



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

15TH / 16TH NOVEMBER 2025

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) - Mass Book Pg 164

(Malachi 4:1-2a, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19)

The liturgical year is drawing to a close. Today is the last 'green' Sunday. And there is an obvious connection with last week's readings for the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. When challenged about his actions in driving the money-changers and animal sellers from the temple, Jesus spoke of the temple being destroyed and rebuilt in 3 days. He was speaking of the temple that was his own body, of his death, and of his resurrection.

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks once more of a time when the temple will no longer be standing. By the time the gospel was written down, the temple had in fact been destroyed by the Romans, in 70AD. Jesus goes on to speak of the terrible things that will herald the end of the world – things which are never far from our news headlines. But there is also a word of reassurance and hope: 'not a hair of your head will perish... by your endurance you will gain your lives'.



Nothing – no building, no mountain, no planet or solar system, will last for ever. Our lives in this world will not last for ever. But God is eternal. And we too are made for eternity. Our Lord's dying and rising has opened the door for us to share in his eternal life. The true temple – not made of stone but God himself living among us as one of us – could not be destroyed. God has made us for life and does not allow death to have the final word. This hope is the basis for our practice of praying for the dead, not only in this month of the Holy Souls, but whenever we gather to offer the worship that is pleasing to God: the sacrifice of Calvary brought into our present.

The month of the Holy Souls is a good opportunity to ponder our own mortality, as well as remember those who have gone before us and are now living in closer union with God. It is not morbid at all, but entirely consistent with a Christian acceptance of death, alongside an equally Christian refusal to accept death as being the end of everything. It can be humbling to think, as we pray for the holy souls, that one day we too will be holy souls benefiting from the prayers of the church on earth. In our Catholic faith there is no prayer greater than the prayer of Jesus Christ himself – the Mass – which is why for a Catholic person a Mass is the usual pattern for a funeral, and why it is customary to ask for Masses to be said for those we love. We can't assume those making the arrangements after our death will know what our wishes are, so it is good to write them down somewhere. It is sometimes said that funerals are for the living. From the perspective of our faith, a funeral is of course a moment to offer support, prayer and consolation to the living, but it is above all an act of worship, offered to almighty God, praying for the repose of the soul of the one who has died. In some mysterious way God wishes to use our prayers, involving the whole church in the work of making us ready for heaven, perhaps because he knows it is helpful for us to have something to do for someone we love. Prayer helps to overcome that separation brought about by death, in hopeful anticipation of the day when we are raised up together to sing the praises of God for ever. May this hope sustain us to our journey's end.

God bless, Fr Matthew

LADIES' NIGHT: Please join us for our monthly Ladies' Night in the Social Club on Friday 21st November at 7pm (please note revised date). Table snacks and drinks from the bar. For more information see Bernadette in the repository or Frances Chalk.

FIRST COMMUNION: Our children preparing for first communion will officially be enrolled at the 11am Mass this weekend. The next session is this Monday after school.

CONFIRMATION: Our confirmation candidates will be enrolled at the 6.30pm Mass next Saturday.

BCYS: WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER: This is the day when we celebrate the young people of our Church. There will be a **second collection** to support the work of the **Brentwood Catholic Youth Service** after all masses next weekend.

CAMPION SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY: Sunday 14th December 12.30pm—5pm (lunch served at 1.30pm. We have 15 spaces available . If you would like to attend please contact the presbytery on 01708-222432. Thank you

HORNCHURCH PASSION PLAY 2026 AUDITIONS: If you'd like to audition for an acting role in next year's Hornchurch Passion Play, please come to one of the casting events - these are being held from 3pm on 16th November at North St Halls, Hornchurch. You can attend on either date to be considered for a role.

CANTERBURY WALK DISCO: Friday 5th December 7.30pm- late: Raising money for next year's Canterbury Pilgrimage. Come celebrate with Christmas cheer and dance the night away at St Joseph's Social Club. Entry fee - £10 (U16s free). Please either book through the following QR code or use the we link to book and pay <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QOMCK7G0>



ST JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CLUB NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Club is looking to recruit a few new bar volunteers. You'll get to be part of an incredibly friendly and supportive community, meet new people and have a lot of fun! Full training will be given, and there is flexibility about what shifts you work. Want a chat to find out more? Please contact Dave Leech via email: stjoscc@gmail.com

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: You are invited to place a list of names of those who have died in the basket in front of the altar. There will be a special commemoration of the dead at each Mass during the month of November.

MISSIO RED BOXES: If you have a Missio red box at home please feel free to drop the contents into the presbytery during office hours. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio.

CDOT VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Friday 28th November St. Joseph's School Hall 7.30pm. Raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK. Adults £10 Children £1 including Christmas refreshments. Tickets from Bernadette in the Repository or 07825235717.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) Christmas Craft and Gift Fair will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 16th November from 10.30am - 4pm. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be 45 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. BCCS will have its own stall selling donated gifts and crafts and there will be a fundraising raffle during the event and refreshments available too.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 15th Nov

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Eileen Furzer RIP Anniv. (Laura)

Sun 16th Nov THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Leesa Otero RIP Anniv. (Quinn)

Mon 17th Nov

9.15am Jenny Maplesden RIP Anniv. (Family)

Tues 18th Nov

9.15am Daniel Sammon RIP (Sammon)

Wed 19th Nov

9.15am Francis McAleer RIP

12 noon—1pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 20th Nov

9.15am Tony Stock RIP Anniv. (Monica) (With our Year 4 children)

Frid 21st Nov THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.15am John Fowley RIP (Sheridan)

Sat 22nd Nov ST CECILIA, V, M

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm People of the parish

Sun 23rd Nov OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

9.00am Michael Maguire Jr RIP (Maguire)

11.00am Fr Brendan Scully RIP (Catton)

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.

St Joseph's Pre-School - (available 7.30am-6pm) 07983-859090 / 07807-700900

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**