



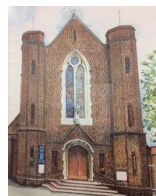
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

31ST AUGUST 2025

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 130

(Sirac 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a, Matthew v11:29ab)

"You have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God".

For a few weeks our second readings have come from the letter to the Hebrews. This is an important book, whose authorship is unknown (it certainly wasn't St Paul), which sets out a clear case for Jesus being the fulfilment of the hopes of Israel and the promises of God. It is rooted in the liturgy of ancient Israel, presenting Jesus as both perfect sacrifice and supreme high priest.

If we ask ourselves, what are we doing here week by week - a good question to consider at the beginning of a new academic and pastoral year - it is simply this: to worship God. This is something we do for our benefit not his. God is perfect and nothing can add to his greatness, but worship orients us to something beyond ourselves and anchors our existence in something eternal. We worship God, moreover, not on our terms but his. The worship we offer is the perfect offering of his own son, priest and victim, made once-for-all on Calvary. This offering is not repeated but re-presented – that is to say, brought into our present, so that all that is on our hearts, all that troubles us, and the gift we make of ourselves, can be caught up in Christ's own offering of himself and presented to the Father. Christ came down from heaven in order to raise us up to heaven, and we participate in this upward movement every time we celebrate Mass together.

The Mass is not just the supreme offering of worship but also the banquet at which we are fed by Christ himself, anticipating the great wedding feast of heaven. Our Lord was often criticised for eating with sinners; in today's gospel we see him at table with the great and the good. His lesson on



humility and hospitality is also a reminder that in the Mass we are joined not only to Christ, but to one another. We come to this feast as both guests – invited to the feast by Our Lord himself – and hosts, who are instructed to welcome others in his name; never as customers or consumers.

At the beginning of a new academic year, let us remember in our prayers all those returning to school this week – staff and pupils – as well as those starting in a new school.

God bless, Fr Matthew

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Our children's liturgy of the word during the 9am Mass will restart next Sunday. However we are in need of new volunteers in order to keep this going. Volunteers will not necessarily have to lead the sessions, though support will be given if that is something you might want to try. We do need enough people to ensure the session is run safely, and all involved will need to have a DBS arranged by the parish. Please speak to Fr Matthew if interested.

MOTHERS PRAYERS: Please note that we re-open on Tuesday 2nd September at 2pm in the social centre. Please join us in praying for children throughout the world.

PATRICIA ANNE DANAGHER FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS: Pat's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Thursday 11th September at 11am. The committal at South Essex Crematorium will be followed by a buffet reception at 1.15pm at Osteria Due Amici, 39 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster. We hope you can join us at the buffet reception.

ROB KEATING RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rob Keating who died recently. His funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Thursday 4th September at 10.30am. May Rob rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

FUND-RAISING EVENT BY THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: We are holding a Fund-Raising event on Wednesday 15th October from 11.30am to 1.30pm in St Joseph's Hall. What we need is new or nearly new items to sell. Can you donate any item to help us? The Wednesday lunch club will reopen on September 10th in the social centre at 12 noon. It will be lovely to welcome all our old friends back and meet and make some new ones. Donations can be dropped at the lunch club.

SACRED HEART OF MARY NEW YEAR 7 FAMILY MIXER: Saturday 27th September 7.30pm—10pm. £10 per ticket for a family of 4. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Raffle on the night.

ARMSTRONG FAMILY THANK YOU: We would like to thank all parishioners and friends for their expressions of sympathy, in various forms, for our loss of Carmel. We have booked a mass for your intentions on Thursday 11th September at 9.15am. Thank you.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY AT SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL - UPMINSTER: Have you ever thought about becoming a Foundation Governor in a Catholic School? It is very rewarding and a great way to live out your faith and serve your local community. You do not need to be an education expert, we welcome applications from practicing Catholics with a variety of skills and backgrounds. The commitment to the role, includes attending 6 full Governing body meetings a year, normally held in the evening, plus serving on at least 1 committee that meets termly. In addition you will be expected to commit to training & termly visits to the school. We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body. We would welcome in particular Governors with a background in Finance/Legal. If you are interested and would like more information on this role, please contact Mrs Tracey Knight, Chair of Governors on: tknight@mary.havering.sch.uk

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – YOUTH GATHER, 25TH – 26TH 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.

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.

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

CAFOD: (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is looking for people to join our small team of volunteers who visit local schools to inspire children and young people and raise their awareness on issues of global poverty and Catholic social teaching. CAFOD provides full- training and support and welcomes applications from people with a range of experience. For more information contact Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493 162.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 30th August

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm In honour of St Margeret Clitherow, CWL Patron

Sun 31st August TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Patrick Judge RIP (Mary & Alan)

Mon 1st Sept ST SEBBI, KING

9.15am Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

Tues 2nd Sept

9.15am Patrick Headd RIP (Regan/Redmond)

Wed 3rd Sept ST GREGORY THE GREAT, P, D

9.15am Leroy Chan & S.S. Leong RIP Anniv. (Rebecca & Family)

12 noon—1pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 4th Sept

9.15am Carmel Armstrong RIP

10.30am Funeral Mass—Rob Keating

Frid 5th Sept

9.15am Carmel Armstrong RIP (Catton)

Sat 6th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Intentions of the Alabi Family

Sun 7th Sept TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Rebecca Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)

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

**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**