



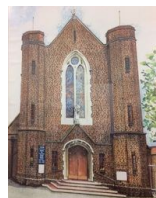
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

10TH / 11TH JANUARY 2026

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) - Mass Book Pg 118

(Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17)

Throughout the year I have the joy of welcoming new members of the body of Christ through the waters of baptism, and I will be doing so this weekend. Baptism is the beginning of our Christian journey, our life in Christ. We are made sons and daughters of God by adoption, filled with the Holy Spirit and restored to the communion with God that is our rightful inheritance, lost in the garden of Eden but not forever.

Baptism, at whatever age it is received - and we look forward to celebrating adult baptisms at Easter - is a new beginning. Today, we bring the season of Christmas to an end by celebrating the feast of Our Lord's baptism, not as a tiny baby but as an adult, at the beginning of his public ministry.

Jesus is baptised in the river Jordan by his cousin John, who has proclaimed a baptism of repentance. Jesus is without sin, but we see him fully identifying with humanity estranged from God in order to heal the damage of sin. Jesus is the Son of God, utterly one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and the unity of the blessed Trinity is revealed in the voice from heaven and the spirit's descent in the form of a dove. Jesus is not changed by his baptism, but he establishes baptism as the means by which we are changed, reborn to a new life of grace. Fittingly at the end of the Christmas season we are reminded once more of the great exchange, the divine one becoming human so that we can share his divinity. And we also see another dimension of the 'epiphany' or revelation of the Son of God, as with the Magi's gifts manifesting not only the identity of our saviour but also the mission that he is embarked upon, to be accomplished at Easter.

Today, let us give thanks for the gift of our baptism, and remember the great dignity bestowed upon us, clothed with Christ, and sharing his triple anointing as priest, prophet and king. May we strive more fully in the year ahead to live

out our baptismal calling by participating fully in the worship of his church, by bearing witness to the truth, and ordering all things to his glory.

The beginning of a new year is often seen as an opportunity for a fresh start. The new start of baptism is only possible once, and yet we who know life is about constant conversion also know that we can have a new start as often as we turn back to the Lord and receive a new outpouring of divine mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation. The Lord who shared our fallen humanity without sinning himself never tires of forgiving us, for that is why he came.

God bless, Fr Matthew

EPIPHANY CHALK: You are invited to take a piece of blessed chalk from the dish by the crib and use it to invoke God's blessing on your home. The chalk is used to inscribe the initials of the Magi, the numerals of the year and the cross of Christ above the door. Further instructions are provided alongside the chalk.

CRIB COLLECTION: You are encouraged to visit the crib throughout the extended Christmas period ending on the feast of Candlemas. Please pray for and support the work of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society as you visit the crib (cash or QR code by the crib, or use the donation screens in the porch).

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of James Engledow, Kathleen Leek and Fr John Haynes former Parish Priest of St Mary's in Hornchurch who died this week. James's funeral Mass will be on Thursday 15th at 10.30am and the Requiem Mass for John Parker will be on Friday 16th at 11am. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We are pausing children's liturgy whilst we take stock and establish what is a sustainable pattern given the volunteers we have. If anyone would like to join the team, please get in touch with the parish office. A parish DBS will be required.

CWL: The Wednesday lunch club reopens on Wednesday 14th January at 12pm. It will be lovely to welcome back our old friends and always good to welcome new ones.

ST JOSEPH'S KNITTING AND CRAFT GROUP: meetings resume on Monday 12th January. New members welcome to help support the numerous charities we are involved with. For further information contact Yvonne Dickens on 01708-228087.

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.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES: Winifred Walker, Wilfred Hartley, Morgan Furze, Agnes Tarrant, Stella Michalkiewicz, Brenda Cridge, Peggy Fagg, Geoffrey Scott, Kathleen Judge, Keith Fletcher, Edward Butler, Arthur McCaffrey ,John Waters , Michael Judge, Kathleen Hibbert, Mary Keane, Hilary Ronald Hart, Tadeusz Wichary, Joseph Conway, Henry Patience, Irene McDougall, George Cush, Margaret O'Neil, Maureen Hourihan, Morgan Madden , Louise Watts, Dorothy Keilich, Joan Christmas, Sidney Willis, Alice Cole, Violet Willis, George Hume, Besmir Gjoni, John Edward Tarplett, Sr. Frances Egan, Charles Geeves, Lawrence Mooney, Patrick McCue, Derek Cavalier, Terry Sullivan, Michael Francis, Carmel O'Shea, David Redden Owen, Margaret Josephine Raftery, Julia Manning, Pamela Goddard, June Nickelson, Edward Chelebik, Elizabeth Healy, Ellen Millett, Kathleen Brazeley, Nora Sheridan, Winifred Threadgill, Reginald Hammond, Mary Fox, Elizabeth Joan Walsh, Richard DePol, Marie Nurse, John Callanan, Clive Judge, Veronica Lafferty, Winifred Slade, Florence Bell, Donald Paveley, Elizabeth Brady, Derry Lydon, Stanley Downey, Jean Morrell, Philomena Johnson, Thomas Murphy, Walter Goold, Richard McKeone, Rose Newman, Martha Greenwood, David Anderson, William Boxall, Constantin Titus, Ian Kelly, Nellie Cantwell, Mary Cooney, Eileen Wilson, Peggy Bolton, Harry Gallagher, Sydney Stubbs, Fr. David Donnelly, Terence Hill, Frederick Cagney, Kathleen Ridley, Anne Fox, Patrick Palmer, Albert Green, Bridget Claydon, Patrick Connaughton, James Maguire, Francis Dempsey, William Kendrick, Ian Lamont, Simon Thomas, Hilda Lawrence, Angela Connor, Sarah Murphy, Evelyn Sharp, Desmond Bennett, Katherine Phillips, Kevin Twohig, Joyce Jones, Nicolina Bastianelli, Thomas Molloy, Leonard Hale, Bridget Durham, Henry Nye, Philip Bleeze, John Kane, Veronica Deacon, Patrick Duggan, Jeffrey Woods, Lawrence Burke, Ciaran Moloney , Kathleen Finn, Neville Doyle, Ellen Barrett, Joan Finigan, Ellen Murphy, Mary Murphy, Rosina Lummis, Susan Lewis, Beryl Parker, Kathleen Hall, John Bardwell, Mary Turner, Jacqueline Cooper, Hilda Bailey, Mary Collis, Thomas & Kathleen Tevenan, Anthony Savory, Thomas McGonigle and Margaret De St Jorre. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 10th Jan	WEEKDAY OF CHRISTMAS TIME—SATURDAY
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 11th Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
9.00am	The people of Russia
11.00am	John Fowley RIP (Romford KSC—Cantoni)
Mon 12th Jan	
9.15am	Mary, Patrick Quinn & family RIP (Watson Family)
Tues 13th Jan	
9.15am	Irene & Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)
Wed 14th Jan	
9.15am	Winifred & Ronald Threadgill RIP (Threadgill)
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 15th Jan	
9.15am	Frank Lawrences on RIP (Mason)
10.30am	Funeral Mass—James Engledow
Frid 16th Jan	
9.15am	Felicity Bemand-Qureshi's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
11am	Requiem Mass—John Parker
Sat 17th Jan	ST ANTHONY, Ab
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	David Burge RIP (Pavitt)
Sun 18th Jan	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Margaret Munnelly RIP 1st 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

**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**