



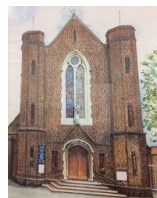
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

1ST / 2ND NOVEMBER 2025

ALL SAINTS (C) - Mass Book Pg 194

(Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12a)

I'm writing this newsletter article on the way to Italy, where I, with a group of parishioners, will be going on pilgrimage to the shrines of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rome, of St. Francis and St. Clare and also St. Carlo Acutis in Assisi. Of course, we can't all go on such a trip, but we take the prayers of the entire parish with us to the shrines of these extraordinary witnesses to the life of grace.



This Sunday, we celebrate All Saints Day. The saints have an important place in our Catholic tradition: they are not merely dead ancestors, but living members of the body of Christ. They have travelled the same journey of faith that we are travelling. Their circumstances might be quite different from our own, perhaps separated from us by many centuries, but the things they struggled with may well be things we struggle with. They have completed their journey. They have, in the words of St. Paul, won the race and have now attained a crown of imperishable glory.

During this month of November, beginning with the commemoration of All Souls, celebrated tomorrow, (everything is a day later this year, because All Saints day is transferred to the Sunday) we are reminded to pray for our beloved dead, and those with no one else to pray for them. Remembrance of the faithful departed is, of course, linked to our celebration of the saints today. The saints are already enjoying that reward which is God's desire for all of us. The saints might have got there more quickly because of their single-minded and single-hearted faith, their heroic virtue, and their readiness to be generous in self sacrifice; but for all of us, the hope of heaven is held before us.

Most of us will not be perfect by the time we reach the end of our earthly lives, but God's work of preparing us for the perfect life of heaven continues beyond the grave. Our Lord's wish is that this work of preparing the dead for heaven is a work of the whole church. This means there is something we can do for those we love and see no longer. Namely, to remember and pray for them, trusting in the mercy of God, and the promise of eternal life. Christ's victory over death is our victory. And this is the hope which sustains us in times of grief, and as we contemplate our own mortality. The saints who have already reached the finish line are, as it were, cheering us on, urging us forward and helping us by their prayers. They want us to be with them. May we want that as much as they do.

God bless, Fr Matthew

ALL SOULS DAY: There will be an extra evening Mass at 8pm on Monday.

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.

THIS WEEK: Fr Matthew is attending the National conference of Lourdes Pilgrimages Directors. There will not be a Mass on Wednesday 5th November, nor will there be a holy hour that day. Mass on Thursday will be at 5.45pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: A reminder that the first session, for children already registered, is on Monday.

LADIES' NIGHT: Please join us for our monthly Ladies' Night in the Social Club on Friday 14th November at 7pm. Table snacks and drinks from the bar. For more information see Bernadette in the repository or Frances Chalk.

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

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Josephine Tunnell and Michael Cahill, and for their families.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Members of our parish guide group will be on parade at the 9am Mass next week. The 11am Mass will be a Requiem, beginning with an Act of Remembrance.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR: Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing as part of a group? Then why not join St Joseph's Church Choir. We come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Christmas and Easter Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Our rehearsals for Christmas will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30pm, starting on Monday 13 October. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

DEI VERBUM 60 YEARS ON: Fr Nicholas King SJ will share his own personal insights - as a biblical scholar and translator - on the Second Vatican Council document on divine revelation, *Dei Verbum* (Pope Paul VI, 18 November 1965). How does the document come across today? Can it help us to read, study and pray the Scriptures in our time? Saturday 22nd November 2025 11.00 – 14.00 GMT. The speaker will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If you are attending in person please email gideapark@brcdt.org or sign-up using Eventbrite on the Margaret Beaufort Institute website <https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk/> Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park RM2 6DH. Coffee available 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. Venue is five-minutes' walk from Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Parking available and local eateries. Recording free to view on website later.

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 that weekend.

A DAY WITH MARY: Taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th November 2025 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – CATECHIST TRAINING & RESOURCES DAY 2025: Saturday 8th November 2025: Open to all confirmation and first holy communion catechists, youth leaders, and children's liturgy coordinators in the Diocese of Brentwood. The day offers formation, practical workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking to support First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes. Open to adults and young leaders (16+); full details and booking at www.bcys.net/events/catechists2025

USED STAMPS ST FRANCIS HOSPICE: The hospice continues to collect used stamps to raise funds and has been very grateful to the parishioners of St Joseph's for collecting them for many years. Please continue to save your used stamps and leave them in the porch or give them to Sr Rosemary. When taking the stamps from the envelopes, please leave at least a half inch margin around the stamps. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 1st Nov

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Eileen Newman RIP (Keefe)

Sun 2nd Nov

ALL SAINTS

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Daniel Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)

Mon 3rd Nov

ALL SOULS' DAY

9.15am Matthew Slattery RIP (Brother of Pat Slattery)

8pm Holy Souls

Tues 4th Nov

ST CHARLES BORROMEO, BP

9.15am Kathleen Kent RIP (Cross)

Wed 5th Nov

9.15am NO MASS THIS MORNING

12 noon—1pm NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 6th Nov

5.45pm Nann Byrne RIP (John & Betty)

Frid 7th Nov

9.15am Carmel Armstrong RIP (McCarthy)

Sat 8th Nov

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Patrick Fahy RIP Anniv.

Sun 9th Nov

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

9.00am Anne Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family)

11.00am People of the parish / Fallen in War

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 - 07983 859090 / 07807 700900 (7.30am—6pm)

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**