



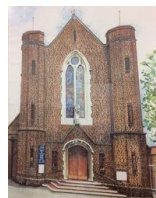
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

20TH / 21ST JUNE 2026

TWELTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) - Mass Book Pg 93

(Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33)

This Sunday is Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, it is a purely secular day that doesn't have any connection with the church's calendar. Nevertheless, it calls to mind two significant aspects of our faith. The first, of course, is that we call God 'Father'. We are privileged to know him and address him with the title that expresses the eternal relationship between the first and second persons of the blessed Trinity. For he is not merely 'The' Father, but 'Our' Father – the eternal Son of God invites us to address him in this way in the model prayer which he gave to his church and which we use often.

The second aspect of our faith is the value we place on family life. Marriage and parenthood are properly seen as vocations. The family has been described as a school of love. Parents are the first teachers of their children, and the most important and fundamental lesson is love. Children learn – or should learn - what it is to be loved and to love from their parents.

We do not call God 'Father' simply because we consider him as a father-figure, based on our understanding of what an ideal father is like. Rather, God has revealed himself to us as Father, first to his chosen people in the pages of the Old Testament, and then in the sending of his Son to reconcile us to himself. Human fatherhood is modelled on divine fatherhood, rather than the other way round. It is therefore a great privilege and an awesome responsibility to bear this title, and as we recognise our shortcomings in living up to it, we also become more deeply aware of the grace of God which makes all things possible.

This Sunday is also designed the Day for Life – one of those special days which aren't liturgical, but recognise the Church's pastoral concern for a particular group of people, and an aspect of her prophetic mission. In this case, there is no more vulnerable group than those who are not yet born and therefore afforded minimal protection under the law. The church's prophetic task is to call attention to the fundamental dignity of all human life, from its first beginnings in the womb, until its natural end. This week we celebrate the birth of St John the Baptist, six months before the birth of his cousin. He first

carried out his task as the forerunner, calling attention to the presence of the saviour of the world, when their mothers, carrying them in their wombs, met in that episode we call the Visitation. It's no coincidence of course that the Church should be vocal in upholding the place of fatherhood and the humanity of the unborn, and also accompany (with love rather than condemnation) those under pressure as parents before and after the birth of their children.

We value life because it is a gift, and a participation in the life of God himself. That is why we also recognise that life in this world is not all there is. Our hope is for eternity, so let us take to heart our Lord's encouragement not to be afraid, and be inspired by the martyrs we honour this week, John Fisher and Thomas More, who, like St John the Baptist before them, with supreme faith and courage gave up their lives for the sake of the truth.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret Okey and Rachel O'Donnell who died recently. Margaret's funeral will also be held here on Monday 22nd June at 12 noon. Rachel's funeral will be held here on Monday 6th July at 11.30am. May Margaret and Rachel rest in the eternal peace of Christ. Please pray for their families.

SECOND COLLECTION: This Sunday 21st June we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life website: www.dayforlife.org. The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. Please note that there will also be a second collection after all masses next weekend in aid of Peter's Pence.

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP, SUMMER 2026 – PLACES FILLING FAST: Applications are open for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, Aqua Park visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details and full information are at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Places are going quickly – you are encouraged to apply this week.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FETE: Saturday 27th June 12pm–3pm. Food and drink, fun games, rides, facepainting, stalls and much more. Free entry—all welcome.

PARISH LUNCH: There will be a bring and share lunch from 1pm on Sunday 5th July at St Peter's Centre on Front Lane to give thanks for our use of this building and bid farewell to it, as ownership passes to the Romford Elim Church.

5TH UPMINSTER (ST JOSEPH'S) GUIDES: Were you a member of the 5th Upminster (St. Joseph's) Guides or a helper? Then please join us for a grand reunion at St. Peters on Sunday the 12th July from 2-4pm. It is a "bring and share afternoon," i.e. bring some food, photos and memories to share!!! Thank -you. Dianeconsultants@gmail.com

THE HOLY LAND: GIFT OR ENTITLEMENT? – TALK AT GIDEA PARK: For decades the struggle over the Land has led to conflict in the Middle East. How should believers interpret the biblical texts related to the Land? Our renowned speaker, Fr John Deehan, is a Scripture scholar, who taught for many years at Allen Hall Seminary. Fr John will speak on Saturday 4th July from 11 am until 1 pm, with break for lunch, at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Admission free. Coffee from 10.30. The event will also be available via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org

ALL BRITAIN FLEADH 2026 - BRENTWOOD will take place in Brentwood from Friday, 26th June – Sunday, 28th June 2026. Please see <https://www.comhaltas.co.uk/all-britain-fleadh-2026-wristbands> for more information. The annual Fleadh mass, which will take place in The Cathedral at 6.30pm on Saturday, 27th June 2026, 6.30pm, when we will be joined by some of the Fleadh musicians.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION – DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD Deadline for applications: 5pm, Monday, 29th June 2026

HEADTEACHER, ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL - To start January 2027 (or sooner, by agreement). Candidates must be supportive of our Catholic ethos. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. For further information and an application form, please visit <http://www.stmaryschingford.com> or contact Mrs Lockwood, School Office on 0208 529 4723 or clockwood5.320@lgflmail.org.

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 application form (available from the website www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk). Deadline: Friday, 17th July 2026. Please contact the school for further information.

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 20th June

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Joan Keegan RIP 100th Birthday (Marion)

Sun 21st June TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Ronald Robinson's Intentions (Christine)

Mon 22nd June SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE, Mm

9.15am Nancy Carter RIP (Bragg)

12 noon Funeral Mass—Margaret Okey

Tues 23rd June

9.15am Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)

Wed 24th June NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

9.15am Mary-Anne Madden RIP (Maguire)

12 noon—1pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 25th June

9.15am Betty Byrne RIP (Pavitt) (With our Reception children)

Frid 26th June

9.15am Joyce Jones RIP B'day (Carter/Jones)

Sat 20th June

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Paul & Valerie Bemand RIP Anniv. (Bemand-Qureshi)

Sun 27th June SS PETER & PAUL, App

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Leighton Joseph Little RIP (Louden)

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**