



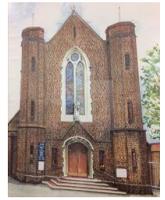
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

28TH FEBRUARY / 1ST MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) - Mass Book Pg 155

(Genesis 12:1-4a, 2 Timothy 1:8b-10, Matthew 17:1-9)

Last Sunday it was a cause of great joy to be present in a full Cathedral with the largest group of catechumens and candidates for the Easter Sacraments of Initiation which our parish has seen in the past few years, joining with others from parishes across the diocese. In the RCIA process ('Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults'), Lent is described as a period of 'purification and enlightenment'. This grace-filled period for those who are now properly termed 'elect', is something the whole church is able to share in, for the call to ongoing conversion is for all of us. Lent is a privileged time for us to bring our whole lives into the cleansing light of Christ, so that we may renounce what is not of God, and therefore harmful to us, and open our hearts more fully to the good gifts he longs to give us. The goal of the Christian life, and in a particular way the goal of Lent, is to turn sinners into saints.

Last week's gospel teaches us of the need to renounce sin, especially the temptation to place ourselves before God. This week's gospel holds before us the divine glory which not only belongs by right to Christ, who is truly the Son of God, but which is also shared with us. Contemplating the more human image of Jesus presented in the gospel of the temptation in the desert, alongside today's passage, we recall once more the great truth and bold claim at the heart of our faith: the Son of God shares our humanity, so that we might share his divinity.

We hear the gospel of the transfiguration at this point in Lent – and the three disciples experience it at this point in their journey – to orient us to our goal, and to give us hope. But there is a journey to be undergone, which requires effort, perseverance, and above all trust in God, whose strength we discover when we acknowledge our weakness. St John Henry Newman, honoured as a Doctor of the church, famously said that for us 'here below to live is to

change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.' We are called to nothing less than perfection – an extraordinary aspiration that seems totally out of reach. But that is what we are made for, in the image and likeness of the God who is all holy, love itself. We should not sell ourselves short and settle for a lesser goal, but aim high, trusting that the God who has made us for perfection will indeed by his grace make us perfect. We must be prepared to change – even if the thought is unsettling, and the prospect unappealing. It will be worth it. As another author, whose life overlapped with Newman's, put it "The only tragedy in life is not to have become a saint" (Léon Bloy)

God bless, Fr Mathew.

CONFIRMATION: Please pray for our Confirmation candidates, who celebrate their own Rite of Election in the parish during the Saturday Vigil Mass this weekend. The confirmation will take place on Wednesday 18th March as part of Bishop Alan's visit to the parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday, 7.30pm in St Lawrence's Church.

NEW YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC GROUP: We are launching a new choir and music group for children and young people, with the intention of supporting the liturgy at the 6.30pm Mass once a month. Anyone who wants to sing or play an instrument is welcome. There is no fixed age range, just a need for enthusiasm and willingness to learn new things. Come along to the YOUTH ROOM (through the Prayer Garden) for 5.30pm on Saturday 14th March (and generally each second Saturday) to practise what we will sing at the 6.30pm Mass. For more information contact Bernadette Tsocos btsocos@gmail.com (or find her in the Repository).

ST PETER'S CRANHAM: Following our decision to sell this property, it is now on the market and offers are invited from interested parties. The sale is being managed by Newmark partner Paul Greenwood, Paul.Greenwood@nmrk.com. For more information visit our parish website.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Merrigan, Mary-Anne Madden and Annette Dagnall who have died. Patricia's funeral will also be held here on Tuesday 31st March at 11am, Mary-Anne's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 24th March at 10.45am and Annette's funeral will be on Thursday 9th April at 11am here at St Joseph's. May Patricia, Mary-Anne and Annette rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB: 6 Nations England Games - Irish Night (18+) - Friday 20th March - <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2034551> "We Got The Funk" feat Simon Bartholomew from the Brand New Heavies (18+) - Saturday 25th April - <https://buytickets.at/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2034562> Membership now just £5: <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscc>

THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK: Thursday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org

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 Yr13 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.

LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE: Would you like to join our bishop and parishioners and clergy from around the diocese on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer? The dates are Friday 17th – Friday 24th July. Please visit <https://tangney-tours.com/brentwood> for further information and to book, or contact Deirdre Pembroke, lourdes@brcdt.org if you have any questions. Paper booking forms to follow.

COME AND ENJOY THE FUN AT BROWNIES AND GUIDES: We have places for girls to join the Brownies (aged 7-10) and for Guides (aged 10-14). We currently are meeting at St. Peter's on a Thursday evening. For more information please contact :- Sharon for Brownies via email at shazza31281@hotmail.com or for Guides Diane at dianeconsultants@gmail.com Please also see the articles on the church website.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM– 23rd May 2026: Please save the date. Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. More information to follow.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 28th Feb 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 1st March 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Rita Hall RIP (Pavitt) Hanna Tarkowska RIP Anniv. (Berry)
Mon 2nd March 9.15am	MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT Ronald Robinsons Intentions (Christine)
Tues 3rd March 9.15am	TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT Margaret Bennett RIP
Wed 4th March 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT Patrick Conlon RIP Anniv. (Davin) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 5th March 9.15am	THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT John Parker RIP (Talbot) With our year 3 children)
Frid 6th March 9.15am	FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT Kathleen Hardie RIP (Lynch)
Sat 7th March 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Felicity Bemand-Qureshi's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
Sun 8th March 9.00am 11.00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Ambrose Alabi RIP Anniv. (Bridget & Family) 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

**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**