



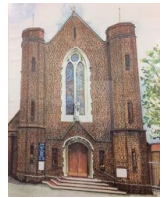
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

9TH / 10TH MAY 2026

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) - Mass Book Pg 268

(Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21)

Bank Holiday Monday was the feast of the English martyrs, those who witnessed to their faith during the dark days of persecution in this country in the 16th and 17th century, the period known as the Reformation. They understood that faith in the risen Christ is inseparable from belonging to the community of faith which is his body, the church, established by Christ as a means of sharing his life with his followers in every age. Life shared principally by means of the sacraments that he has given us, fulfilling his promise to be close to us and pour out his Holy Spirit upon us. This group we honour collectively as the English martyrs included men and women of all walks of life. Lay people, members of religious orders and secular clergy. Those of humble status, and those holding high office in government and the church. They went to great lengths and were willing to accept severe hardship and even death in order to practice their faith, hold firm to what they believed to be right and true, and facilitate access to the sacraments for as many of their fellow countrymen as possible. Their number included a great many priests, formed for priestly service overseas, then sent on mission and likely death to the land of their birth. There was a custom at the English College in Rome, of gathering in the chapel to sing the Te Deum, a hymn of praise, when news of another martyrdom was received. Their underground priestly ministry was aided by lay men and women who ran safehouses, aided their travel across the country and organised for the celebration of Mass in secret. Their witness reminds us how necessary the sacraments are for us, and what a privilege it is to be able to meet for worship without threat of violence or arrest. Though we know that in other parts of the world it is not so simple, whilst those of the Jewish faith in this country also meet in fear.

Over the course of this month, some 73 children of our parish will receive holy communion for the first time. This is a significant moment for them and their families. The care with which they have been prepared, and the joy with which they celebrate this moment, might also inspire us. Hopefully, this will be the first of very many communions that they make in their lifetimes. We

also hope that their love, appreciation, and reverence will not diminish. It would be wonderful if we could say that every communion was as significant and special to us as our first. Which, of course, it is, because it is the risen Lord who feeds us with himself every single time. That is truth which the English martyrs recognised and died for.

The other week we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday, the day of prayer for vocations. Priestly vocations do not emerge from a vacuum. We do need faithful priests who will dedicate their lives to celebrating the sacraments and ministering to Christ's flock. But those vocations are only likely to emerge and flourish within a church which truly appreciates the sacraments, which hungers and thirsts for Christ and is ready to stand up for what is right without counting the cost. On Thursday we begin the original Novena of Prayer, marking the period between the Ascension of Our Lord and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As we pray for more vocations, let us also pray for greater faith, and an openness to the Holy Spirit in our lives.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION: This Thursday, 40 days after the resurrection, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. We will follow our special timetable for Holy Days of Obligation, with Mass at 10am and 8pm.

RIP: please pray for the repose of the soul of Betty Byrne whose 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. May Betty rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

GIFT AID BOXES: These are now available for collection in the church porch.

FIRST COMMUNIONS: Please pray for all the children of our parish – 73 of them – who are to make their first holy communion over the next two weekends.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC GROUP: Our new group will be supporting the music at the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 16th May. New members welcome. Meet at 5.30pm in the Youth Room (through the Prayer Garden) and stay for the evening Mass. Come and sing or bring an instrument.

OUR WALK TO PENTECOST: Please join the parish prayer group on Tuesday 12th May here in the Church at 7:30pm for a special evening, Come and be encouraged as members of our community share powerful personal testimonies, and hear an inspiring talk on the power of the Holy Spirit. All are warmly welcome—whether you're seeking renewal, deeper faith, or simply a moment of reflection, this promises to be a meaningful and uplifting gathering.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL: It was announced on Thursday that the headteacher Mr Mike Ross would step down at the end of this term. As a parish we are immensely grateful for his service and leadership of the school and we are grateful to the deputy Mrs Lauren Shepherd for agreeing to be Acting Head next term. Please pray for both of them and for the school.

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.

BE A MASTER BUILDER: LEGO NIGHT (ADULTS ONLY): Friday 15th May 2026 7.30pm—10.30pm, St Joseph's Catholic Club, RM14 2QB. Please see the following link for more information : <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2176019>

CAFOD ARE HIRING: Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? We are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Brentwood. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date: 18 May 2026. See cafod.org.uk/work-with-us

MAY ANNIVERSARIES: Josephine Houghton, Albert Willsmer, Harry Westwick, John Gibbs, Thomas White, Catherine Thomas, Lawrence Clarke, Jillian Peters, James Woolward, Thomas Collier, Alicja Savrimoutou, David Wood, Bernadette Holland, Michael O'Donoghue, Elizabeth (Betty) Devine, David Isbell, Annie Pitt, Maureen Flower, Jaqueline Brown, Florence Pearson, Herbert Greentree, Anthony Crick, Cecilia Fletcher, Vera Steeden, Patricia Millward, Eileen Aitkin, Mary Kelly, Dominic Ivens, Ray Sarson, James Barker, James Cullen, Moira Raven, Laurence Hale, Rosemary Lawson, Susan Ross, John Pawlikowski, Joan Purcell, Fr Stanley Joynes, William Washbourne, Agnes Phillips, Mary Stenson, John Heelan, Kathleen Petenuzzo, Isabella Butler, Alfred Christmas, Katherine Cornwall, Sheila Barnett, Thomas Speight, Daphne Dickens, Charles Fitzpatrick, Denis O'Riley, Eileen McCardle, Michael McEaney, Lilian Mills, Maureen Lockwood, Anne Allen, Sophie Caruso, Frank Norley, Norah Hutchings, George Garnier, Elizabeth Atkins, John Fairchild, Ann Nash, Maureen Muldoon, Jeremiah Morrissey, Nora Herlihy, Susan Barrett, Edward Horigan, Gerald McCann, William Delaney, William O'Malley, Thomas Walsh, Patrick McConalogue, Alfred Driscoll, Margaret Mary Marshall, Bronislarva Wiszniewska, Gordon Davis, Helen Cakebread, Jacqueline Presland, Patricia Silverlock, Mary McSweeney, Eileen Lyngcoln, Donald Muldoon, Sylvia Macdonald, George Thompson, Beatrice Dampster, Clara Neala, Tony Nellist, William Butler, James Apicella, Mario Pettenuzzo and Ellen Walsh. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 9th May	SATURDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	John Scully RIP Anniv. (Mary & Family)
Sun 10th May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Mary Brennan RIP (Michael & Family)
Mon 11th May	MONDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER
9.15am	Catherine Osho's Intentions (Bridget)
Tues 12th May	ST JOHN HOUGHTON, PR, M
9.15am	Jordan Wright RIP (Neil & Anne Sampson)
Wed 13th May	ST ERCONWALD, BP
9.15am	Yonas Estefanos RIP (Bemand-Qureshi)
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 14th May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
10am	Caroline Frith's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)
8pm	People of the parish
Frid 15th May	FRIDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER
9.15am	Kitty Marmion RIP (Burke)
Sat 16th May	SATURDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	June Corrigan RIP (Terry)
Sun 17th May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Michael McEaney RIP 1st 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**