



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

24TH / 25TH JANUARY 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 127

(Isaiah 9:1b-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23)

This Sunday, when we begin our journey through the gospel of the year - Matthew - is designated the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. The Liturgy of the word is an essential element of the Mass. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the living Word of God, the one to whom the human authors of sacred scripture, directly or indirectly, bear witness to. The Liturgy of the Word is not a bible study but an opportunity to listen with open hearts to the God who speaks to his people, gathered as one body united in worship. He wishes to feed us, encourage us and call us to deeper conversion of life. Though it is not in the same category as the real presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, the Word Made Flesh truly and substantially present under the outward form of bread and wine, nevertheless Christ is present in the proclamation of the Word, as he is present also in the assembly gathered for worship.

There are numerous resources that can help us prepare for our participation in the Liturgy of the Word. The easiest is simply to read through the scriptures before hand - either using your own missals, or an online resources such as Universalis.com. The 'Wednesday Word' is another online publication with versions for children and adults (so named as published midway through the week looking to the weekend ahead) whilst a couple from our own diocese (and originally from this parish), Brian and Maureen Devine, publish brief reflections on the Sunday readings for married couples, 'Marriage Matters', now available via marriagecare.org.uk.

The gospel we follow this year is ascribed to the tax-collector chosen and called by Jesus to become an apostle. Clearly, the author drew on other sources (including the gospel of Mark) in addition to his own recollection as a close companion of Jesus, but we can regard this largely as eye-witness testimony. Testimony that is concerned not just with what happened, but who Jesus was. No doubt accounts of Jesus' ministry were widely shared by the early Christian community, and at the point when the first written accounts were composed, including the Gospel of Matthew, there were enough people around with living memory of the period of Jesus ministry who would have been able to contradict anything that was made up. The fact that the four

gospels were so readily accepted by the early church is a strong argument against modern sceptics (whilst the fact that other texts, sometimes called 'gospels' weren't widely accepted says something about them as well). Matthew writes for an audience familiar with the Jewish tradition and prophetic expectations of a Messiah, as today's passage suggests: a reminder that Christ is not just the central figure of the New Testament, but the fulfilment of God's promise to the chosen people. Let us allow God to speak to us through the trustworthy testimony that has been given to us.

God bless, Fr Matthew

MGR DAVID MANSON: The funeral of Fr David will be celebrated at the Brentwood Cathedral at 11 am on Wednesday 28th January. For this reason there will be no lunchtime Holy Hour this Wednesday.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Segilola Valentine whose funeral is Thursday 29th January at 10.30am, and Kathleen Leek whose funeral is on Tuesday 3rd February at 11am.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We are pausing children's liturgy whilst we take stock and establish how best to continue. There will be a meeting in the Social Centre after the 9am Mass on Sunday 1st February (during coffee, in the pre-school room) for parents and others who are interested in becoming part of an expanded team.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CHOIR: Did you enjoy listening to St Joseph's Church Choir at Christmas? Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever wanted to sing as part of a group? Then why not join us this Easter. We come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Christmas and Easter Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Our rehearsals for Easter will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30pm, starting on Monday 19 January. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

CAFOD UKRAINE LENT FAST DAY APPEAL: Join CAFOD to find out about our work in Ukraine and the 2026 Lent Fast Day appeal. Josie O'Reilly will talk about CAFOD's Ukraine Emergency Programme Jane Crone from CAFOD in Brentwood will talk about the Lent Appeal On: Saturday 14 February 2026. Time: Coffee from 10.45 am, starting at 11 am, finishing around 1pm. At: The Beckett Centre St Thomas of Canterbury Church 557-559 High Rd, Woodford, Woodford Green IG8 0SG *plenty of parking*. All Welcome.

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

TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST. GERARD MAJELLA 2026: Later this month our diocese will host the relics of St Gerard Majella at four locations. Monday, 19th January Holy Trinity, Basildon Wednesday, 21st January Ss James & Helen, Colchester Thursday, 22nd January Our Lady of the Rosary & St. Patrick, Walthamstow Friday, 23rd January St. Anthony, Forest Gate This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint.

LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE: Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes next summer: Friday 17th – Friday, 24th July 2026. Booking details will be available shortly.

VACANCY: 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 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 The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Monday, 16th February 2026. If you have any queries or would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. Volunteer for Saturday, 25th July – Saturday, 1st August or Saturday, 1st – Saturday, 8th August. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

BCYS YOUTH MASS: The next Youth Mass will be on 5th February 2026 - Less than 2 weeks before we begin the season of Lent, the SVP will join us to help us begin to think, reflect and prepare with their new resources.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE (18-25 JUL 2026): Applications are open online for this years' Lourdes pilgrimage for those in year 10 and above. You can find all information and the link to apply at www.bcys.net/events/sj26 As always, there is funding available for which we can provide advice and support. We hope to have as many different schools and parishes represented as possible so if there is any support we can give, please do get in touch.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 24th Jan	ST FRANCES DE SALES, BP, D
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Henry Christopher Nye RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sun 25th Jan	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	John Fowley RIP (Upminster CWL)
Mon 26th Jan	ST TIMOTHY & TITUS, BPP
9.15am	For the intentions of the Fowley Family (Matton)
Tues 27th Jan	
9.15am	Joan Finigan RIP Anniv. (Hannah & James)
Wed 28th Jan	ST THOMAS AQUINAS, PR, D
9.15am	David Burge RIP (Manning)
12 noon—1pm	NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 29th Jan	
9.15am	Maeve Haslette RIP (McEneaney) (With our reception children)
Frid 30th Jan	
9.15am	David Burge RIP (Darvill Family)
Sat 31st Jan	ST JOHN BOSCO, PR
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 1st Feb	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	Tony Savory RIP Anniv. (Family)
11.00am	Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCARISTIC 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**