



# St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster



**Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi**

**Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward**

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**31ST JANUARY / 1ST FEBRUARY 2026**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 130**

(Zephariah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12a)

Last week St Matthew introduced us to Jesus as the great preacher, God himself speaking to his people, whose call to repentance and discipleship represented a light shining upon those who had walked in darkness. Today we hear the first part of the best known of all Jesus's sermons, the Sermon on the Mount. The sermon begins with the sayings we know as the 'Beatitudes', each beginning 'Blessed are...'. The circumstances which lead us to be called 'blessed' are counter intuitive. They are an invitation to look at things in a new way, and so experience a deeper joy than is offered by more immediately attractive alternatives. In the light of Christ, we can begin to see things differently. Success, in worldly terms, might leave us hankering for more, or feeling that if this is as good as it gets, why are we still lacking something. To be able to bear with misfortune patiently, and even more to unite our sufferings and hardships with Christ's passion, is a great blessing, and is a means of aligning us more fully with the God who is the source of all life, peace and joy.

The theme of light continues with the feast that occurs on Monday, forty days after Christmas, commemorating, as it were in real-time, the moment Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple and observing the requirements of the law. It is a prophetic moment, foreshadowing the day when Jesus will present himself to the father as the perfect sacrifice, reconciling the human race to God. The prophet Simeon proclaims Jesus as the light of the world, as he also foretells the rejection he will face, and the sorrow Mary endure. This gives rise to the traditional name of Candlemass and the distinctive ceremonies that mark this feast. The Candlemass procession has a parallel in the procession on Palm Sunday marking Jesus entry into Jerusalem to accomplish our salvation. The light of Christ is a source of hope to us, a guide and reference point during the challenges we face in life, and a sign of the victory Christ has accomplished over the darkness of sin and death, which becomes ours through baptism. Please pray for our first communion children who will receive a lighted candle today as a reminder of their own baptism, and their closeness to Christ who shares his life with them.

God bless, Fr Matthew

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Lent is only two and a half weeks away. Ash Wednesday is 18th February and Mass with imposition of ashes will be at 10am and 7pm. The ash is made from the previous year's palm crosses. You are encouraged to bring old palm crosses to church and leave them in the basket in the porch before Shrove Tuesday.

**LOURDES PRAYER REQUESTS:** Fr Matthew will be in Lourdes for the feast day next week, and to plan the summer Diocesan pilgrimage. Any individual prayer requests should be put through the presbytery door by next Saturday evening.

**CRIB COLLECTION:** The crib will be put away this week after the feast of Candlemas. If you haven't done so yet, you are invited to visit the crib, and to pray for and contribute to the work of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. As well as cash, you can give via a QR code at the crib, or via the donation screens in the porch. Your support is much appreciated.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP:** Our children and their families will come together at the 11am Mass this Sunday and will be presented with candles during the Mass.

**St. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP):** is a voluntary group in our parish dedicated to helping people in need by providing practical assistance. Visiting is what we do; spending time befriending people is our greatest gift. As well as offering friendship and support, we are also able to help with many other basic needs to "live life to the full" as Jesus wants us to do (John 10:10). If you, or someone you know, would like us to visit them, please leave your details at the parish office next to the church or call 07932 539106 to speak directly to an SVP member.

**RAINHAM FOODBANK:** A big thank you for all your donations. From November to mid January you gave a total of 150kg. There has been lots donated in the second half of January and a new total will be given shortly. Just a reminder—please give items which are well in date, non alcoholic and we cannot accept perishable (fresh foods). Thank you. (Margaret).

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB EVENTS:** **St Joseph's Catholic Club.**  
**Quiz Night - Saturday 31st January - SOLD OUT** - Club only open to ticket holders on this evening - apologies. **Irish Night (18+) - Friday 20th March -** <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2034551> **Gertcha: Chas & Dave Tribute (18+) - Saturday 25th April -** <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2034562> **Membership now just £5:** <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscatholicclubupminster> **6 NATIONS RUGBY:** We will be open for the first game of the 6 Nations - England vs Wales. This is on Saturday 7th February at 4:40pm - we will be opening at 4pm. All are welcome including families. Come and watch the rugby on our BIG SCREEN!

**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Leek. Kathleen's funeral mass will be on Tuesday 3rd February at 11am. May Kathleen rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

**LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE:** Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes this summer: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Bookings will open shortly at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood>

**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](http://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.

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:** Emilio Papa, Bernadette O'Riley, Mike Gulvin, Stephen Devine, Gillian Cross, John Dance, Norah Houghton, John Donaghue, Elsie Morris, Betty Dean, Francesca Coda, Henry Patience, Grace Louise Robinson, Mary Oliver, Frederick Caldon, Joseph Stedmon, Anne Johnson, Ann Vincent, Jean Simpson, Andrew O'Callaghan, Hilda Dawkins, Jean Meldrun, Margaret Booth, David McCardle, Frederick Caldon, Elvira Rayment, Julie Pursey, John Quinn, Suzanne Desport, Mary Collins, Zoe Burns, John Foley, Sheila Kathleen Furey, Timothy O'Driscoll, Mary Dolby, Alice Phizacklea, Bridget Woolward, Tom Hunt, Gertrude Tucker, Jean Power, Doris Hay, Thomas Ellis, Lilian Kane, Mary Donoghue, Monica Allen, Violet Gilham, Michael Rynne, Anne Richards, Margaret Donald, Joseph Newman, James Gillan, Allwynne Aberdeen, Julian Winn, Oliver Baker, Kathleen Francis, Ethel Bowden, Brenda wood, George Attwood, Julia Croly, Eileen Walters, Cissie Scullion, Thomas Coffey, Mary Humphrys, Dermot Horgan, John Kirk, Rosa Moyse, Florence Phillips, Madge Servis, Amelia Benjamin, Keith Ridley, John Dampster, Joan Cathery, Patrick Conlon, Ron Gilbert, Henry Marler, Elizabeth Faughnan. Asher Goldstein, Herbert Dolby, Maurice Keys, Henry Murphy, Hilda Kelly, John Mylod, Charles Butcher, Dennis Brazeley, Lilian Dunne, George Holden, Peggy Paveley, Lucy Pritchard, Kathleen Keilich, Isobelle Lammas (Stillborn), Sarah McEvoy, William Austin, Margaret Hinchin, Charles Croly, Edward Cross, Dr John Ellis, Florence Frappell, Catherine Hunte, Frances Good, Thomas Tevenan. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Sat 31st Jan</b>  | <b>ST JOHN BOSCO, PR</b>                                      |
| <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                              |
| <b>6.30pm</b>        | People of the parish  |
| <b>Sun 1st Feb</b>   | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>                              |
| <b>9.00am</b>        | Tony Savory RIP Anniv. (Family)                               |
| <b>11.00am</b>       | Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christine)                       |
| <b>Mon 2nd Feb</b>   | <b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>                           |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | John Parker RIP (Pavitt)                                      |
| <b>Tues 3rd Feb</b>  | <b>ST ANNE LINE, M</b>  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)                                 |
| <b>11am</b>          | Funeral Mass—Kathleen Leek                                    |
| <b>Wed 4th Feb</b>   |   |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | John Parker RIP (Catenians)                                   |
| <b>12 noon—1pm</b>   | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                              |
| <b>Thur 5th Feb</b>  | <b>ST AGATHA, V, M</b>  |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Mary Brennan's Intentions (Family) (With our Year 6 children) |
| <b>Frid 6th Feb</b>  | <b>SS PAUL MIKI &amp; COMPS, MM</b>                           |
| <b>9.15am</b>        | Angela Callaghan RIP (Burke)                                  |
| <b>Sat 7th Feb</b>   |   |
| <b>5.30pm—6.15pm</b> | <b>ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS</b>                              |
| <b>6.30pm</b>        | Thomas & Kathleen Tevenan RIP (30 Years) (Tevanan)            |
| <b>Sun 8th Feb</b>   | <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>                               |
| <b>9.00am</b>        | People of the parish  |
| <b>11.00am</b>       | Robin Clist RIP (Family)                                      |

## 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 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**