



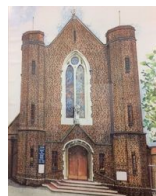
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

16TH / 17TH AUGUST 2025

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 124**

(Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10, Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 12:49-53)

23RD / 24TH AUGUST 2025

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 127**

(Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30)

At every Mass shortly before communion, the priest recalls words spoken by the risen Lord to his disciples in the Upper Room: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you"

Our image of Jesus is challenged by a very different message which we hear in the gospel for the first Sunday covered by this double newsletter. "Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." If our image of Jesus is the gentle teacher, meek and mild, then we will find these words hard to stomach. Indeed, Jesus speaks like this because his own people have also misunderstood who he is, and what he has come to accomplish.



The peace that Jesus brings is not the peace of one people subjugating another. Nor is it going along with easy choices for a quiet life. It is the peace which comes from all things being in harmonious alignment with God's will, and thus able to fulfil the true meaning of their existence. Jesus has come to make all things new, and to the measure that we are resistant, preferring our own ways to God's, this will be a difficult and even painful process.

To say 'yes' to God means to say 'no' to those things which contradict our life in him. And this is often difficult, especially if it involves saying no to those we love. But again, the path of discipleship is not meant to be an easy path, but the path that leads to life, joy and true peace.

A week later we hear Jesus speak again in response to the question "Will there be few who are saved?" Jesus' response is to urge fidelity to God, rather than worrying about such questions. God is always faithful to the people he made to share his life, but we have to receive his new life as a gift, and be ready to be made new if we are to experience this new life in his kingdom. Salvation is not a matter of right, something we qualify for automatically by belonging to a certain group, but about that 'yes' to God which opens the door to the transforming power of his grace. Through the life of his Church, the people of God gathered from all the nations, we receive the

help of divine grace that kindles the fire of love within us, and enables us to overcome human weakness and the hard heartedness of sin, so that we may be wholly his.

I am writing this on the feast of the Curé of Ars, who, trying to find his way to this village that he had been sent to, said to a shepherd boy, "Show me the way to Ars, and I will show you the way to heaven." Let us never forget that our great task is to help each other get there, showing by our words and deeds, and above all by our faithfulness to Christ in all things, the road that will lead to our eternal joy.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

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**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Carmel Armstrong, June Main and Rob Keating who have died recently, and for their families. Carmel's funeral will be here on Tuesday 26th at 10.30am. June's will be here on Thursday 28th at 11am.

**SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Please note there is no Holy Hour on Saturday 16th or Wednesday 20th. Mass on Thursday 21st is at 12.30pm, and there is no public Mass on bank holiday Monday (25th). Many thanks once again for Fr Gerald Gostling, Fr Mariusz Fura and the Friars of the Renewal, for their help during the holiday period.

**BUILDING UPDATE:** Having received feedback on the very-preliminary draft plans from the architect, representatives from the parish met with the architects, and we have received some re-worked designs taking those comments into account. Meanwhile, the property consultants engaged by the diocese are taking steps towards marketing the St Peter's site in the autumn. Nothing is set in stone yet, but we are moving closer to the point where significant decisions will be made, and my intention is to set out in detail the way forward, responding to various comments made so far, in a letter to the parish in September. Please pray for all involved as things begin to take shape, and do feel free at any point to share your thoughts with me - it is after all our project, to benefit the whole parish community.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** registration for First Communion and Confirmation will begin next month, for those going in to year 3 and year 10 at school respectively. Details of the RCIA programme for adults thinking of becoming Catholic will also be announced soon. See forthcoming newsletters for details.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – YOUTH GATHER, 25<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**OCTOBER:** Youth Gather is a weekend of faith, fun and friendship – with speakers, workshops, prayer and outdoor activities, meeting friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith. There will be coaches offering transport from around the Diocese included in the cost, as well as all meals, cabin accommodation and activities. This event is for year 9 and above. Apply now at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**MARRIAGE HELP** - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

**SCHOOL CAR PARK:** Works being carried out over the summer holidays mean that the car park by the main school entrance will be unavailable for Mass during his period.

**FLOWER HELPERS:** We are looking for people to join the flowers arrangers in the church. If this is something that you would like to do please contact the parish office.

**BAPTISMS:** Congratulations to Una, Serena, Spencer, Bodhi, Arther and Hudson, baptised here recently.

**CWL CELEBRATION:** Join past and present members of the Catholic Women's League in celebrating the Feast Day of St Margaret Clitherow, our patron saint, on Saturday 30th August at St Joseph's Church, Champion Road, Upminster RM14 2SY. Talk about English Martyrs from St Alban to St Oliver Plunket in church at 3pm. Refreshments in Social Centre from 4 to 6pm. The 6.30pm Mass will be dedicated to St Margaret Clitherow. All welcome.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, Patricia Mylod, Lisa Bostock, Jason Hamilton-Ramm, Thomas Presland, Pat Danagher.

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Eric Grace, Monica Goold, Robert Watson, Christine Kelliher, Amy Atkins, Monica Pugh, Daniel Casey, Giuseppe Biagioni, Madge Everett, Beryl Mattis, Raymond Martin O'Connor, Patricia Lane, Annie Hawes, Thomas Stenson, Jean Stubbs, Thomas Brennan, Anthony Gregory, Sr Raphael, Cyril Cooke, Anne McGreevy, Timothy Clarke, James Davis, Elsie Milburn, Beryl Gallagher, John Parish, Aileen McGovern, Daisy Mowatt, Rose Gooch, Anne Wells, Irene Watersm John O'Sullivan, Ivy Partridge, Mary Lynch, Anne Richards, Mary Tylar, Colin Brooks, Sr Columba, Georgette Horlock, Sr Dorothy Clinton, Freda Hallum, James Griffin, Michael (Jack) Murphy, Eileen Finigan, Patrick Walsh, Thomas Bailey, Henry McKeown, Patrick Kelly, Ethel Cave, Elizabeth Leech, Ronald Hope, Michael Rogers, Catherine Gricks, Olga Marchetti, Elsie Rogers, Keith Dagnall, George Farrell, Eileen Shave, Stephan Grubb, Lilian O'Donnell, Henry Rochford, Maxwell Lighbody, Sylvia Ford, Tony Faughnan, Jane Megoran, Mary McCarthy, Roland Stables, Hugh Farrell, Billy Murphy, Thomas Halligan, Phyllis Burke, Michael Kinchin, Edward White, Douglas Black, Marjorie Copland, Daniel Barclay, Bernard Gallagher, Teresa Payne, Jack Crowley, David Clohesy, Molly Ramsay, Rose Taylor, Winifred Pavitt, William McCarthy, Jessie Callaghan, Nicholas Anfiligoff, Thomas Pearson, Margaret Garvan, Rose Ann Murphy, Dennis Richards, Mary Precieux, Cornelius Scully, John Haran, Patricia Kingsman & Margaret Caldon. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSIONS:** *Usually* Saturday evening 5.30-6.15pm and Wednesday 12 noon-1pm. Confessions also available on request when Fr Matthew is available or by appointment. Please note variations due to holidays.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm (except Wednesdays).

**Fr Matthew (emergencies—voice only):** 020 3332 0486

**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)

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS FORTNIGHT

**Sat 16th August**

**6.30pm**

James Owens RIP

**Sun 17th August**

**9.00am**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**11.00am**

People of the parish

Flam Irving's Intentions (Bramham)

**Mon 18th August**

**9.15am**

Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

**Tues 19th August**

**9.15am**

Mary Irving's Intentions (Bramham)

**11.00am**

Funeral Mass of Patrick Headd

**Wed 20th August**

**9.15am**

**ST BERNARD, AB, D**

Eveline Guerin's Intentions (Pinder)

**12 noon—1pm**

**NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**Thur 21st August**

**12.30pm**

**ST PIUS X, P**

Intentions of those receiving exam results

**Frid 22nd August**

**9.15am**

**THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Rebecca Kayonde's Intentions (Fayers)

**Sat 23rd August**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**6.30pm**

Gerry McGill's Intentions (Regan)

**Sun 24th August**

**9.00am**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**11.00am**

People of the parish

Suzie Bramham's Intentions (Mum)

**Mon 25th August**

**NO MASS TODAY**

**Tues 26th August**

**9.15am**

Rose & Arthur Taylor RIP Anniv. (Sheridan)

**10.30am**

Funeral Mass of Carmel Armstong

**Wed 27th August**

**9.15am**

**ST MONICA**

Rosanna's Intentions (Redmond)

**12 noon—1pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**Thur 28th August**

**9.15am**

**ST AUGUSTINE, BP, D**

Carmel Armstrong RIP

**11.00am**

Funeral Mass of June Main

**Frid 29th August**

**9.15am**

**THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Carmel Armstrong RIP

**Sat 30th August**

**5.30pm—6.15pm**

**ST MARGARET CLITHEROW**

**6.30pm**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

In honour of St Margeret Clitherow, CWL Patron

**Sun 31st August**

**9.00am**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**11.00am**

People of the parish

Patrick Judge RIP (Mary & Alan)