



# St Joseph's Catholic Church

**Champion Road, Upminster**

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

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**7TH / 8TH JUNE 2025**

**PENTECOST (C) - Mass Book Pg 278/287**

**(Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23)**

The Jewish feast of Pentecost, celebrating the ingathering of the wheat harvest and the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, occurs fifty days after Passover. Therefore, fifty days after that Passover when Jesus offered himself as the new Paschal Lamb and vanquished death by his rising, Jerusalem was filled with people coming to celebrate another festival. Fittingly on this day, the disciples gathered in the Upper Room which had become their base, the Holy Spirit descended on them in power, filling them with his presence and his gifts so that the mission of the church could begin.



Today we celebrate a historical event – the birthday of the Church. But, like Easter, it is not only a historical event, but one which involves each and every one of us. We are incorporated into the body of Christ, sharing in his risen life, through baptism; and in that moment we become temples of the Holy Spirit, whose powerful presence is 'sealed' by the sacrament of Confirmation.

In celebrating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, therefore, we celebrate his ongoing activity in the life of the church and in the life of every believer, and we also celebrate the Holy Spirit in himself, the third person of the blessed Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

My choice of wording is deliberate. The Holy Spirit is not a thing but a divine person. A 'who' not a 'what' – according to tradition referred to as 'he' like the Father and the Son, though of course the Holy Spirit is neither male or female. The old tradition of capitalising divine pronouns, though fallen into disuse, at least highlighted that we were not referring to an ordinary human person, but the divine.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can turn to the images that appear in scripture. The Holy Spirit – to be clear – is *not* a bird, but he appears in the form of a dove at Our Lord's baptism, with connotations of gentleness and freedom; echoing the role of the dove in the story of Noah's Ark (itself a sign of baptism) heralding the beginning of a new life in a restored covenantal relationship. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appears as tongues of fire and a mighty wind: a sign of extraordinary power which purifies and energises.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can see his effects if we look attentively, just as we cannot see the wind but we can see its effects in the swaying of trees. If we look at the lives of the saints, those who were especially open to the activity of the Holy Spirit, we can see those qualities St Paul refers to as the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The church has long recognised seven 'gifts' of the Holy Spirit which help us live our lives more completely for God and so produce those 'fruits': Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Let us consider what gifts we need more of, and ask especially for them. Let us also pray especially for our young people who are to be confirmed this weekend (at the 6.30pm Mass), that they too may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in abundance and bear much fruit in their lives to the glory of God.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**RIP NOTICES:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael McEneaney 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. Margaret's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 10.30am. May Michael and 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)

**THIS WEEK:** There is no lunchtime holy hour on Wednesday, due to the funeral that morning.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We offer our good wishes to Michael Fielder and Eloise van der Merwe, joined in marriage this weekend.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses next weekend in aid of Day for Life.

**CONFIRMATION:** Please pray for the 36 young people of our parish who are due to be Confirmed at the 6.30pm Mass this 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.

**NEW SOCIAL CENTRE – UPDATE:** The proposal to sell St Peter's, with a view to building a new social centre, has been formally approved by the Diocesan Board, and a firm has been instructed to proceed with this. As yet the timescale is unknown. At the same time the Diocese has authorised us to instruct the architects who will develop plans for the new social centre and submit them for planning approval. An initial proposed floor plan is now on display in the social centre and in the church porch. Any suggestions welcome. The range of views previously raised about this project have not been ignored and there will be a fuller response in a few weeks, together with another opportunity to discuss this together.

**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.

**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.

**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/ztjfwiiu>

**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.

**ST BON'S STUDENTS GO TO ROME:** Two students from East London have been invited to a TELCO/Citizens UK summit in the Vatican with the chance to meet Pope Leo XIV - if you are able to support them, please see further information here: [www.goodhub.com/go/stbons2rome](http://www.goodhub.com/go/stbons2rome) or for more information email [a.lewis@stbons.org](mailto:a.lewis@stbons.org)

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**Sat 7th June**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**6.30pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

People of the parish & Our Confirmandi

**Sun 8th June**

**9.00am**

**11.00am**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Catherine Smith's Special Intentions (Mum)

June Corrigan RIP (Cantwell)

**Mon 9th June**

**9.15am**

**MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH**

Betty Harte RIP (Walsh)

**Tues 10th June**

**9.15am**

**4pm**

Maureen Springham RIP (Brian) (With Years 1 & 2 children)

Reception of the body of Michael McEneaney

**Wed 11th June**

**9.15am**

**11am**

**ST BARNABAS, AP**

Betty Harte RIP (Regan)

Funeral mass—Michael McEneaney

**12 noon—12.30pm**

**NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK**

**Thur 12th June**

**9.15am**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST**

Deceased members of the O'Leary Family (Regan)

**Frid 13th June**

**9.15am**

**ST ANTHONY OF PADUA, PR, D**

Anne-Marie Roberts RIP B'day (Tsocos)

**Sat 14th June**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**6.30pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

People of the parish

**Sun 14th June**

**9.00am**

**11.00am**

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

Tony Brennan RIP (Byrne)

Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

## 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.

**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**