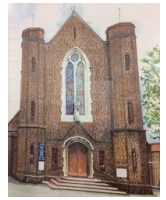




# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi  
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward  
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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

6TH / 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 133**

(Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9b-10,12-17, Luke 14:25-33)

This Sunday Pope Leo will canonise two young saints, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, whose original canonisation dates were rescheduled following the death of Pope Francis.

Blessed Carlo Acutis is perhaps better known to us, as he was born in this country before his family moved back home to Italy. Born in 1991, he died in 2006 aged 15; he is often referred to as the first 'millennial' saint. He is known for devotion to the eucharist and to Our Lady. His keen interest in IT led him to develop two online resources dedicated to cataloguing eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions. He is also known for his love for the poor. As well as regularly helping at a soup kitchen, when his parents gave him a pair of new trainers for his birthday he asked to return them to give the money to the poor.

In 2006 he was diagnosed with leukemia, and his illness progressed rapidly, dying less than a week later. He offered his suffering to the Lord for the Pope and the church and said, in his final words to his mother, "Don't be afraid. Since Jesus became a man, death has become the passage towards life, and we don't need to flee it. Let us prepare ourselves to experience something extraordinary in the eternal life"

If we are tempted to see him as unrelatable and abnormally pious, he did enjoy normal teenage pursuits such as video games – he simply loved God more. And perhaps we ought to be even more impressed by someone possessing extraordinary spiritual gifts, than those who demonstrate extraordinary sporting prowess or other gifts at a young age. His wish was to be buried at Assisi, owing to his veneration of St Francis, and his principle shrine is now located there.



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati lived in Italy at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was a keen mountaineer and swimmer, and had a great capacity for friendship as well as a fondness for practical jokes. Gifted in many other areas as well, he determined to apply himself not to worldly pursuits but to working for social justice. As well as providing for the poor in practical ways, especially in his home town of Turin, he set about campaigning for social reform, as a member of a number of Catholic organisations. He decided to study engineering so that he could work among miners and 'serve Christ better' among them. His was not merely political activism, but rooted in a deep love of the Lord which also prompted him to join the Third Order of St Dominic. His life was also cut short by illness. He was diagnosed with polio in the summer of 1925 and died shortly after, at the age of 24. Pope John Paul II described him at his beatification in 1990 as "the man of the eight beatitudes".

May these saints inspire us all, especially the young, and help us with the prayers to serve God with greater generosity of heart.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Our children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9am Mass will restart this Sunday. It is for children who are old enough to be left in the care of the catechists, whilst their parents are in church. Children can be taken to the social centre before mass or handed over to catechists in the porch, and they will be brought in to church to sit at the front during the offertory. 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.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** Registration is **now open** for our First Holy Communion programme, for those in school year 3 or above. Please register your child's details at [tinyurl.com/stjfhc](http://tinyurl.com/stjfhc) as soon as possible.

**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Fowley, who has died in New Zealand, and Fr Brian McWilliams, priest of this diocese.

**BUILDING UPDATE:** Please see the letter from Fr Matthew to the parish regarding the future of St Peter's Cranham and the plans for a new social centre, available on our website and in printed form in the porch.

**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).

**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.

**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](mailto:cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk) or call 07776 493 162.

**PARISH WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO BRENTWOOD:** To mark the Jubilee Year, with it's theme '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 on the way for refreshments. More details to follow: please save the date.

**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.

**CWL NOTICES:** The Wednesday lunch club will reopen on September 10th in the social centre at 12 noon. We also have a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 26th September in the social centre from 9.45 until 12 noon. Please come along and help support this charity. Home-made cakes welcome, please bring along on the day. 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.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**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)

**Mon 8th Sept**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**9.15am** Richard Cooper RIP Anniv. (Pat)

**Tues 9th Sept**

**9.15am** June Main RIP

**Wed 10th Sept**

**9.15am** Michael Collins RIP (Regan)

**12 noon—1pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**Thur 11th Sept**

**9.15am** Thanksgiving from the Armstrong Family

**11am** Funeral Mass—Patricia Anne Danagher

**Frid 12th Sept**

**9.15am** Carmel Armstrong RIP (Darvill Family)

**Sat 13th Sept** **ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BP, D**

**5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**

**6.30pm** Ann Cremin RIP

**Sun 14th Sept** **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**9.00am** People of the parish

**11.00am** Liam O'Flaherty RIP (McCarthy)

## 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](http://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**