



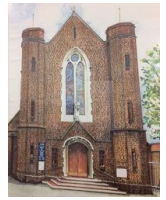
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

16TH / 17TH MAY 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) - Mass Book Pg 275

(Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11a)

On Thursday we celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord, now we are looking forward to Pentecost. We are in an in-between time. For the apostles this was a time of uncertain waiting, but also a time of intense prayer, the first novena, praying earnestly for the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit that would equip them for the mission Christ had entrusted to them. In our gospel today we have a privileged glimpse of Jesus's own prayer. We see what is really on his heart, and we see something of that mysterious communion between Father and Son.

The Last Supper, the occasion of what is known as his 'high priestly prayer', is profoundly connected to the sacrifice of the cross. His priesthood is powerfully manifested as he establishes the both the eucharist and a ministerial priesthood to offer it. He washes his disciple's feet, gives them the new commandment to love one another, shares with them for the first time the bread and wine that have become his body and blood, and speaks to them of his parting and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And then he prays to the Father for his disciples and all who will come after them.

We have a share in Christ's priesthood through baptism. As head of the body to which we belong, he is praying 'for' us in both senses of that word. We are the ones he is praying for – the subject of his prayer – and he is also praying on our behalf as the supreme mediator between heaven and earth. By living in him, his prayer becomes our prayer. That is why the Mass is our greatest prayer. Later in this High Priestly prayer, he prays for the unity of those who belong to him, knowing only too well how human pride and the seduction of the father of lies would lead to fractures within the body of believers that can in truth only ever be one body, because there is only one Christ. But this year we hear the first part of this prayer, which begins with Our Lord setting out what it is he is about to accomplish through the Paschal mystery. Of course, he's not telling the Father anything he doesn't know! But it is for the benefit of the disciples and for our benefit that he prays in this way.

A word that stands out in this passage is 'glorify'. In an inversion of worldly values, Christ's glory consists in his total submission to the Father's will. The world prizes autonomy and independence, and sees submission as a sign of weakness. But Jesus, who lacks nothing, freely chooses to carry out his Father's will; there is in fact no difference at all between what Jesus desires and what the Father desires (nor what the Holy Spirit desires) because their love for each other is total and perfect. And since we, the creatures made in God's image and likeness, are made purely out of love and not out of any necessity (God being perfect lacks nothing), it follows that the common desire of Father Son and Holy Spirit is that each of us attain the greatest good possible, a share in their own divine life. That is why the 2nd century bishop of Lyons, St Irenaus, taught that "the glory of God is man fully alive" – indeed, it is only in God that we can be fully alive, and to be fully alive is to have a share in his glory. As Christ goes on to say in this prayer – again, for our benefit – the essence of eternal life is to know God. And this says something about our life now as well as in the future: when we are fully alive in the world to come, we will see God face-to-face, drawn fully into the communion of the Blessed Trinity; his life will be our life. As we live our lives in this world, it is by coming to know God through the person of his Son that we can begin to live that eternal life even now.

When Our Lord's work on earth was done, he returned to his rightful place in heaven. He did not intend to abandon his disciples and had no desire to distance himself from them or from our lowly humanity. It was so that he could be even closer to all those who would believe in him, and to give us confidence that we, the members of his body, are to follow where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before. Since we can only be fully alive in him, let us follow his example of perfect acceptance of the Father's will, striving to glorify God in all that we do, and let us, with the help of his grace and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, come to share in the fullness of life that is offered to us; persevering in faith, trusting in him whatever life brings us, and remaining in him for ever.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

FRONT DOORS: For better retention of warmth in winter, resistance to the effects of wind and minimising the chance of birds taking up residence in the church, the main doors now have self-closing devices. If you struggle to open these doors, remember that the side door can be opened at the press of a button.

ADULT CONFIRMATIONS: Please pray for Alan, to be confirmed during the 9am Mass today, and for Emma and Taylor, to be received and confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

HOLY HOUR: Please note there is no Wednesday lunchtime Holy Hour this week or the following week. The next Wednesday Holy Hour will be 3rd June.

SECOND COLLECTION WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: There will be a second collection after all masses this weekend in aid of World Communications Day.

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB: The Wednesday lunch club will be closed for one week only on Wednesday 27th May. We will reopen on Wednesday 3rd June.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER (FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY): is being held locally from Monday 19th to Sunday 24th May. Opportunities for "Gathered Prayer" during the week. We are encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer at 12 noon each day. We are invited to prayer groups on Tuesday 19th at 7.30pm at St Joseph's Social Centre, Wednesday 20th at 8pm at Upminster Baptist Church and on Thursday 21st at 8pm at Kings Church, Gaynes School. Churches Together UCNO service will be held on Sunday 24th at 6pm at Cranham Baptist Church.

RIP: please pray for the repose of the souls of Betty Byrne and William Brannan. Betty's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Wednesday 20th May at 10.30am. Betty's body will be received into the church on Tuesday 19th May at 4.30pm. William's funeral will be held here on Thursday 11th June at 12.30pm. Please also pray for the response of the soul of Brian Holmes, a former parishioner, who died on 9th May and for his family. May Betty, William and Brian rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM APPLICATIONS: Applications are open for those finishing Year 13 or university who are interested in a year of volunteering at Walsingham House. It is a unique opportunity to grow in faith, serve others and gain key life skills along the way! For further information, please email clairebailey@brcdt.org.

DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE – SATURDAY, 23RD MAY
Representatives from the BCYS will be joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and we would like to invite other young people to join and assist with the liturgy. please contact gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org if you are interested.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA) - Be part of something extraordinary at World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world, gathered with Pope Leo for this global celebration of faith. Open to those currently in Year 13 and above. Details and applications: www.bcys.net/events/wyd27

CAMPION SCHOOL OPEN EVENING – YEAR 5 STUDENTS - The Campion School would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on Thursday, 25th June from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. The Headteacher's talk will be at 4.30 pm and repeated at 6.30 pm. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 16th May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS June Corrigan RIP (Terry)
Sun 17th May 9.00am 11.00am	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER People of the parish Michael McEneaney RIP 1st Anniv. (Family)
Mon 18th May 9.15am	MONDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER Rose Head RIP (Bragg)
Tues 19th May 9.15am	TUESDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER Lucian Vasile RIP (Tan)
Wed 20th May 9.15am 10.30am	WEDNESDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER Maureen & Donie Muldoon RIP Anniv. (Pavitt) Funeral Mass—Betty Byrne
12 noon—1pm	NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS TODAY
Thur 21st May 9.15am	THURSDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER The Holy Father (with our Year 6 children)
Frid 22nd May 9.15am	FRIDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER For the intentions of Wayne Steggles
Sat 23rd May 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	SATURDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 24th May 9.00am 11.00am	PENTECOST Mary Woulds RIP (Doug) Alf Driscoll RIP Anniv. (Family)

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**