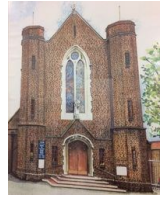




St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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

27TH / 28TH JUNE 2026

SS PETER AND PAUL, APP Pg 170

(Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19)

Today we are in red, with its connotations of martyrdom and the Holy Spirit, to celebrate the solemnity of the two great pillars of the church, St Peter and St Paul. This shared feast underlines the unity of their complementary missions, and their common martyrdom (albeit separated by several years) in the imperial capital of Rome. One the outspoken fisherman who first confessed the truth of Jesus' divinity; acclaimed by our Lord as the rock on which his church would be built; rehabilitated following his denial and appointed chief shepherd of Christ's flock. The other an intellectual, fired up with zeal against the first Christians, who applied this same zeal to spreading the gospel far and wide after that experience on the road to Damascus when he heard the voice of the risen Lord calling him. Paul's letters comprise a significant part of the New Testament, predating the written gospels, whilst the gospels owe much to Peter's eye-witness testimony, not to mention his own letters. Let us pray for the present successor of Peter, our Holy Father Pope Leo, that he may never be discouraged in the great task given to him.

Our former Mass centre in Cranham is named after St Peter, and this seems an opportune moment to answer some questions regarding our building plans. The lack of detailed information or visible progress is a reflection of the pace at which things move rather than a lack of transparency. However things are gradually moving, on both fronts. I have avoided going into too much detail regarding the sale of St Peter's as everything is still subject to contract. What I can say is that there was a good level of interest and the offer we accepted from Romford Elim Church was at the top end of the professional valuation we received. Their offer was for the whole site, building and field, and we hope that the sale process will be completed over the summer. I have met with their pastor, who is keen to forge links with the community and is looking forward to joining our Churches Together network.

With regard to the new two-storey Parish Centre, intended to replace the existing Social Centre on St Mary's Lane, our architects are continuing to work on the design following feedback from a pre-application meeting with Havering planning officers. This work was paused for a few months as the Diocese wanted to see the outcome of the St Peter's sale, but things are moving once more, and we hope to submit a full planning application in September. If things go to plan, it is realistic to think that construction work (beginning with the demolition of the existing building) could start next summer. This gives us a year to plan on alternative meeting spaces for parish groups, and also to do the fundraising and grant applications that will help bridge the gap between what we have from St Peter's and what we need for the new building. Once the designs are finalised we will be able to get accurate costings from a quantity surveyor. Based on the estimates we've been given so far, I anticipate that the amount we will need to raise will be somewhere between £500,000 and £800,000, roughly a quarter to a third of the total. By autumn we should have the detail that will allow me to present clear information to the parish and to potential grant-awarding bodies. Any fundraising ideas or leads on grant bodies will be helpful, though I do already have some avenues to pursue (a sponsored skydive not being one of them!). In the meantime, let us give thanks for all that St Peter's has meant to our community, as we mark this moment with our parish lunch next Sunday.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Ann Hennessy, Rachel O'Donnell, Angela Podmore, Mary Walsh and Mary Teresa Stedmon who died recently. Rachel's funeral will be held here on Monday 6th July at 11.30am. Mary Stedmon's funeral will be held here on Tuesday 28th July at 1pm. Details of Angela's funeral will be published once known. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ. Please pray for their families.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: Today, there is a second collection for Peter's Pence. 'Peter's Pence' supports Pope Leo XIV in contributing to the needs of the Church, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as the support of the Holy See.

MISSIO If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so before the end of August, to the presbytery. Thank you

WEDDING CONGRATUALTIONS: Congratulations to Sinead and Taylor who are marrying this weekend here at St Josephs. We wish them much happiness in their future life together.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC GROUP: Our new group will be supporting the music at the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 4th July. 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.

DAB RADIO MARY-ANNE MADDEN: Would the parishioner who kindly gave Mary-Anne Madden a Digital Radio please collect to it from the Repository.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER

VACANCY: Please use the following link for the advert and supporting documentation for the above post. <https://st-josephs-upminster.net/vacancies/>

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

A DAY WITH MARY is hosting an International Symposium from 29 July to 31 July 2026 at St Mary's Catholic Church, West Croydon Further information is available at www.adaywithmary.org/symposium

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.

RIDE & STRIDE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY: Could you take part in Ride & Stride's 75th anniversary year to raise money to help your own church and others? The Friends of Essex Churches Trust strive to raise money to award grants to preserve and improve Christian places of worship of all denominations in Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. Open to all from keen cyclists, hikers, families with young children, teenagers, the elderly and more, the event takes place on Saturday 12th September 2026 9am-5pm and is an opportunity to visit some of England's most rare and unusual places of worship. Half of any money you raise through sponsorship is returned to your church, and half goes into the main fund. And if you don't walk or ride, there are many other ideas for fundraising on this website:

www.friendsof Essex churches.org.uk/ride-stride

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 27th June

5.30pm—6.15pm NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

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

Sun 28th June SS PETER & PAUL, App

9.00am People of the parish

11.00am Leighton Joseph Little RIP (Louden)

Mon 29th June

9.15am Patsy Fowley RIP Anniv. (Bridget)

Tues 30th June

9.15am Joey Lavelle RIP (Maguire)

Wed 1st July

9.15am Mary Brennan's 90th Birthday Intentions (Fowley)

12 noon—1pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 2nd July

9.15am Susan Kelly RIP (Nugent) (With our Year 1 children)

Frid 3rd July ST THOMAS, Ap

9.15am For the Czelny Family (Earley & Cathy Hartie)

Sat 4th July

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm People of the parish

Sun 5th July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am Joe Lacey's 90th Birthday Intentions (Maria & Helen)

11.00am Margaret O'Neill RIP Anniv. (Pavitt)

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**