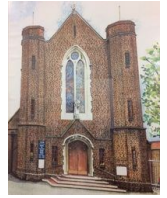




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
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PARISH NEWSLETTER

11TH / 12TH APRIL 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) - Mass Book Pg 255

(Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31)

The Upper Room is not only the scene of the Last Supper. It provided a place of refuge for the disciples, hunkering down in fear after the events of Good Friday. It was where the risen Lord appeared on the first Easter evening, with words of peace rather than expected reproach. Today we return to that place a week later where they are gathered once more – this time with Thomas who had been absent previously – and Our Lord appears to them again. Here Jesus gives them a first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, specifically linked to their authority to forgive sins in his name, and later they will receive the Holy Spirit anew on the day of Pentecost in the very same place.

On this Sunday, a week after the joy of Easter Day, we are invited to contemplate once more, with the disciples, the significance of the wounds of Christ. Wounds that remain visible in the risen and glorified body of Our Lord, because they are the enduring signs of his love for us. A point of continuity so that, as St Thomas appreciates, we can be in no doubt whatsoever that the risen one is truly the one who died for us. For whom his passion and death was not simply a 'long weekend away' as I saw someone scoff online, as if his suffering on Good Friday and in the garden of Gethsemane were all an act. No: we need to know that the one who is true God and true man really did enter into the depths of human suffering and the separation of death in order to heal everything. Or, to turn things around, to know that the one who was so disfigured, mocked and abused, really is the same one who met and ate with his disciples in the days and weeks that followed. With certainty we can say – as St Thomas proclaimed after his initial doubts were overcome – 'My Lord and my God!'. How providential it was that Thomas' absence on that first Sunday meant that his faith and the testimony he gave to this who 'do not see and yet believe' would be all the stronger as a result.

This Sunday is the feast of Divine Mercy; and of all the wounds we might reflect especially on our Lord's pierced side. The water and blood which flowed from that final wound, proof of his death, have long been seen as a sign of the sacraments, and so the church itself, emerging from his side in that moment. In the Divine Mercy image this is transformed into rays of light. Our crucified and risen saviour is the source of all mercy. He wishes us place our trust in him, to live in that peace which he offered to his disciples, to avail ourselves of all the opportunities that come through the life of his church to experience the grace of his mercy, especially baptism, the eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, and to become witnesses like Thomas and the others to the Easter faith which we have received.

Amongst its many names this Sunday is also known as 'Dominica in Albis', from the white baptismal garments. The newly baptised are remembered daily at Mass throughout the church during the great octave of Easter which comes to an end today. Traditionally the baptismal garment would be worn throughout this time, and only set aside today. We continue to pray for those who publicly professed their faith in God and made visible their desire to be part of his church: 8 adults baptised and confirmed, 2 received into the Catholic church through confirmation, and 3 others confirmed, plus 9 children baptised last weekend and this Sunday. Let us thank God and thank them for being a sign of encouragement to the Church and a witness to the whole world of his saving love and the mercy which knows no bounds. If you are thinking of taking this step yourself, its not too early to have that first conversation.

Finally on a personal note thank you for your generosity in the Easter offering, as well as for the cards, gifts and good wishes from many of you in celebration of Easter, and importantly for your prayers.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC GROUP: We have started 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 18th April (normally it will be the second Saturday of the month) to practice what we will sing at the 6.30pm Mass. For more information contact Bernadette Tsocos btsocos@gmail.com (or find her in the Repository).

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne O'Sullivan who has died. Anne's funeral will be held here on Thursday 23rd April at 2pm. May Anne rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

EASTER BAPTISMS: Please pray for Betsy and Cooper from the First Communion Group, to be baptised at 11am this Sunday.

THE LEGACY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: As we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis (3rd October 1226), Fr Alban McCoy OFM Con will speak about how Francis changed the Church of his day, and can help us to renew the Church in our own times. The event will take place in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from 11 am until 1 pm on Saturday 2nd May. Refreshments available from 10.30. Everyone is welcome to this free event, which is also available by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org No booking necessary.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Sharp, Geoffrey Marlow, Willoughby Tayler, Norman Gower, Audrey Potter, Krystyna Wojtecka, George Clark, Eileen O'Brien, Nora Maguire, Alice Hooper, James Woolward, Terence Mahoney, Peggie Atkinson, Maureen Bradford, Ann Fennell, William Crowley, Eileen Hall, Mary Stannard, Maureen Denise Springham, Gladys Hallahan, Cecilia Fletcher, Hilary Dingli, Anthony Roberts, Sr Dolores McGoldrick, Patrick Carter, Eileen Neal, Gwendoline Sena, Barry Farrelly, Patrick Horrigan, Annette Stokes, Robert Sexton, Patrick Coleman, Charles Cantwell, Rose Coult, Mary Catherine Smith, Jennie Murphy, Alice Coward, Edith Romer, Albert Jung, Ellen Whitby, Sheila Corcoran, Jacqueline Willis, Josephine Brown, Wyn Diamond, Guiseppe Pettenuzzo, George Jones, James McNamara, Anne Steward, Norah Carroll, Sheila Walker, Louise Silverlock, Thomas Feeney, Jack Horgan, Bryan O'Lochlen, Fumiko Jenkins, Irene Dobinson, Mary Moran, Grace Geeves, Maureen Connolly, Michael Jones, Andrew Horti, Winifred Ketterer, Annie Childs, Margaret Houlden, William Keefe, Doreen George, Charlotte Regan, Horace Ellis, Gwendoline Rainbird, Edmund Skinner, John Thompson Baker, Christine Norley, Molly Kenny, John Chambers, Richard Jenkins, June Blake, Emily Hoare, Atina Duncan, Edith Hess, Doris Marquis, Michael Quirke, Gladys Lyden, Frank Everett, James Hamilton, Francis Connolly, Christine Hale, Brian Best, Eddie O'Donnell, Phyllis Lock, Joyce Dampster, Kathleen Allen, Paul Sears, Norah Madden, William Dailey, Iveron Stone, Ethel Cameron. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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 and

rThomas Presland

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 11th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS John & Mary Donoghue RIP Anniv. (Larner)
Sun 12th April 9.00am 11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER John Dennehy RIP Anniv, (Dennehy) People of the parish
Mon 13th April 9.15am	MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER Maureen Springham RIP 1st Anniv. (Brian)
Tues 14th April 9.15am	TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER Grace Wingrove RIP (birthday) Cunningham
Wed 15th April 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER Mary Cribben RIP (O'Malley) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 16th April 9.15am	THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER Philomena Reid RIP (Catenians)
Frid 17th April 9.15am	FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER Kathleen Hardie RIP (Lynch)
Sat 18th April 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 19th April 9.00am 11.00am	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Michael Cooper RIP (Cooper Family) Linda Travell RIP, Anniv & Birthday (Sammon)

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**