



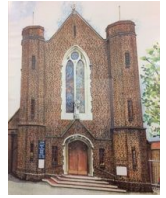
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

23RD / 24TH MAY 2026

PENTECOST (A) - Mass Book Pg 288

(Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23)

Pentecost literally means 'fiftieth'. On the fiftieth day after Passover the Jews kept a feast celebrating the wheat harvest, and commemorating the giving of the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Our Lord's death and resurrection occurred at the time of Passover, for he is himself the new Passover, and it was on the day of Pentecost that the promised gift of the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples. The gift of the Holy Spirit was manifested not only in wind and fire, but in the miracle by which all those present for the feast who had travelled from other countries heard the apostles preach in their own language; also in the boldness of the apostles preaching from that day on, and in the great numbers who responded by joining them in faith. There is a certain symmetry with the original Pentecost (for nothing is by coincidence with God!) as our Pentecost celebrates the beginning of a rich harvest of those who have come to new life in the Spirit; and the gift not of a law, but of the Spirit of Truth who leads us in God's ways.



Today we rejoice in the beginning of the Church's mission – Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church – and we renew our gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit not only on that great day but in our present. In doing so we renew our desire to cooperate with and live more fully in the Holy Spirit, and play our part in this great mission.

Who is the Holy Spirit? For the Holy Spirit is indeed a 'who' not a 'what'; a divine person who we can relate to, and not vague spiritual force. In the Creed we call him the 'Lord', the 'Giver of Life'. He is God, as the Father is God, and the Son is God. We rightly call all three persons of the Trinity 'Lord'. And to name them as such, means to honour their proper place at the centre

of our lives. To place ourselves under the Lordship of the Holy Spirit, is to embrace an understanding of freedom that is not a matter of playing by my own rules, but the freedom to become who I am meant to be. This true freedom which the Spirit gives us is truly life-giving. In his conversation with Nicodemus Jesus employs the analogy of wind, something we cannot see but which we know is real, as we can see its effects in the things it moves. We can recognise the Holy Spirit at work in our own lives and in the lives of others, if we are attuned to his works. St Paul gives us the classic list of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his letter to the Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we see these in ourselves and others, we will know the Spirit is at work.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may bear fruit in us, as we open our hearts to the gifts he longs to give us. Come Holy Spirit!

God bless, Fr Matthew

THIS WEEK: Many thanks to Fr Gerry Gostling and the priests of Our Lady of La Salette for celebrating weekday Masses this week. Please note there is no eucharistic adoration during the week. The parish office will be closed for the bank holiday and church opening hours will be shorter than usual.

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

RIP: please pray for the repose of the souls of William Brannan and Sue Kelly, a teaching assistant at St Joseph's Primary School . William's funeral will be held here on Thursday 11th June at 12.30pm. May William and Sue 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.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, GRAYS: In October this year St. Thomas' Church and school, in Grays will be celebrating 140 years of serving the community. Past and present parishioners are invited people to come along for Mass with the Bishop on the 10th October at 5:00pm. In addition if people have images or memories that they would like to share please invite them to send them to the parish.

A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGE 2026: Pilgrimage to Italy (Tuesday, 1st to Thursday, 10th September 2026). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> Closing date 23 June 2026.

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

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

BRENTWOOD URSULINE - MUSICAL APTITUDE ASSESSMENTS FOR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS & PLACES - YEAR 7 ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2027 Is offering 17 of the Year 7 places for admission in September 2027, on the basis of musical aptitude. Parents wishing to apply should submit the appropriate form (available to download from the website www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk or direct from the school). Completed forms must be sent to the school by Friday, 17th July 2026. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP- MOST HOLY REDEEMER - On Wednesday 27th May, during half-term week, Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill will be hosting light refreshments and workshops for children, including drama, flower art, and music. A donation of £1 is requested. For further details, please contact Theresa at the Parish Office on 01708 343492.

BCYS YOUTH MASS: The next Youth Masses will take place at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 4 th June and 2nd July. It is open to any young people from around the Diocese to enjoy pizza, prayer, workshops and celebrate Mass together! For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

NEW EVE MOTHERHOOD ACADEMY: Dr Bridget Alabi of our parish has developed resources to support women in their vocation to motherhood, available at her website <https://thenewevemotherhoodacademy.org/> It is a holistic approach including natural fertility education and spiritual formation, inspired by Mary, the New Eve. Through her openness to God's will and her faithful motherhood, Mary reveals that the ordinary realities of maternal life can become a place where women can find holiness.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: On Monday our holy father Pope Leo will launch his first encyclical, whose title means 'Magnificent humanity'. The official signing date was the 135th anniversary of the encyclical of his namesake Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (On new things), the foundational text for Catholic Social Teaching addressing the realities of the industrial age. The new encyclical will focus on the human person in an age in which artificial intelligence is increasingly reshaping work, communication, education, politics and war; thus addressing the new things of the present age.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 23rd May	SATURDAY OF THE SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 24th May	PENTECOST
9.00am	Mary Woulds RIP (Doug)
11.00am	Alf Driscoll RIP Anniv. (Family)
Mon 25th May	MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
9.15am	Lyn Hayward RIP Anniv.
Tues 26th May	ST PHILIP NERI, PR
9.15am	Samuel Wingrove RIP Anniv. (Cunningham)
Wed 27th May	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
9.15am	Deceased members of the Bradley Family (Catton)
12 noon—1pm	NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK
Thur 28th May	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
9.15am	Esther Hancock RIP (Byrne)
Frid 29th May	FRIDAY OF WEEK EIGHT IN ORDINARY TIME
9.15am	The Parents of Liz Manning RIP (Manning)
Sat 30th May	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
5.30pm—6.15pm	NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	People of the parish
Sun 31st May	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
9.00am	For the friends of Mary-Anne Madden
11.00am	Paul Merrick RIP (Sheridan)

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**