



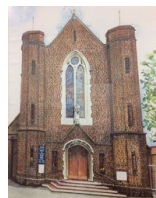
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

29TH / 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - Mass Book Pg 82

(Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:1-14a, Matthew 24:37-44)

Today we begin a new liturgical year and the great season of watchful waiting and expectant longing that we call Advent. In recent years, advent calendars have exploded in popularity, offering, a daily treat for people (and pets) of all ages and tastes. For many people this is the only relevance the word 'advent' has. I hope that an emerging trend of renaming them countdown calendars doesn't catch on. But it is useful to remember that advent isn't just a time to count down to the big day.

It is an opportunity to open our hearts to the graces that are on offer in a particular way in this season, to be alert to God's activity and unfolding plan of salvation. We look forward in expectant hope to meet Christ, and we prepare for this meeting by learning to recognise him, and ensuring that he is no stranger to us.

We are reminded in this season that our hope is for something beyond, and unimaginably greater than, this present life. Christ himself will come at the end of time to inaugurate a new heaven and a new earth.

We renew our sense of wonder at the events of his first coming, two millennia ago, joining with the holy family in that final period of waiting, Our Lord hidden from view in his mother's womb.

And we also recognise his coming among us through the life of his church: Christ's presence in the sacraments, in the gathering of his community, in the proclamation of scripture, and those we serve.

At last year's clergy Advent quiet day the speaker observed that the best thing about Advent is that it isn't Lent. It doesn't have quite the same penitential character, and it is considerably shorter, but it is a time of preparation, marked by the same colour purple, and the best possible preparation is to remember our real need of a saviour, and to open our hearts to the gift of his mercy by going to confession.



Let us open our hearts to receive all the good things he wishes to give us. And by our keeping of Advent, let us remind the world to keep Christ in Christmas.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of David Burge, who has served our parish for many years as Master of Ceremonies and member of the finance committee. David's Funeral Mass will be at 11am on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Thomas McMahon, who served as sixth (and longest serving) Bishop of Brentwood, from 1980 until 2014. His Funeral Mass will be in the Cathedral at 11.30am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** We will follow the pattern established in recent years of two family Masses on Christmas Eve (5pm and 6.30pm), a 'Midnight' Mass at 11pm (carols from 10.30pm), and on Christmas morning, a quiet dawn Mass at 8am and a sung Mass at 10am.

**THIS WEEK:** Please note Mass on Monday morning is at the earlier time of 9am, as Fr Matthew will be going on to the Campion Day celebration.

**NEW PARISH MASS BOOKS:** We are now in year A of the Sunday lectionary. From this weekend we use a new volume of the Parish Mass Book, taking us up to Pentecost. Many thanks to those who donated a set of Parish Mass Books in memory of someone.

**SUNDAY COFFEE:** Don't forget tea, coffee and refreshments are served in the Social Centre between the Sunday morning Masses – an opportunity to get to know other parishioners. Why not make an extra effort to come and meet someone new in Advent?

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:** The new directory is now available in the porch priced at £3.20 (payment via giving screen or repository when open).

**THE GOVERNORS OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HORNCHURCH,** are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026. **Closing date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcps.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcps.co.uk), or phone 01708 448430.

**LADIES' NIGHT:** Friday 12th December at 7pm in the Social Club. If you are new to the parish this is a great way to make new friends. We meet once a month and our first meeting of 2026 is 9th January. Table snacks. Drinks purchased from the bar. Do think about becoming a member of our Social Club in January for only £10 a year. More information from Bernadette in the Repository or Frances Chalk.

**CWL NOTICES:** The last lunch club for 2025 will be Wednesday 17th, December. On that day it will be a fish and chip lunch. The cost will be £13 per person. Our fish and chip lunches are very popular so we ask if you can reserve your place by coming in to the lunch club and paying a small deposit. We will reopen for the new year on Wednesday 14th, January 2026.

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

**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.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:** Joseph O'Hanlan , John McCarthy , Gertrude Brennan , Terence Clark ,Maureen Downs , Ruth Davis, Harry Silverlock ,Maureen Leonard, Ellen Russell, Tom Murphy , Ethel Glass, Gwen Greetree, Hilda Coward , Robert O'Neil , Kenric Williams , Christopher Oliver ,Simon Baxter, Patrick Munnely, Timothy McCarthy , Drian Qema, Nora Sheridan, Minnie Peak, Patricia Everett, Patrick Fahy, Kathleen Burge , Danny Loughhead, John Tylar, Maureen Conlon, David Okey, Philip Brand , George Connor , Evelyn O'Flynn , Joan Day , Thomas Durrell ,Helen Horgan, Teresa Rudd, Peter Jackson , Margaret Willis , Kathleen O'Reilly, Anne Cooper , Jack Ford, Judy Morgan, Jim Kelly , Betty Stables, Lynda Oliver, Amy O'Lochlen , Harry Black ,Elizabeth Lintonbon, Kathleen Hart , John Marchetti, Thomas Harding, James Redden , Hilda Constable , Christopher Murrell , Norah Ash , Robert Fagg, Susan McReynolds, Joseph Pereira,Fr John Harden , Czeslaw Krol, Jenny Mapleseden, Gladys Foster , Alexander McTaggart , Doris McCorkell , Kathleen Brennan, Sr Agatha Lynch , Rosaleen Cartwright , James Servis , Julia Callagher, Agnes(Nancy)Foreman, Josephine McGoldrick , Edward McGoldrick , Frederick Mason , Christopher O'Brien , Michael Maguire, Norman Drury, Joan Garnier, Mary Duffey , Terence O'Brien , Noreen Gower ,Rev Martin Hancock, Alfred Webb , Alice Turner , Robert Leech, Catherine McSwan, Agnes Brennan, Dorothy Temple , Patricia Bruin, John Dobinson, Nora Porter, John Walsh , Lilian Reiger ,Maureen Fitzgerald, Martin Augustine Ortisejafor, Susan Soper, Margaret Stacey, Margaret (Maggie) Ollington, Marie Ritchie , Kathleen May , Robert Holmes , Michael Glavin, Derry Fennell , Peggy Dukelow, Patricia Webb. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Michael Coady, Reuben Jack Dodd (Lacey), Emilia Gunn, Deborah & Paul Bussutil, Christopher Noel Ashford, Joan Spoor, Liam O'Byrne, Tom Martin, Maureen Peek, Frances Oskis, Joseph Furzer, Martyn Oliver, James Nickelson, Len Rawlings, Stella Rogers, Wenda Cordell, Irene Stubbings, Janet Martin, Tony White, Nora Delor, Maureen Pain, Ian Laidlaw, Julie Cordell, Stella Owen, Patrick Rodgers, Mary Smith, Frank Hamilton, Christine Sejas, Anna Gawlik, Maureen Anderson, , Lisa Bostock, Jason Hamilton-Ramm, Thomas Presland.

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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)

Mon 1st Dec **MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**9.00am** Laurence O'Brien RIP (Anne & Jim)

Tues 2nd Dec **TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**9.15am** Bishop Thomas McMahon RIP

Wed 3rd Dec **ST FRANCIS XAVIER, PR**

**9.15am** Len Jones RIP Anniv. (Carter / Jones)

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

Thur 4th Dec **THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**9.15am** Baby Francis RIP

Frid 5th Dec **FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**9.15am** Sarfraz Qureshi RIP Anniv. (Bemand-Qureshi)

Sat 6th Dec **SATURDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

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

**6.30pm** People of the parish

Sun 7th Dec **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**9.00am** Sheila Brunton RIP Anniv. (Dennehy)

**11.00am** Deceased members of the Earley Family (Earley)

## 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](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**