



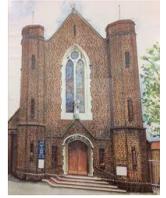
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

14TH / 15TH MARCH 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) - Mass Book Pg 164

(1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41)

This Fourth Sunday of Lent has two names. It is Laetare Sunday, one of two Sundays in the year when the penitential purple is lightened to reflect the note of joy that appears in the entrance antiphon of the mass: a text which begins 'rejoice', 'Laetare' in Latin. And the same text gives rise to the other name: Mothering Sunday. The primary reason for our joy today is the knowledge that we have a mother in holy church, signified by the holy city Jerusalem.

Naturally, as we give thanks for Holy Mother Church, which brings us to birth through baptism, and nourishes us through the other sacraments, we also very properly give thanks for our earthly mothers. We also think of our Lord's own mother, who is given to us as mother of the church, mother of all those joined to him in baptism.

On this Sunday we hear the gospel of the man born blind: the second in a series of journeys of faith through an encounter with Jesus, which are linked with the celebration of the scrutinies for those to be baptised at Easter. A man receives the gift of physical sight from our Lord, to the consternation of the Pharisees. But more significantly, he receives spiritual sight, whilst the enemies of our Lord become progressively unable to see due to the hardness of their hearts.

Through the eyes of faith we can see things in a new light. We can learn to trust in God. And so we can find joy even amidst the trials of life. Indeed, we can see the struggles as a means of drawing closer to Christ. The ability to make sacrifices readily for the sake of one we love, and to delight in doing so, is truly a hallmark of (though by no means restricted to) parental love. The mingling of self-denial and joy symbolised by the rose pink vestments

anticipates the unalloyed joy of eternity, when everything is made perfect. May we all grow in love, and experience the deep joy of knowing we are infinitely loved by God.

God bless, Fr Mathew.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: At each Mass this weekend blessed spring flowers will be offered as a sign of gratitude and appreciation to all mothers and those exercising spiritual motherhood.

BISHOP'S VISIT: Bishop Alan will make his three-yearly visit to the parish on Wednesday of this week, celebrating Mass at 7pm during which he will confirm 31 young people from our parish. All are welcome, though seating may be limited.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUP: Next Sunday our children will be presented with a rosary at the 11am Mass.

SCRUTINIES: The adults preparing for baptism at Easter will celebrate the second Scrutiny at the Masses they attend this weekend.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Anyone who has already made their first holy communion and is interested in joining our team of altar servers, is invited to speak to Fr Matthew and get your parents email the parish office with your contact details and the time of Mass you usually attend.

EASTER TRIDUUM: The times for the main celebrations on the three sacred days of our redemption are as follows: Maundy Thursday (2nd April) 8pm; Good Friday (3rd April) 3pm; Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil – 4th April) 8.30pm.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Merrigan, Mary-Anne Madden, Annette Dagnall and Delia Said 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. Delia's funeral will be at South Essex Crematorium on Monday 23rd March at 1.30pm. May Patricia, Mary-Anne, Annette and Delia rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB: 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>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: St Laurence Church 7.30pm on Friday.

CANTERBURY WALK 2026: The Canterbury Walk 2026 will take place from Wednesday 8th April to Saturday 11th April. You can register by simply scanning the QR code or by contacting **Andrew Pearce on 07903 654288**. This pilgrimage is a chance to step away from screens, spend four days walking more than 70 miles through beautiful countryside, and enjoy the restorative benefits of being outdoors. It offers space to unwind, reflect, and reconnect—whether through quiet moments, meaningful conversations, or simply sharing the journey with others in faith.



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.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES: Clarence Barrett, Lilian Conrad, Mary Pennell, Wanda Wojtecki, Elizah James (Dot) Sr. Tarcisius, Margaret Eberle, Diana Fairchild, Ernest Anthony, Heather Thomson, Fr Malachy Kelly, Dennis John King, Doreen Glavin, Erna Crawley, Eileen Gilham, Joan Grant, Stephanie Dunn, Patrick Raftery, Eileen Noyes, Nora Goldsmith, Sister Clare Ronan, Alan Goss, Susan Waters, Pauline O’Kelly, Harry Doyle, Bridget Casey, Airi Cipa, Caroline Walsh, Alan Noyes, John Merritt, Terence Williamson, Jessie Speight, Elvera Fyne, Charles Clark, John Galvin, Maureen Alford, Eileen Moore, Charles Slattery, Geoffrey Rogers, Patrick Connolly, Catherine(Florence) Reeves, Anne Lester, Wyndham Shearn, Ann Mary Breeze, Thomas Hall, Mary (Maura) O’Loughlin, Percy Sharp, William Dawkins, Maureen Lygoe, Brendan Horgan, Roger Gorman, Abigail Cottingham, David de Cruz, Geoffrey Garvan, Percy Main, Pearl Tayler, Michael Morrissey, Kevin Grace, Patrick Grace, Peggy O’Neil, Margaret Thoroughgood, David Finch, Jim Hoey, Len Williams, Mary Pipe, Emily Hoard, Elaine Cooper, Frank Cott, Miriam Gregory, Beatrice Kensington, Leonard Russell, Lucy Dorling, Elizabeth Wilson, Alice McDonnell, Josephine Best, David Fayers , Patrick Walsh , William Whitby , Samantha Donnelly, Vera Shearn, Catherine Scully, Catherine Engledow, Joyce Kelly, James Harle, Terry Baker, David Wisker, Kevin Coady, Dorothea Wortley, Kathleen Pinner, John Wisely, Robert Williams, Jenny O’Sullivan, Dennis Steer, Annie Saunders, David Walsh, Colin Bottle, Ronald Wilson, Elizabeth Morris, Margaret Joyce, Kathleen Verner, Peter Hamilton, Maureen Grourk, Dominic Blaney, James Betson. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 14th March	SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Irene Stubbings Intentions (Christine)
Sun 15th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Irene Robinson's Intentions (Christie)
Mon 16th March	MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
9.15am	Michael Correy RIP (Sammons)
Tues 17th March	ST PATRICK, B, PATRON OF IRELAND
9.15am	Bridget O'Sullivan RIP (Regan)
Wed 18th March	WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
9.15am	Bridget Ginty RIP (Pavitt)
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
7pm	Confirmation Mass with Bishop Alan
Thur 19th March	ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
9.15am	Parish Intention
Frid 20th March	FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
9.15am	Maria Chainey RIP Anniv. (Maplesden)
Sat 21st March	SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Alan & Eileen Noyes RIP (Burgess)
Sun 22nd March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Patrick & David Walsh RIP Anniv. (Margaret)

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