



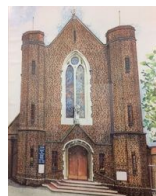
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

2ND / 3RD AUGUST 2025

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 117

(Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23, Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11, Luke 12:13-21)

9TH / 10TH AUGUST 2025

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 121

(Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 12:32-48)

The sacrament of baptism is typically administered by pouring water over a person's head using a shell. Shells have a long association with pilgrimage, first being adopted as a badge by pilgrims making their way to the shrine of St James at Compostella. Thus it serves as a reminder that baptism is the start of a life-long pilgrimage.

Journeys, whether of a secular or religious nature, often involve moments of challenge or frustration. Again, this is true of life. What gets us through those moments is hope: hope of reaching a particular destination that will put those difficulties into context. 'Pilgrims of Hope' is the theme which the church sets before us for the jubilee year that we are part way through celebrating. What is the hope that leads us on, especially through those moments when the going is hard, mired in uncertainty?

The gospel readings for the next two Sundays help us see things a little more clearly. First, we are told that our hope is certainly not anchored in worldly success or good fortune. We know how easily our situation can change; plans we have made disrupted by the unexpected. But even if we live out our days in material comfort, it must all come to an end one day. A week later the message becomes starker – we must be ready at all times for a meeting with the Lord at an hour we cannot know in advance. Yet there is also a word of reassurance: 'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom'. *This* is the basis for our hope: a share in God's kingdom, where we shall experience the fullness of life, in joy and peace, for eternity. Hope that is grounded in the victory Christ has won for us, and the love of God which envelopes us.

Christian hope is the virtue by which our lives are fixed on heaven, and all that we experience in this life placed in the context of our eternal lives. Towards the end of the fortnight covered by this newsletter we are given another sign of hope: the

Assumption of our Blessed Lady. It was fitting that she who brought the son of God into the world should be the first to share his victory, spared the corruption of the grave just as by grace she was freed from the corruption of sin. But we are not merely invited to wistfully gaze upon a reward granted only to the perfect few. We celebrate what can be accomplished in all of us by our cooperation with divine grace. Our 'yes' to God may be faltering and less whole-hearted than Mary's, but it is sufficient, as long as we persevere and turn back to him when we go astray, to allow his grace to work in us and make us holy, ready for the perfect life of heaven.

How can we open our hearts more fully to God, giving room for that transformation to occur? By giving him a little time each day in prayer, by making the most of the means of grace which he generously gives us through the life of his church, and by learning to recognise the signs of his activity in our lives, with gratitude and trust.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There is no Holy Hour on Wednesday 6th or Saturday 16th August.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION: The Assumption of Our Lady, Friday 15th August, is a Holy Day of Obligation, and as such Mass will be celebrated at 10am and 8pm.

EXAM RESULTS: Please pray for those of our parish awaiting public exam results. The church will be open as always for those who wish to spend a moment in prayer contemplating decisions about the future.

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.

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 presbytery on 01708-222432.

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

USED STAMPS ST FRANCIS HOSPICE: The hospice continues to collect used stamps to raise funds and has been very grateful to the parishioners of St Joseph's for collecting them for many years. Please continue to save your used stamps and leave them in the porch or give them to Sr Rosemary. When taking the stamps from the envelopes, please leave at least a half inch margin around the stamps. Thank you.

HOLY RELICS TOUR 2025 – BRENTWOOD - The Knights of St Columba are delighted to be touring the Holy Relics of St Margaret of Scotland, St Columba and St Andrew once again. The Holy Relics will arrive at St Mary and St Helen Cathedral, Brentwood, at 12 Noon on Tuesday 5th August and remain until 10am on Wednesday 6th August.

CELEBRATING VATICAN II: As the sixtieth anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican II approaches Fr Adrian Graffy will lead a study day entitled 'Vatican II and its Popes'. The event will take place at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) on Saturday 20th September from 10.30. Entrance is free, and a recording of the talk will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org

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

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

SOCIAL CENTRE RING FOUND: Man's ring found, band white metal. Contact presbytery 222432.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES: Rosa McEnnerney, Robert Burge, Billy French, Sarah Murphy, Kathleen Rumsey, Frank Hennin, Alan Yamamoto, James Lee, Fr Curran, Andrew Pinder, Ivy Dimmock, Rose Cates, Paul Conboy, William Mansell, Mark Darby, Ronald Parkins, Henry Dickens, Margaret O'Brien, Patricia Sullivan, Norah Driscoll, Dorothy Houghton, David Allen, Sister Paschal, High O'Neill, Timothy Clarke, Ronald Stevens, Thomas Dixon, Francis Spring, Anastasia Jackson, Mike Ney, Stanley Welton, Margaret Warwick, Margaret McAndrew, Kathy Dunn, Sylvia Silver, Frank Millward, Eileen McCabe, Eileen Fox, Peter Hercoz, Kathleen Thompson, Pasqualina Cush, Zenon Tkaczyk, James Carney, Michael Rogers, Francis Murphy, Rosina Taiani, Leonard Orme, Margaret Spaan, Doug Hayward, Charles Taylor, Peter Graham, Finola Jones, Mary Carver, Edwin Whetton, Betty Harper, John Lyons, Lilian Stephens, Kathleen Baker, Kathleen Moran, Nora Moss, Christopher Dolby, Mary Januszka, Kathleen Keyes, Catherine Armstrong, Violet Keefe, Ivan Cooper, Joseph Ritchie, Mary Teresa Fielder, Peter McEvoy, Annie Avery, Jonathan Green, Emma Gregory, Fr Harding, Jack Crowley, Mary Payne, Thomas Nickelson, George Soutter, Violet Cavalier, Kathleen Jackson, Anthony Picchi and Ronald Frost. 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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 2nd August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 3rd August

9.00am

11.00am

Mon 4th August

9.15am

Tues 5th August

9.15am

Wed 6th August

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Thur 7th August

9.15am

Frid 8th August

9.15am

Sat 9th August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 10th August

9.00am

11.00am

Mon 11th August

9.15am

Tues 12th August

9.15am

Wed 13th August

9.15am

12 noon—1pm

Thur 14th August

9.15am

Frid 15th August

10am

8pm

Sat 16th August

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

Sun 17th August

9.00am

11.00am

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Deceased members of the Mitchell and Maguire Families

Patrick & Mary Anne Brady RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

ST JOHN VIANNEY, PR

Edward Powell RIP (Margaret)

Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Fr Jack Dennehy RIP Anniv. (Regan)

ST DOMINIC, PR

Margaret Veal & Violet Gomez RIP Anniv. (Lyme)

ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, V, M

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

People of the parish

NINETEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Thanksgiving (Bedding)

Anna Sullivan's 100th birthday intentions

ST CLARE, V

Clare Argent-Hall RIP (Dominic)

Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

Lily Thomas Gerrard Regan RIP (Regan)

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

ST MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE, PR M

Stephanie Deane RIP Anniv. (Evans Family)

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Pamela Bailey RIP

People of the parish

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

James Owens RIP

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

Fiam Irving's Intentions (Bramham)