



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

12TH / 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 128

(Sirach 27.30-28.7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35)

Last week Teresa Carvalho, who led our parish mission in 2023, spoke at the Sunday morning Masses about the Maranatha evenings we are hosting for the next few months (see notice below). She recalled the impression she had when preparing for the mission that St Joseph's is a 'can do' parish. I hope that is true, and my experience over the past four years is that this is reflective of our spirit. We can always do more, and there are some things we could do if only we had somewhere more suitable to do them.

I have lost count of the number of conversations I've had with people in my four years here about my hopes for a new parish centre. This has often felt like a distant aspiration, and the reality is still a little way off, but it is beginning to feel within reach.

The present Social Centre has exceeded its useful life, and has done well for a building constructed in a rather temporary and lightweight manner in the 1970s. It is not quite falling down yet, but we don't want to get to that point! Having shared the vision and held a number of open discussions, a working group from the parish has been meeting with our chosen firm of architects over the past year and a bit.

An early proposal was submitted to Havering last November for initial advice prior to a planning application. Working within the constraints of the existing site has presented a challenge which our architects have risen to, and various iterations have led to an exciting design that meets our needs and wishes. The plans we are sharing this week preserve the current arrangement of the social club and pre-school on the ground floor, with a larger hall space and kitchen above. In this way we continue what we do now, recognising the significant contribution (including financial) that both club and pre-school make to our parish, whilst expanding the possibilities available to us. All the rooms upstairs and downstairs will be flexible, multi-purpose spaces in an attractive, sustainable building.

You may look at the plans in the Social Centre this week, as I hope you will, and wonder, 'can we do this?'. I very much believe we can. The other question to contemplate is 'can we not?'. Perhaps we could leave things as they are and bank the proceeds from St Peter's, but this would limit our aspirations and postpone problems which will only grow.

We stand on the shoulders of generations of faithful parishioners who came before us. They made great sacrifices to build our church, to establish St Peter's, and to build the original social centre that has served our community for half a century. Now it is our turn. It is our moment to build for our children, our young people, and the future of St Joseph's, and to live up to the generous legacy we inherited.

The main hurdles ahead are the planning application (to be submitted this month, hopefully with a decision early in the new year) and fundraising. The sale of St Peter's has gone a very long way towards funding this building, but we will still need to raise a considerable sum. Our fundraising appeal will launch later this autumn once we have detailed costings, but as a rough guide we need to raise around £750,000. It will take a collective effort, but together, as the 'can do' parish we are, we can achieve it.

If you have any questions or would like to talk through any aspect of the plans, my door is always open, do please come and speak to me directly. These designs represent months of careful consultation and the expertise of the professionals we have entrusted with making this vision a reality. Above all, I ask you to keep this project in your prayers, that God will guide and bless our efforts as we take this exciting step together.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

PARISH CENTRE PLANS: The plans for our new Parish Centre will be on display in the Social Centre all week, including at Sunday coffee this weekend and next. Additionally we will be open for members of the parish and members of the local community to drop in this Monday from 6-8pm and Fr Matthew will be available to answer questions.

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 this coming Thursday 17th September. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection after all masses this weekend in aid of the Catholic Education Service. There is another next week for national efforts to spread the gospel.

TODDLER GROUP: Restarts this Tuesday from 9.30am in the Social Centre. New toddlers, parents and grandparents welcome!

FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION: Registration is now open for parents of children in year 3 or above who wish to be prepared for first reconciliation and first communion over the coming year, with a view to celebrating first communion next May. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/stifhc> to register **by the end of September**. Please note this is for children who belong to St Joseph's parish (either by residence or regular practice) and are already attending Mass weekly with their families.

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.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC GROUP: Our new group will be supporting the music at the 6.30pm Mass this Saturday (12th September). 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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Fr Matthew intends to hold two evening sessions early in October to issue the Certificate of Catholic Practice in support of applications from practicing Catholics to Catholic secondary schools, as well as letters for other schools with a faith requirement. Dates and times will be announced in next week's newsletter.

BCCS GALA DINNER AT THE LAWN, ROCHFORD: Join us for an elegant evening at this Grade II listed Georgian house in support of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The night includes a welcome drinks reception, a three-course dinner, and a performance by Fr Eugene and Fr Martin O'Hagan, formerly of *The Priests*. Tickets are available online at zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gala-dinner-at-the-lawn. If you would like to sit at a dedicated St Joseph's parish table or are interested in arranged group transport, please contact Simon Darvill on 07590 565300 or simondarvill99@hotmail.com.

BCYS ROOTED 2026: 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

MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS: Organised by the Guild of St Stephen for Brentwood Diocese, Saturday 19th September at St Joseph the Worker, Hutton at 11.30am. Servers from this parish can take an alb from the sacristy.

SUSAN GRIFFIN RIP: Funeral at Our Lady of Lourdes & St Joseph, Leigh on Sea, body to be received on Tuesday 22nd September at 4.30pm, funeral Mass Wednesday 23rd at 11am. May she rest in peace.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CLUB: New members welcome and all parishioners are very welcome to join - just £10 per adult for the year. We open Thurs-Sun evenings and are planning various events over the year.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 12th Sept 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Mon & Noel Lynch RIP (Keefe)
Sun 13th Sept 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish John & Elizabeth Berry's 50th Wedding Anniv. Intentions
Mon 14th Sept 9.15am	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Deceased & living members of the McGowan family
Tues 15th Sept 9.15am	OUR LADY OF SORROWS John Gribbs RIP B'day (Gribbs/Quinn)
Wed 16th Sept 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Ss CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN Bp Mm Angela Podmore RIP (Leonard) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 17th Sept 9.15am	Sue Kelly RIP (St Joseph's School) - With our year 6 children
Frid 18th Sept 9.15am	Intentions of Mary & Frank McGowan
Sat 19th Sept 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Intentions of the Greene family
Sun 20th Sept 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Sally McHugh RIP (Gulvin) People of the Parish

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**