



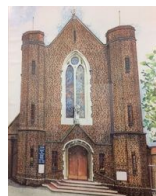
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

4TH / 5TH OCTOBER 2025

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 146

(Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10)

I'm sure we've all had moments when, like the disciples in today's gospel, we wish we had more faith. We may have even had people say to us, I wish I had your faith. And yet, perhaps we know, deep down, that our faith is not as strong as it might be. Of course, faith is not something that we can easily quantify or ever have a full amount of like fully charged phone. We are all on a journey of faith, a journey of becoming who we are made to be in relation to the God who made us and loves us. We all come to faith by different means. Some of us may have carefully weighed up the evidence and come to a logical conclusion that the Christian faith gives the most satisfactory answer to the big questions of life. Some of us come to faith through others, people we respect and trust who handed on their own faith. Or we may have been drawn into a particular community and found ourselves at home. We may be looking for a set of values to live by. We may have been impressed by those lives shaped by faith in Jesus Christ. And it may be a combination of any or all of these things. St John Henry Newman, soon to be declared a doctor of the church, whose feast occurs this week, recognises that we come to know and believe in God, not through a single knockdown argument, but by coming to a deep, instinctive sense that this belief is consistent with all that we have experienced and seen. Faith is not contrary to reason but something that takes us beyond it, to an encounter with the living God.

Perhaps the disciples are looking for certainty; reassurance that they haven't made a huge mistake in throwing their lot in with Jesus. And there may be times when we also wonder: am I on the right path? Am I wasting my time? Faith is the act placing our trust in the person of Jesus Christ, believing and



knowing deep in our hearts that we are loved by God and made for life with him. And at the same time it is a gift from God, freely given to all who seek it with open hearts. Of course, for all those ways in which we might come to faith, we can find opposites that might put people off. People might weigh up the evidence and conclude that it's not strong enough to justify belief in the face of the hard realities of life. People may never have had the opportunity to hear the good news from someone they respect and trust. People may have found the Christian community cold and unwelcoming. They may be put off by the behaviour of some who profess themselves to be Christians but whose lives seem far off the mark. There are, indeed, many challenges to faith, and there are many challenges to living the life of faith. But it comes down to this basic question: if I am looking for meaning in my life, is there anything else that will satisfy? Can I accept that there is a God who has made me for a purpose, and wants me to be happy with him for ever, even if I can't make sense of everything? The same Peter who professed his faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, also declared, when Jesus teaching seemed too hard for many, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

1700 years ago the bishops who had gathered at Nicaea found words to express the central truths of the Christian faith, which we profess together week by week. But faith is not just a matter of believing a set of teachings. Nor is it simply about belonging to a particular group. Nor is it merely behaving in a certain way. In truth, it is about all of these things, though they may come to us at different times and in different orders. Believing in the God who loves us, who invites us into the community of his church, his sons and daughters gathered to worship and receive a share in his life. Who forgives us and transforms us so that we may become who we are made to be. This is what it is to have faith. May God grant us more of it; may he help us always be open to those gifts which enable us to live and persevere in faith, and to be effective witnesses of life transformed by faith. If you have been thinking about becoming a Catholic one day, perhaps you've been worshipping with us for a while but haven't yet taken that step, then I invite you to consider if the time may be right. If so, there'll be a short opportunity to discuss the way forward after each weekend mass next weekend.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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 Masses on 11th/12th October.

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 Sunday afternoon**. We will aim to set off about 12.30pm. Just turn up, with suitable footwear and clothing and any sustenance you need (we will have a couple of brief stops 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)

FIRST COMMUNION GROUP: If you have registered and haven't received the email with information about the parent's meeting taking place on Monday evening please email the parish office asap. If you haven't registered you must speak to Fr Matthew after Mass.

CONFIRMATION: Do you want the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help you live your faith as a follower of Jesus Christ? Registration is now open for this year's confirmation programme for those in year 10 or above: [tinyurl/stjconfirm26](https://tinyurl.com/stjconfirm26)

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

FORCES VETERANS: The Department of Work and Pensions has an Armed Forces Champion based locally covering East London including Havering, to provide support and guidance to veterans with benefits, pensions, jobs, courses, barriers to work, housing and issues relating to physical and mental health. You can contact him via londonandessex.armedforceschampions@dwp.gov.uk

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).

RAINHAM FOODBANK: Thank you for all your donations over the summer. During August and September, our parish gave 110Kg of food and essential groceries. During the winter months, there is an even greater need for NON PERISHABLE items, so please continue to be generous.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)
Mon 6th Oct	
9.15am	Fr Matthew's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
Tues 7th Oct	OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
9.15am	Lynn Leonard RIP (O'Brien)
Wed 8th Oct	ST OSYTH, REL
9.15am	Fred Regan RIP Anniv. (Family)
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 9th Oct	ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PR
9.15am	Pat Danagher RIP (with our Year 2 children)
Frid 10th Oct	
9.15am	John Fowley RIP (Manning)
Sat 11th Oct	
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Mon & Noel Lynch RIP Anniv. (Keefe)
Sun 12th Oct	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Alf Driscoll RIP B'day (Family)

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**