



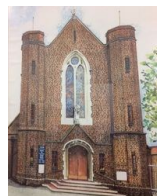
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

29TH / 30TH AUGUST 2026

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 122

(Jeremiah 20:74-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27)

This week's gospel is a continuation of the dialogue which began with Jesus asking his disciples 'Who do you say that I am?'. But there is a noticeable shift. Peter is no longer the rock on which a church is to be founded – the name given in recognition of his profession of Jesus' true identity. Now he is a stumbling block, for his inability to accept what Jesus says about his fate. Jesus' mission as the Christ is nothing less than the redemption of the world, which will be accomplished by his suffering and death. Isaiah's prophecy of a suffering servant is to be fulfilled in the one who is Israel's – and the world's – true King.

Peter's profession of faith came from above, but now, as our Lord points out, he is only able to see as man sees: suffering is something to recoil from, rather than something that may have a purpose in the divine plan. Our Lord's status as the Christ means, in Peter's mind, that he must be shielded from suffering at all costs.

To see only with a limited vision rather than trust in God is humanity's Achilles' heel, which makes us susceptible to the deceits of the evil one as happened in the Garden of Eden. That is why Jesus is so vehement in his rebuke to Peter, referring to him by that name which belongs to the evil one. Saint Paul tells us that we must put on the mind of Christ. This requires a total change of perspective and mindset, so that we learn to think like Christ, to love like Christ, and to forgive like Christ. To embrace, to desire and to love the Father's will above all things, and to make his will our own. Wanting nothing more than he wants, which is nothing less than our eternal and perfect happiness. There is no competition between what God wants for us and what we would want if we truly had the mind of Christ.

It is about humility, not only to recognise that I may not always have the right answer, or be able to do everything by my own strength, but the humility of Christ: the one who has all power and authority in heaven and earth but sets those things aside out of love.

It is not simply a matter of trying to work out what Jesus would do in every situation we face: to put on the mind of Christ is something that we can only do when we are close to him through prayer. It is something that we cultivate and deepen over a lifetime relying not on our own efforts but recognising more and more that we are utterly dependent on the grace of God at work in us. Let us then put on the mind of Christ, and not see only as the world teaches us to see, but to see things as they truly are.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARISH CENTRE PLANS: Members of the parish and members of the local community are invited to drop in to view the latest plans for the new Parish Centre on Monday 14th September from 6-8pm in the existing Social Centre. The plans will also be on display during Sunday coffee the weekends either side of this.

MARANATHA AT ST JOSEPH'S: For the next few months we will be hosting a monthly evening of praise and worship centred on the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration organised by the Brentwood Catholic Charismatic Renewal. This will be from 7pm on the third Thursday of the month starting 17th September. All welcome. For more information, speak to a member of the group who will be joining us next weekend.

FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION: Please see next week's newsletter for information about registering for the first communion programme which will lead up to May 2027.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Please speak to Fr Matthew if you are an adult who wishes to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic Church: the preparation leading up to Easter 2027 will be announced in the coming weeks.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: The work of coordinating Extraordinary Ministers to assist with Holy Communion at Mass and in bringing Holy Communion to the Sick has been carried out for decades with characteristic efficiency by John Leonard. We all owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. The mantle has now been passed to Chris Graves, and we thank him for taking this on, along with all those who share in this ministry.

THIS WEEK: There is no public Mass on Bank Holiday Monday (31st August) and the church and parish office will be closed. Tuesday's Mass will be in the evening at 7.30pm. Please pray for staff and children returning to school or starting a new school as the new academic year gets underway.

RIP ROGER TISI: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roger Tisi who died recently. Roger's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Thursday 10th September at 1pm. Rogers body will be received into the church on Wednesday 9th September at 4pm. May Roger rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPMINSTER – HEADTEACHER Required from 1st January 2027. Further information and an application pack are available from the school website: <https://stjosephs-upminster.net>. Closing date: 5pm on Wednesday, 2nd September. Interviews (provisionally) on Wednesday, 16th September

CWL WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB: The Wednesday lunch club re opens on Wednesday 9th, September in the social centre at 12 noon. It will be lovely to see our old friends again and nice to see new ones. Everyone is welcome.

BCYS ROOTED 2026 – YEARS 7–9 / YEARS 10-13: Rooted – Saturday 24th October for years 7-9 / Sunday 25th October for years 10-13: A brand -new day of faith, friendship and adventure at Walsingham House for young people. With inspiring talks, workshops, outdoor activities, team challenges, prayer and Mass, it's a great opportunity to meet other young Catholics and grow in faith. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB: It's time to renew for 26/27. Please go to: <https://membermojo.co.uk/stjosephscc/> New members are very welcome and all parishioners are very welcome to join - just £10 per adult for the year. We open Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun evenings and are planning various events over the year. Feel free to pop in and say hello!

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE BEING LEGALISED: Assisted suicide campaigners have sadly brought back the Leadbeater Bill. This can be stopped if MPs vote down the Bill on 11th September. Right To Life UK has launched an EasyAction tool to help you email your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September. Please take 30 seconds to email your MP today to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 29th August	THE PASSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Patrick & Jennie Kennelly RIP (Lynch)
Sun 30th August	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	Canon Alan McLean RIP (Holden)
Mon 31st August	
9.15am	NO MASS THIS MORNING
Tues 1st Sept	ST SEBBI, K
7.30pm	John Fowley RIP 1st Anniv. (Mum)
Wed 2nd Sept	
9.15am	Rose Powell RIP
12 noon—1pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 3rd Sept	ST GREGORY THE GREAT, P, D
9.15am	Leroy Chan & C.S. Leong RIP Anniv. (Bedding)
Frid 4th Sept	
9.15am	Teresa Foran RIP B'day (Burke)
Sat 5th Sept	
5.30pm—6.15pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
6.30pm	Rebecca Corrigan RIP Anniv. (Corrigan)
Sun 6th Sept	TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
9.00am	People of the parish
11.00am	For the Alabi Family's Intentions (Bridget)

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**