



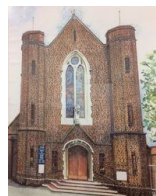
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

8TH / 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (C) - Mass Book Pg 202

(Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3-9c-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22)

The name of the feast we celebrate today may leave us a little puzzled. What is the Lateran Basilica, and why is its dedication important enough to trump the usual green ordinary time Sunday, on a day which also has national significance as Remembrance Sunday?

Some background first. A basilica is a major church honoured with this title. The Lateran Basilica, or St John Lateran as it is also known, is one of the four Papal Basilicas in Rome. And arguably it is the most important of these four, since St John Lateran, rather than St Peter's (the Vatican Basilica), is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Rome - the pope's Cathedral. As Brentwood Cathedral is considered the mother church of this diocese, St John Lateran is the mother church of the Diocese of Rome. But the pre-eminence of the Bishop of Rome, the successor of St Peter, as pastor of the universal church, means that his Cathedral also has a universal pre-eminence. A Latin inscription at either side of the entrance proclaims it as the 'Mother and Head of all the churches in the City and the World'. Moreover its dedication - not just to one of the Johns, but to "Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist" - reminds us that we do not merely pay honour to the world's Cathedral today, but to the one who is present in and honoured by every single church that exists.

Recently - I can't remember where - I saw a succinct summary of our Eucharistic faith. It went something like "at the heart of worship is sacrifice, at the heart of sacrifice is love". If we do not worship God (and if we do not worship him in the right way - the way he has given us) then something else will fill that void. There are many good things we might want to place high on our list of priorities - things we might consider worth fighting for. Family. The security of our home - be that the four walls we inhabit, or the country we call home. Freedom. But these 'goods' are relative to the only Good that can rightly be the object of our worship, the true centre of our existence: the God who made us, who loves us, and who shares his life with us.



Today's national commemoration of the fallen in war occurs, fittingly, in the month we dedicate to the 'holy and pious' act of prayer for the dead. As the first reading on All Soul's Day last Monday pointed out, prayer for the dead would be 'superfluous and foolish' if death were final. But it makes perfect sense if, as we believe, death has been conquered and changed for ever by the dying and rising of the one who made himself the perfect sacrifice of redemption. Prayer unites us with those who have died, and involves us in their preparation for heaven.

We use the word 'church' to refer both to buildings and the people of God joined in communion to one another; joined by bonds of shared faith and worship expressed in our loyalty to the shepherds given to us and our reliance on the sacraments by which Christ meets and feeds us. This dual use makes perfect sense. The physical church is where the people of God assemble for worship. A church building stands as a visible reminder and sign - a kind of sacrament - of the body of Christ: his sacramental body, the real presence housed within the tabernacle, and the ecclesial body, made up of the people who are the living stones of Christ's church drawing life from our Head. Today's feast is truly a feast of the whole Christ, Body and Head. This feast also providentially occurs in the month when we are reminded in a particular way of the connection between every part of the church. For the church is not merely those of us alive now. November began with the celebration of All Saints - living members of that part of Christ's body we call the 'Church Triumphant', who aid us by their prayers. During this month we, the 'Church Militant', are reminded of the goal of our life's journey, and in confident hope we dedicate ourselves to praying for that other part of the church who are being prepared for the perfection of heaven, the 'Church Penitent'. And today in particular, those who have laid down their lives for something bigger than themselves. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

God bless, Fr Matthew

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Emile Nkumu, priest of our diocese, until recently parish priest of Ongar and Doddinghurst. We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Josephine Tunnell, whose funeral takes place at 11.30am this Monday.

DEANERY NEWS: We extend a warm welcome to Fr Cherian John who has begin his new ministry at English Martyrs Hornchurch alongside his ministry to Syro-Malankara communities.

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

DEANERY REQUIEM: The annual Mass of Requiem for priests who have served the Havering Deanery will take place at St Edward the Confessor, Romford, at 11am on Thursday 13th November.

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>



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.

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.

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

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.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING
Will be held on Thursday, 13TH November from 6.00pm.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) is currently seeking new Trustees with expertise in fundraising and marketing to help us expand our reach and strengthen our impact. Your skills and experience could play a vital role in shaping the future for children and young people, ensuring we continue providing essential services to children and families in need. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know someone who might be a great fit, please do not hesitate to contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher at bfisher@bccs.org.uk. She will be delighted to hear from you.

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.

LEARN TO PRAY COURSE ONLINE: Would you like some tips to help your prayer life each day? The Diocesan Service Team are offering an online course running from Friday 14th November for six weeks until Friday 19th December from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. If you are interested in signing up for this course please follow this link: <https://wkf.ms/3VcDEgl?text0=>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

Mon 10th Nov

ST LEO THE GREAT, P, D

9.15am Bee Bee O'Boyle RIP (Bridget)

11.30am Funeral Mass—Josephine Tunnell

Tues 11th Nov

ST MARTIN OF TOURS, BP

9.15am Judy Morgan RIP Anniv. (Hugh)

Wed 12th Nov

ST JOSPHAT, BP, M

9.15am John Bolton RIP 1st Anniv. (Bedding)

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 13th Nov

9.15am Josephine Zammit RIP (Whisker) (With our Year 5&6 children)

Frid 14th Nov

9.15am Bridie O'Neill RIP Anniv. (Edel)

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)

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**