



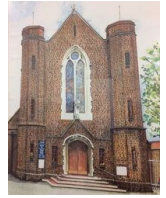
# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

6TH / 7TH DECEMBER 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - Mass Book Pg 85

(Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12)

Our Lady is a wonderful model and guide for the season of Advent, and during this week we celebrate a great solemnity recognising the extraordinary way God prepared her for the unique part she was to play in the drama of human salvation.

With Mary, we wait with great longing for the arrival of her Son. Looking at Mary, we learnt to trust God, and to recognise that our lasting joy is found in seeking his will. With her help, we can open our hearts to the grace that makes us fully alive, free from sin.

Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. This feast celebrates God's choice of her, and the extraordinary outpouring of grace which meant that from the very first moment of her existence she was free from the corruption of, and attraction to, sin; free to say 'yes' to God in every moment of her life and especially in that moment when God's initiative required her cooperation. In honouring her, we honour the God who made her and accomplished such marvels through her.

On the second Sunday of Advent we are introduced to the alarming figure of John the Baptist, who serves as the voice foretold by Isaiah, calling on the people to prepare for the Lord's coming by repenting of their sins. John's language is urgent and uncompromising, because sin represents a mortal wound in our human nature; an estrangement from the God who is the source of all life and goodness. But a call to repentance is not a sentence of condemnation; it presupposes the possibility of reconciliation and restoration. Israel's vocation was to lead the whole world to God, but they too had lost their way. Only when we recognise our need of a saviour can we rejoice in his coming. At the heart of our sinful condition is a refusal to trust God. But God, as a loving father, wants us to be free once more. Israel's vocation would therefore be fulfilled through one Israelite, the woman who would reverse the disobedience of our first parents by her complete trust in God. Though she has nothing to repent of, she is saved in a special way by the grace which flows outside time from the once-and-for-all redemptive sacrifice of her son on the cross. Mary's part in the drama of salvation therefore does not in any way detract from what is accomplished by her son. But God seeks our free cooperation, and with Mary's help we too can cooperate with the grace that sets us free in order to live once more and to become who we are made to be from the beginning.

God bless, Fr Matthew

**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of David Burge, John Parker and Patricia Ashford. David's Funeral Mass takes place this Tuesday at 11am. Patricia's funeral is at South Essex Crematorium on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.20am.

**BISHOP THOMAS MCMAHON RIP:** Full funeral details are posted on the Cathedral website. Please note that the Funeral Mass in the Cathedral on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> is restricted to two representatives from the people of each parish; our two Stewards of the Gospel will be there for us. The celebration of Vespers, when Bishop Thomas's body is received into the Cathedral, at 5pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> is open to all. The funeral Mass will be live streamed at 11.30am via the following link <https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas>

**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.

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

**SECOND COLLECTION BCYS:** Thank you to everybody who gave so generously last weekend to our collection in aid of The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service we raised £747.75.

**PARISH DIARIES & DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES:** These are both available from a table in the porch, priced at £1 and £3.20 respectively. The Parish Diaries include a Catholic liturgical calendar and some useful prayers. If you do business with advertisers in either publication please mention where you saw the advert, to ensure the viability of future publications.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION:** Fr Matthew will be assisting at a service of reconciliation at St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, 7pm on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**; all are welcome.

**REFERENCES:** Occasionally people give Fr Matthew's details as a referee for voluntary posts or employment where there is a requirement for Catholic practice. Please make sure you speak to Fr Matthew so he can put a face to the name, otherwise there may be a delay.

**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.

**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/>

**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.

**CDOT VOICES CHOIR** would like to thank those who came to the concert or gave donations for Prostate Cancer U.K. We raised £500. We are also grateful to the teachers and children's choir from St. Mary's R.C Primary School in Hornchurch who made the evening even more special.

**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.

**THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, LONDON** is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection on Saturday 20 December from 1 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**THE MARILLAC** is looking for musicians to accompany the congregation at the 10.00am Sunday morning Mass, as the current organist will be away for the next few months. Are there any musicians who would be able to help? If so, please contact Sister Kathleen on 01277 220276.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR – CATHEDRAL HOUSE:** A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese. The post will be part-time - 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9.00am - 3.00pm with half an hour for lunch. Term time only. Salary £14.50 per hour.

**WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 26/27:** Applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Year 13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email [michaelkearns@brcdt.org](mailto:michaelkearns@brcdt.org). Applications close on **Friday 16th January 2026**.

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** 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 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026. Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcps.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcps.co.uk), or phone 01708 448430.

**VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS:** <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Sat 6th Dec</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT</b>
<b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>6.30pm</b>	People of the parish
<b>Sun 7th Dec</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9.00am</b>	Sheila Brunton RIP Anniv. (Dennehy)
<b>11.00am</b>	Deceased members of the Earley Family (Earley)
<b>Mon 8th Dec</b>	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	Mary & Alf Fielder RIP (Fielder)
<b>Tues 9th Dec</b>	<b>TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	Bozena Bartkowska RIP (Tan)
<b>11am</b>	Funeral Mass—David Burge
<b>Wed 10th Dec</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
<b>12 noon—1pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Thur 11th Dec</b>	<b>THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	Jack McCarthy's Intentions (Nan)
<b>Frid 12th Dec</b>	<b>FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT</b>
<b>12 noon</b>	Janelle Ng's Intentions (Tan)
<b>Sat 13th Dec</b>	<b>ST LUCY, V, M</b>
<b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b>	<b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>6.30pm</b>	Lucy Bemand-Qureshi's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
<b>Sun 14th Dec</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>9.00am</b>	Colm Cronin RIP (Eleanor & Family)
<b>11.00am</b>	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).

**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**