



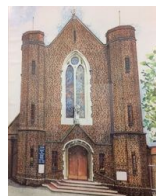
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

18TH / 19TH JULY 2026

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, APP Pg 105

(Wisdom 12:13,16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43)

25TH / 26TH JULY 2026

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, APP Pg 108

(1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52)

This newsletter covers two weeks, including the week when I have privilege of being on Lourdes as director of the Diocesan pilgrimage. On both Sundays we continue to hear Our Lord teaching in parables concerning the kingdom. The parable of the sower, which we heard last week along with its explanation, introduced the purpose of parables, designed to make us think and draw us deeper into the mystery of God.

The gospel for this Sunday reminds us that Christ's victory over sin and death which we celebrate every Sunday, though sure and certain and already won, nevertheless requires patience and trust as God's purposes unfold in a world which is still divided (and in hearts which are also divided). God's love and his invitation to live in that love are not universally welcomed. Like Mary, whose Annunciation is the theme chosen by the sanctuary of Lourdes for this year, we need to make room for God in our hearts. For she who was chosen by God conceived his Word in her heart before she conceived him in her womb. And we, like her, need to be patient, trusting that God accomplishes his will very often in hidden ways, through a process of growth that cannot be rushed.

Next week's parables help us see that the kingdom of God is something we must devote ourselves to wholeheartedly. All that we have is given to us to help us attain the goal which is the true purpose of our lives: to be the person God has made us to be, fully alive and sharing his glory. The goal of the Christian life is to reach the point where we desire with all our hearts exactly what God desires, having learned trust that God's will is for our true happiness and fulfillment. Only in him can we find all that we seek.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

THIS WEEK: Thank you to Fr Gerald Gostling for celebrating Mass while Fr Matthew is in Lourdes. Please note there is no eucharistic adoration on weekdays or Saturdays when he is away. If you need a priest in an emergency please try one of our neighbouring parishes, e.g. Hornchurch or Rainham. There is always a chaplain on-call for Queen's Hospital, who can be contacted via the ward staff.

FR MATTHEW & LUCY: Thank you for cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes for our silver wedding anniversary.

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY ADMISSIONS: There are a small number of places available for new pupils to join St Joseph's in year 2 from September, as well as a small number of places remaining for the new reception cohort. Please contact admissions@st-josephs.havering.sch.uk

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/>

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.

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On *Saturday, 12th September* the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the **Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood**. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass, this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan. As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on "Fatima Message for the World." Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. Please see poster for full details.

VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues: Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST, FEAST OF ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE: St Edward the Confessor, 5 Park End Road, Romford RM1 4AT. Morning Mass at 10am. Later in the day a vivid and significant new film of Kolbe's life, *Triumph of the Heart*, will be shown in the parish hall at 2.30 and 7pm. English with Polish Subtitles. Age 13+. £5 entry. Booking info on poster at the back of the church. All welcome.

FINANCE MANAGER- CATHEDRAL HOUSE: We are looking for a finance manager to support the Diocesan central finance department in all aspects of general accounts administration. The post will be full time working 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday or 21 hours per week worked over three days. The salary will be dependent on qualifications, skills, and experience. The full job description is available on our website www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us and attached to this email. The closing date for applications is 31st July 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to HR@BRCDT.ORG

BCCS - EXCLUSIVE AND PERSONAL TOUR OF INGATESTONE HALL: The tour is conducted by the Petre family, offering unbeatable insight of the past and present of this Grade I listed building and gardens. Followed by a hot drink and homemade biscuit. Thursday, 3rd September, 11.00am - 3.30pm. The event was over-subscribed last year so get your tickets fast - entry is £25 per person - book online today: [//www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/) Please note, due to the age of the building, there is no disabled access to the upper floor, and some of the lower floor and grounds are uneven and so not suitable for those who have mobility issues.

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.

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS FORTNIGHT

Sat 18th July

5.30pm—6.15pm

6.30pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Ambrose Alabi RIP B'Day (Bridget & Family)

Sun 19th July

9.00am

SIXTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Ivan Cooper RIP Anniv. (Family)

11.00am

People of the parish

Mon 20th July

9.15am

Kieran Fowley's Thanksgiving Intentions (Bridget)

Tues 21st July

9.15am

James Gallen RIP (Madeleine Campbell)

Wed 22nd July

9.15am

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Florence Alabi's Birthday Intentions (Bridget & Family)

12 noon—1pm

NO ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 23rd July

9.15am

ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, REL

Nimmy Henry RIP 3rd Anniv. (Henry Family)

Frid 24th July

9.15am

Sheila & Hector Brunton RIP (Dennehy)

Sat 25th July

ST JAMES, Ap

5.30pm—6.15pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm

Deborah Osho's Birthday Intentions (Bridget)

Sun 26th July

9.00am

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

John, Delia & Brendan Sammon & Linda Travell RIP

Mon 27th July

9.15am

Rachel O'Donnell RIP (Slattery Family)

Tues 28th July

9.15am

Rachel O'Donnell RIP (Leonard)

Wed 29th July

9.15am

Ss MARTHA, MARY & LAZARUS

Penny Cassidy RIP (Medley)

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 30th July

9.15am

Samuel Wingrove RIP B'day (Cunningham)

Frid 31st July

9.15am

ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Pr

Ron Frost RIP 3rd Anniv. (Teresa)

Sat 1st August

5.30pm—6.15pm

ST ALPHONSUS MARY DE'LIQUORI, Bp, D

6.30pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Betty Byrne RIP (Larner)

Sun 2nd August

9.00am

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

People of the parish

11.00am

James Charles Loudon RIP (Louden)