



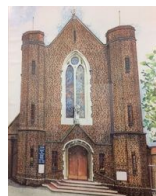
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

20TH / 21ST DECEMBER 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - Mass Book Pg 90

(Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24)

27TH / 28TH DECEMBER 2025 THE HOLY FAMILY (A) - Mass Book Pg 106

(Sirach 3 2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

One of the highlights of Advent for a parish priest is seeing various re-tellings of the Christmas story by children of different ages. The story traditionally begins with Mary and Joseph learning of God's plan from the Angel, and finishes with the visit of the Magi and the holy family's flight into Egypt. The story unfolds over the fortnight covered by this newsletter. The high point of the story is the birth of Our Saviour, in the stable of Bethlehem, placed in the manger. Heaven and earth meet in this place, where the Word of God who took flesh in his mother's womb now begins his life in the world that he created, a tiny, vulnerable baby. A great army of angels rejoices at this moment, as eternity breaks into created time. God's audacious plan to restore wayward humanity to himself involves him meeting us where we are, conquering human pride with extraordinary humility. The shepherds tending their flocks nearby are the first recipients of the good news, the first to see, and wonder at, the marvel of human salvation, the Good Shepherd who will lay down his life for his flock.



Whilst the secular observance of Christmas quickly gives way to the celebration of the New Year, the great feast of Our Lord's Nativity is the beginning of 12 days of rejoicing, before the celebration of the Epiphany and the final part of the Christmas season which takes us well into January. We can hardly do justice to the mystery of God being born as one of us in a single day. Nor is it enough just to think in terms of commemorating a past event, momentous and unique though it was. This is something that involves us. Jesus Christ shared our humanity, in order that we might share his divinity. The greatest gift of Christmas is the gift of a share in his divine life. Let us remember to give thanks to God, making a gift of ourselves to him in return.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year. May the joy the Saviour's birth renew your hope and deepen in your hearts the certainty of God's love for us; the love made visible in the crib, on the cross, and on the altar each time we gather to worship God united with the same Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Mary.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND POSTERS: Please take one or more of our parish Christmas cards, and use them to invite friends and neighbours to our Christmas Masses. It is also a good witness to display a Christmas poster in your window to remind passers-by of the significance of this season – posters are now available in the porch. The cards include a QR code linking to a message (text and video) from Fr Matthew. If you prefer, hard copies of the message are also available in the porch.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: By tradition the collection at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses and anything else marked explicitly for the Christmas offering forms a significant part of the priest's annual income (along with the Easter offering). Contributions to the Christmas offering can be gift aided using a special envelope or via the screen in the porch. This is because they are considered donations to the diocesan charity, which are specifically allocated for the support of the local parish clergy. Many thanks in advance.

BCCS CRIB COLLECTION: It is the Bishop's wish that the cribs in churches throughout the diocese provide an opportunity to support the excellent and much-needed work of BCCS (Brentwood Catholic Children's Society). You can support this collection at any point up until Candlemas either by a cash donation at the crib, via the giving screens in the porch, or scanning the QR code by the crib. Visit bccs.org.uk to find out more or to give online. As you visit the crib, please also pray for the work of BCCS and for the children and young people it supports in difficult moments in their lives.

MASS TIMES: Please note that there are some changes to weekday Mass times during the period of this newsletter. Mass is at 10am on St Stephen's Day and New Year's Day. There is no public Mass on Friday 2nd January.

SHALOM WORLD: Thomas Chakalamattathu from our parish volunteers with this Catholic media organisation and will speak about its work after each weekend Mass. To find out what it can offer you or how you can support it, please visit shalomworld.org

RETRouvaille HELPS MARRIAGES: It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983.

CARITAS BRENTWOOD: You are invited to join Caritas Brentwood at our upcoming 'Responding to Homelessness' event on Saturday, January 24th 2026 (10am-12:30pm). The event will be hosted by St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish in Stratford. It will offer practical support, shared insights and meaningful discussions with local organisations, including Your Place Anchor House, Rainham Foodbank and the Basildon Night Shelter, who are all working on the frontline of homelessness. For more information and to register for free, go to: www.caritasbrentwood.org/events

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: William Smith , Alex Hendry , Laurence O'Brien, Margaret Munnelly, Magdalene McGhie, Rosemary Underwood, Catherine Dupee, Geoffrey Marshall , Julia Farrier, John Redfern, Henry Jarvis , Gladys Morgan, Herbert Joyce , John Winn , James Cavanagh, Patrick O'Malley, Fr Drea , Desmond Sheridan, Marion Dearson, Fr Healy , John Young, Nora Fleming , Fred McCardle, Julia Walsh, Philip Broughton , Marion Abdilla , Katlyn Donovan, Julia Rix, James Sena, Albert Willis , Ron Panzavecchia , Nellie Durey, Joseph Cosgrave, Derek Cox, James Balfe, Bernard John Barrett, Diane Romano, Frances Rose Edwards, Ron Howard , Fr Frank Kerrigan , Ellen Biggs, Tom Connolly, Mary Cosgrove, Ellen Lockey , Honora Ferriter , Jean Rover, Mary Willsmer, Joseph McEnnerney, John Garwood, Thomas McKenzie, Clare Argent-Hall, Mary Allistone, Patrick Ruane, Aida Kidd, Marion Lamont, John Foy, Wilfred Mowat , Ellen Davis , Anthony Januszka , Kathleen Connolly, Stanley Armstrong , Denis Scott, John Coppin, Joanne Cozens , John McKeown, Louis Precieux , Peter Watson , Barbara Steele, Frank Dearson, Mary Clancy, June Corrigan, Eva Furze , Irene Roberts, Mary Bardwell, Joan Henderson, Edna Stanley , Ruby Cullen, Mignon (Mitzi) Williams, Margaret Newman , Mary Cagney, Mary Parsons , Pamela Martin, George Kinghorn, Mary Clarke, Rosie Stacey , Eileen Milne , Mary Harkins , Michael Tuohy & Bridie Tuohy, Elizabeth Loughead, Paddy Keating , Nevill Mattis, Denis Healy, Vittoria Maria Rossi, Mary Lacey, Margaret Crowley, Ronald Carver , Gerry Collins , Sheila Eals, Wiktor Wojtecki, Reginald Harvey , Doris Skinner , Bridget Sutherland , Florence Burt, Maria Seddon, Hannah Eustace, Emily Haran , Jennifer Browning, Christopher Pennell, Anthony Brady, Nellie Murphy , Ben Archer , Margaret Coleman, Simbert John Lewis, Margaret Main , Sylvia Sarson, Patricia Burwood, Juliana Skelker. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 20th Dec

5.30pm—6.15pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm

June Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)

Sun 21st Dec

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

People of the parish

11.00am

Joan Henderson RIP Anniv. 2nd (McCarthy)

Mon 22nd Dec

WEEKDAY OF ADVENT

9.15am

Mitzi Williams RIP Anniv. (Cunningham)

Tues 23rd Dec

WEEKDAY OF ADVENT

9.15am

Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

Wed 24th Dec

CHRISTMAS EVE

9.15am

For those who have lost children

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

5pm

Linda Travell RIP (Sammon)

6.30pm

The Armstrong Families Intentions (Margaret)

11pm

People of the parish (Carols start at 10.30pm)

Thur 25th Dec

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am

David Burge RIP (St Joseph's Parish)

10am

Irene & Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

Frid 26th Dec

ST STEPHEN, M.

10am

Gerry Collins RIP Anniv. (Pavitt)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Sat 27th Dec 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST JOHN, Ap, Ev ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Irene Fortuno RIP (Burgess Family)
Sun 28th Dec 9.00am 11.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH People of the parish Ciaran Gegan RIP
Mon 29th Dec 9.15am	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, BP, M Tom Cahill RIP (Ryan)
Tues 30th Dec 9.15am	SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Juliana Skelker RIP 1st Anniv. (Toks)
Wed 31st Dec 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Joan Sullivan & Anne MacMahon RIP Birthdays (Sullivan) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 1st Jan 10am	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Enid & John Mangham RIP Anniv. (Tsocos)
Frid 2nd Jan 9.15am	Ss BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bpp, DD NO MASS THIS MORNING
Sat 3rd Jan 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Mary Dillane RIP Anniv. (Keefe)
Sun 4th Jan 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY Catherine Sweeney RIP Anniv. (Jane) People of the parish

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; closed 23/12-1/1).

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**