |
| <b>Wed 2nd July</b>  |  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | James & John Hawes RIP Anniv. (Bridget)                      |
| <b>12 noon—1pm</b>   | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                             |
| <b>Thur 3rd July</b> | <b>ST THOMAS, AP</b>   |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Margaret O'Neill RIP Anniv. (Pavitt)                         |
| <b>Frid 4th July</b> |  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Andrew Pinder RIP Anniv. (Pinder)                            |
| <b>Sat 5th July</b>  |  |
| <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                             |
| <b>6.30pm</b>        | Eileen Furzer RIP B'day (Ferreira)                           |
| <b>Sun 6th July</b>  | <b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>                         |
| <b>9.00am</b>        | Jenny Maplesden RIP (Family)                                 |
| <b>11.00am</b>       | 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**