



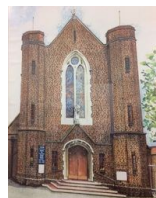
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

27TH / 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 143

(Amos 6:1a,4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31)

Week by week we profess our faith in God as the 'maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible'. On Monday of this week we celebrate the feast of the archangels Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael – sometimes called 'Michaelmas'.

Angels are easily misunderstood. We might be sceptical of them, viewing them as a sort of religious version of fairies. For some people they are in the same category as crystals and other 'new age' spiritual fads – something to hold on to whilst rejecting the central claims of Christian belief, or something to be derisively dismissive of. Yet the bible reminds us that creation is not limited to what we can see, and those beings we call 'angels' are very much part of that unseen creation. Angels are mighty spiritual beings (that is to say, without material bodies), who – like us – are created to glorify and serve God and share in the joy which he desires for all his creatures.

God rarely reveals himself directly to us; very often when God wants to communicate directly to a human person he does so through an angelic intermediary. The most notable example is at the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel tells Mary what God wishes to do through her, and receives her answer. This event -the beginning of the incarnation, when the Son of God shares our human nature in order to redeem it and restore our communion with God – is commemorated daily in the devotion known as the Angelus. We recite this at the beginning of our weekday Mass, and the tower bell (named 'Gabriel' when it was blessed last year) additionally chimes the pattern associated with the angelus at noon and 6pm. If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, you might like to take one of the prayer cards which I have had re-printed.

At the end of our daily Mass we typically say the prayer to St Michael, which you will find on the other side of those prayer cards. It was composed by Pope Leo



XIII towards the end of the 19th century and used after low Mass throughout the church, initially for the intention of preserving the independence of the Holy See from temporal threats, and then from 1929 for the freedom of Russia from communist atheistic ideology. This ended as a universal practice in the 1960s. Nevertheless Pope St John Paul II encouraged its use: "I ask everyone not to forget [this prayer] and to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world". The use of this prayer as an additional devotion at the end of Mass struck me as a fitting response to the invasion of Ukraine, as well the increasing attacks on the dignity of human life in the modern world, attacks which amount to a fundamental rejection of God and his will for humanity. This prayer recognises that the angels possess free will like us, but their closeness to God gives their choice a more definitive character than most of our choices, and more serious consequences for themselves and for creation. The evil one we refer to as the devil or Satan is an angel created by God who chose not to serve God and instead set upon doing all in his power to thwart God's will. That power is considerable, but in no way a match for the Almighty. By invoking St Michael, the leader of the heavenly armies, and placing ourselves under his protection, we recognise that we are caught up in something bigger than ourselves, bigger even than the world we see, and declare that our choice is for the side of light rather than darkness.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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 (if you had problems before, it should be fine now)

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)

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – JUBILEE YOUTH MASS: On Thursday 2nd October, Youth Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral, following a talk from the Donal Walsh #livelife foundation starting from 6:30pm. All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book, but please do let us know if you'd like to bring a group. Get in touch at info@bcys.net for more information.

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).

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.

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

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Catherine Juniper, Mary Farrell, Patrick Dean, Oliver McCourt, John Mann, Patrick McGreevy, Roger Woodbridge, Marie Harding, Alice Daley, Phoebe Bickers, Thomas Gilham, Ellen Shirley, Joseph & Catherine Herbert, Patrick Sullivan, Cecil Acott, Cecilia Sharp, Pamela Scott, Paula Phillips, Albert Morris, Angelina Harkins, John Marquis, Michael Joseph Murphy, Katherine Horti, Anne Goldstein, Noreen Harris, Harriet Lofthouse, Bertha Murphy, James Cottingham, Dierdre Harman, Sr Angela Day, Peter Lowe, Catherine Lydon, Richard Cooper, Terence Finn, Patricia (Pat0 Walsh), Katherine Wisely, Sr Alcantra, Richard DePol, Noel Lynch, Christina Lawson, Irene Hamond, Gerard Moran, Adeliza Gray Scogins, Enid Mangham, Maureen McTaggart, Winifred Burke, Desmond Campbell, Archbishop Beck, Nicholas Holden, Anthony O'Shaugnessy, Denise Kemery, Mgr Kearney, Agnes Fowlie, Sr Ages, Ellen Helliard, Nancy Bolton, Mary Cahill, Isabella Player, Adrienne Flether, Vincent Baker, Vincent Ferguson, Bernard Rainbird, Lena Kent, William Dible, Vincent Connor, Alice Southernwood, Martin Walsh, Patrick Hallahan, Patricia Gard, Theresa Bater, Barbara Collins, Joe Treacy, Ellen Dewhurst, Colleen Ward, Bridget Gillan, Mary Smith, Sr Maria Immaculata, Philip Salmon, Nicola Hallmark, Mary Gray, Mary Nathan, Mary Lane, Thomas Halligan, Samuel Sinclair, Joy Redden, Harriett Stocker, Patricia Dorling, James Hill, David Gilmour, Agnes Gurney, Samuel Gagen, Malcolm Hallows, Michael F. Murphy & Denise Kemery. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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.
Mon 29th Sept	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS
9.15am	Pat Danagher RIP (Medley)
Tues 30th Sept	ST JEROME, PR, D
9.15am	Eileen Newman RIP (Catton/Rudgeley)
10.30am	Funeral mass—Eileen Mahoney
Wed 1st Oct	ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS, V, D
9.15am	Bradley Family Intentions (Catton)
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 2nd Oct	THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (With our year 4&5 children)
9.15am	Grace Wingrove RIP Anniv. (Cunningham)
Frid 3rd Oct	
9.15am	John Fowley RIP (Month's Mind) (Bemand-Qureshi)
Sat 4th Oct	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 5th Oct	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	Marie Coughlan RIP Anniv. (Cornelius)
11.00am	James Burke RIP Anniv. (Burke)

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): 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**