



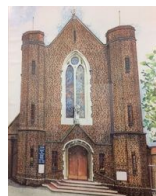
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

20TH / 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 140

(Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13)

Today's gospel presents, to my mind, one of the most puzzling parables: the steward who is apparently commended for his dishonesty, and held up for us as a model to imitate.

Luke's gospel contains repeated challenges to our relationship with material goods, including today's message that no one can serve two masters, God and money.

Most of us will share Pope Leo's incredulity at the news of Elon Musk's potential trillion dollar pay deal. But even if we don't consider ourselves to be overly materialistic or obsessed with wealth, we might nevertheless find ourselves preoccupied at times with having enough money to meet the costs of the life we are living. Perhaps we might even aspire to a little more so that we might enjoy a higher standard of living, or at least feel less guilty about the occasional treat or luxury.

There is nothing wrong the basic desire to ensure that we and our families have what we need to flourish. What our Lord constantly warns against, however, is becoming so fixated on a created and finite good (whether that is money itself, or indirectly, the security of our families) that it becomes our master, and we lose sight of what is of ultimate importance. In response to the cliché 'money doesn't buy you happiness' people might – not inaccurately – point out that it certainly helps if you've got enough of it. The problem with looking to something finite to provide our happiness is that there is never quite enough of it. Only God, the infinite one, can satisfy the longings of the human heart, made in his image,



made for him. Pope Leo's observation about levels of pay in his recent interview is not simply a critique of capitalism, but of a wider culture which regards wealth as a signifier of status, rather than valuing each and every person for the dignity they possess as a child of God.

The point of the parable is not that we should imitate the steward in his dishonesty, but that we should be as concerned with making progress in our spiritual lives as we might be in our worldly lives. Or even, that we should be as concerned with our spiritual progress as a very worldly materialistic person would be with their own advancement: taking advantage of every opportunity that presents itself in order to reach the next level. We should take the call to holiness as seriously as a billionaire takes the business of making money!

God bless, Fr Matthew

CONTACTING FR MATTHEW: Outside office hours, Fr Matthew will answer the parish landline if at home. You can also contact him via email, using the parish email address or his direct email address, frmatthewbemand-qureshi@brcdt.org. The emergency number previously listed on the back page (beginning 0203) will soon stop working. Instead, if you need to contact Fr Matthew with a greater degree of urgency you can use the new mobile number which is now listed on the back page, 07356 292542. Please note Fr Matthew will answer calls to this number even on a Friday (his non-working day) in case someone needs the sacraments urgently; email is preferred for things that are less urgent.

THIS WEEK: Fr Matthew is attending a conference for all the clergy of the diocese. Consequently, there will be no Mass or holy hour on Wednesday 24th September, and Thursday's Mass will be moved to 8pm in the evening.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: We are waiting to find out when the Bishop will visit for confirmation, but we anticipate holding the usual course of preparation for those currently in year 10 or above. Please register online as soon as possible: tinyurl.com/stjconfirm26

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents of children in year 3, please register this week for the first communion programme if you haven't done so already: tinyurl.com/stjfhc

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls Eileen Mahoney and Olive Edgar who have died. Eileen's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 30th September at 10.30am.

SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice for those applying for Catholic Secondary Schools at the following times. **Tuesday 7th October 5pm-7pm and Thursday 9th October 4pm-6pm.** Letters for other schools with a church attendance requirement will be issued at the same time. The Certificate is for those who attend Mass weekly. If you don't qualify for a Certificate of Catholic Practice, you don't need to come along, but it is still worth applying to the school with just a baptism certificate. Baptism certificates must be obtained from the parish where baptism took place. No appointment needed, and you don't need to bring anything with you – just come to the church (there may be a queue).

PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO BRENTWOOD: To mark the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', as a parish we will undertake a walking pilgrimage to the mother church of our diocese. This will take place on Sunday 5th October and we will aim to set off about 12.30pm, stopping for refreshments on the way. See the parish facebook page or poster in the porch for more information. We will aim to be at the Cathedral around 5pm – why not come and meet us if you can't join in the walk. Older children may come without an adult but parental consent is needed (see poster/facebook)

BECOMING A CATHOLIC? If you are thinking about joining the Catholic church, whether baptised in another church, never baptised, or even a baptised Catholic who missed out on first communion/confirmation, Fr Matthew will explain the process after all Mass on 11th/12th October.

GLUTEN INTOLERANT? Special hosts with very low gluten content are available for Holy Communion. If you are unable to safely consume a normal host, please go to the priest for Communion and ask for a low gluten host. For more information, and to make a regular arrangement, please speak to Fr Matthew after Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION: Please note that there will be a second collection after all masses this weekend 20th / 21st September in aid of Evangelii Gaudium Day.

LADIES' NIGHT: Thursday 9th October at 7pm in the Social Centre Please see next weeks newsletter for more information please speak to Bernadette in the Repository at weekend Masses or Frances Chalk.

BCYS: Booking now open (and filling up) for Youth Gather, a weekend of faith, fun and friendship for year 9 and above, 25th-26th October. On Thursday 2nd October there will be a special Youth Mass with Bishop Alan for the Jubilee Year. Visit www.bcys.net/events for more information

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 20th Sept	ST ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PR, PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS, MM
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi's Intentions (Lucy)
Sun 21st Sept	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Carmel Armstrong RIP (Hayward)
Mon 22nd Sept	
9.15am	Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)
Tues 23rd Sept	ST PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PR
9.15am	Jack McCarthy's Intentions (Nan)
Wed 24th Sept	OUR LADY OF WALSLINGHAM
9.15am	NO MASS
12 noon—1pm	NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 25th Sept	
8pm	Irene Fortuno RIP (Manning)
Frid 26th Sept	
9.15am	Mary Lane RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sat 27th Sept	ST VINCENT DE PAUL, PR
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Raymond Watson RIP 1st Anniv.
Sun 28th Sept	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Raymond Watson RIP 1st Anniv.

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/pastoral need—voice only): 07356 292542

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