



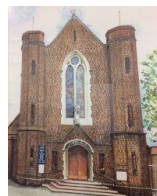
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

22ND / 23RD NOVEMBER 2025

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING (C) - Mass Book Pg 167

(2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Mark 11:9,10)

Sometimes it is possible to point to the truth unintentionally. When Pilate places the notice 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' on our Lord's cross, and when the soldiers dress him in a purple cloak, with a crown of thorns and a reed as a parody of a sceptre, they are humiliating him and mocking what they understand to be his claim of power and authority over his people. It is a sneering demonstration of the power they wield over this people: see what we can do to your so-called king. Yet Jesus is king, and it is precisely in this moment that he exercises his kingship most powerfully, as our gospel testifies: not making a Houdini-like escape but granting entry into eternal life to the repentant thief. This is what he came to do for the whole human race, but in a brief moment the infinite love of our Lord is poured out upon one person who has paid dearly for his mistakes.



'Christ is our king' is a pledge of allegiance to our Lord and Saviour, and to his kingdom of love and peace. It has also, in recent months, been used by those wanting to reassert England's Christian identity. Some of this is borne from a feeling of powerlessness in the face of change; the frustration of an apparent disconnect between ordinary people and the ruling class. If it is intended as a call to live by truly Christ-like values, then that is all to the good; if it is intended to exclude those who are not culturally Christian then it's somewhat missing the point. This feast was, after all, established exactly one hundred years ago to counter the false claims of nationalism and secularism in the aftermath of the First World War.

The 'kingdom' is a recurring theme in the gospels; the subject of many of Jesus' parables. These parables highlight an inversion of worldly values, and emphasise the priority of God's activity, which we can either cooperate with or become an obstacle to. Christ is the king who has come to serve, not to be served. The preface to the eucharistic prayer for today's Mass speaks of a kingdom 'of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace'.

The meaning we attach to some of those words, the last trio especially, can lead us to imagine the kingdom as a kind of hippy commune, with no rules to restrict us. This is no less a misunderstanding than worldly ideas of kingship and its trappings of wealth and honour. The kingdom of God is where all things align with God's perfect will. We won't need rules in heaven because we will want with all our hearts what God wants. True peace will come from our no longer being caught between our selfish desires and God's will. Love is what we will be, because love is what God is. Love that always seeks the good of the other.

It's no coincidence that in two of the three years of the lectionary the gospel for today's feast comes from Christ's passion (the other is the parable of the sheep and the goats; a parable of service), for it is here that the inversion of worldly values is most visible. Here we see Christ giving his life as a ransom for many. If we acclaim Christ as our king – as we should, joyfully, for today is a great feast – then it means that wealth, power, status, pleasure and comfort are no longer sovereign in our lives, for these are the very things Christ rejects on the cross. We live up to that share in his kingly glory given to us in baptism precisely when we too learn to make a gift of ourselves. May Christ reign over every aspect of our lives.

God bless, Fr Matthew

CONFIRMATION: Candidates for confirmation will be formally enrolled at the 6.30pm Mass this weekend, having begun preparing for the sacrament to be celebrated in March. Please keep them in your prayers.

BCYS WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER: 23rd November is **World Youth Sunday**, celebrating the young people of our Church. There will be a **second collection** to support the work of the **Brentwood Catholic Youth Service**, helping young people grow in faith through retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership opportunities. You can donate in the parish this weekend, or online at www.bcys.net/donate, and please keep all young people in your prayers.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES: Applications are now open for the pilgrimage next July, for those in year 10 or above. Financial support available from the parish and elsewhere. Sign up by January: <https://bcys.net/events/sl26/>

LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE: Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes next summer: Friday 17th - Friday 24th July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

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

MISSIO: If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, to the presbytery (by the end of November at the latest). Thank you.

CDOT VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Friday 28th November St. Joseph's School Hall 7.30pm. Raising funds for Prostate Cancer Uk. Adults £10 Children £2 including Christmas refreshments. Tickets from Bernadette in the Repository or 07825235717.

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 KNITTING & CRAFT GROUP: There will be no meeting in December due to other commitments. We are looking for new members to help us with the large numbers of charities that we support. If you can knit or sew (all abilities) we would love to have you join our friendly group that meets once a month on the second Monday 12.30pm—3pm in the social centre. Yvonne Dickens 01708-228087.

CANNING TOWN AND ROYAL DOCKS: Our traditional second collection will be held after all Masses this weekend of 9th /10th December for those in particular need in Canning Town and Royal Docks parishes, to enable them to have more at Christmas.

ENGLISH MARTYRS, HORNCHURCH EVENING MASS: We are introducing a Sunday evening mass. Initially for the period of Advent but, if this proves popular it will be introduced on a permanent basis. Details: Time: 6.30pm Dates: Sunday 30th November, Sunday 7th December, Sunday 14th December and Sunday 21st December.

ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving a short talk at 7 pm on Wednesday 3rd December at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The topic is the Prophets. You may attend in person free of charge, or watch livestream at www.whatgoodnews.org The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

MARANATHA! Come Lord Jesus! You are warmly welcomed to an evening of praise and worship, including mass and adoration. Save the dates: Friday 16th of January and Friday 13th of February 2026. Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm, including refreshments after. Venue: The Blessed Sacrament Church, 116 Melbourne Avenue, CM12DU, Chelmsford. Bring your friends! Organised by the CDSC (Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion).

ASSISTED SUICIDE: ENGLAND The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill entered Committee Stage in the House of Lords on Friday, 14th November. Catholics are being encouraged to write to peers to oppose the Bill. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has issued guidance on how to write to peers with reasons that can be emphasised in a letter.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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| 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) |
| Mon 24th Nov | ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC, PR & COMPS, Mm |
| 9.15am | For the unborn |
| Tues 25th Nov | |
| 9.15am | Denis Sullivan RIP Anniv. (Sullivan) |
| Wed 26th Nov | |
| 9.15am | Colin Gilbert RIP (Green) |
| 12 noon—1pm | ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS |
| Thur 27th Nov | |
| 9.15am | Baby Clara Francesca Bailey RIP Anniv. (With our Year 3 children) |
| Frid 28th Nov | |
| 9.15am | Bernadette Rogers 80th Birthday Intentions |
| Sat 29th Nov | |
| 5.30pm—6.15pm | ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS |
| 6.30pm | Eileen Newman RIP (Donne) |
| Sun 30th Nov | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT |
| 9.00am | People of the parish |
| 11.00am | Rosemary Underwood RIP Anniv. (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.

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**