



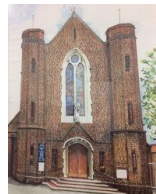
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

19TH / 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 131

(Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20c-24,27a, Matthew 20:1-16)

In recent weeks I have written and spoken of our need to 'put on the mind of Christ' – a phrase of St Paul which seems applicable to the gospel passages given to us. The mind of Christ contrasts a tendency to evaluate things according to our own sense of fairness. We tend to calculate on the basis of the finite world we live in, where there is competition for finite resources. But we are made for the infinite. The grace of God is beyond measure. Human concepts of fairness fall short of divine justice which is always tempered by mercy and compassion; above all, love. We are not in competition with one another for a share of God's affections; nor is God in competition with our true flourishing. He does not wish to clip our wings but set us free from things which would weigh us down.

We can only be truly free when we see that God really does want what is good for us. The evil one wants us to think of God as a petty rule-maker, rather than a good Father who wants his children to discover the true meaning of their existence and enjoy in the fullness of life which he has made them for. Sometimes this realisation comes late in the day. But whenever it comes, God receives those who turn to him with open arms.

Sometimes we can find ourselves thinking that coming to church, all the good and virtuous things we do, and the sacrifices we make are about building up credit which we will benefit from in the future. And to this way of thinking, it can be somewhat galling to see another person apparently enjoying a carefree life full of pleasure, and then with a 'deathbed' conversion, get the same benefits in eternity. And it is even possible that someone who has not known Christ or the good news of salvation through no fault of their own, but would have accepted it given a chance, can still be saved through Christ. Why then put ourselves through all this? But that calculated way of thinking is not aligned with the working of divine grace, and it misses the point of what we do and why we do it. We cannot earn eternal life, which is God's free gift

to us. But the life God wants us to enjoy, in this world and the next, is fundamentally a relationship with him. It is available to us now. The offering of worship, which is at the heart of our Catholic life, is God's gift to us, for our benefit, not his, because it helps us to lift our eyes beyond the finite, to put on the mind of Christ, to see things as they truly are, and so be more free.

God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary (Maisie) Burgess who died recently. Maisie's funeral will be held here at St Joseph's on Tuesday 6th October at 11am. May Maisie rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

CAN YOU HELP? A mission priest will be celebrating the Masses and making an appeal on the weekend of 24th/25th October. If you are in a position to provide an evening meal and a bed for the night please speak to Fr Matthew.

RECEIVING COMMUNION: A reminder that if you are receiving communion on the hand, please consume the host straight away. Please don't carry it back to your place, share with another person, or dip it into the chalice. A simple 'Amen' in response to 'The Body/Blood of Christ' is our affirmation of faith in the real presence of Our Lord in the sacrament, which is also expressed in our reverent manner of receiving. Those who are not members of the Catholic church or have not yet made their first communion are welcome to receive a blessing, indicating this by crossing arms across your chest. If you have taken a host (the proper name for the bread that becomes the Body of Christ) by mistake, please give it back to Fr Matthew.

SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice for those applying for Catholic Secondary Schools at the following times. **Thursday 9th October 4pm-6pm and Tuesday 13th October 5pm-7pm.** Letters for other schools with a church attendance requirement will be issued at the same time. The Certificate is for those who attend Mass weekly. If you don't qualify for a Certificate of Catholic Practice then instead of coming to the church at these times simply include a baptism certificate with your application to the school. If you don't have a baptism certificate (whether eligible for a CCP or not) you will need to contact the parish where baptism took place. No appointment needed, and you don't need to bring anything with you – just come to the church (there may be a queue).

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection after all masses this weekend in aid of national efforts to spread the gospel, for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.

CDOT CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Raising funds for our new parish centre. Christmas songs and carols. The choir from St. Joseph's Primary School will be joining us. Friday 27th November 7.30pm in the church. £10 adults children free. Tickets from Bernadette in the Repository

NEW PARISH CENTRE: The latest plans remain on display in the Social Centre this weekend, for those going to the club on Saturday evening or coffee on Sunday morning. We will then need to take them down.

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

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SING AS PART OF A GROUP? THEN WHY NOT JOIN ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CHOIR: We come together twice a year and rehearse for about ten weeks before singing at the Christmas and Easter Masses. We are always looking for new members to swell our numbers, and singers of all abilities are welcome. Our rehearsals for Christmas will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30pm, starting on **Monday 5 October**. If you are interested, please contact Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

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/stjfhc> 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. Please speak to Fr Matthew if you have any questions about this.

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

SAVE THE DATE: SACRED HEART OF MARY CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET: Sacred Heart are holding their annual Christmas Night Market on Saturday 14th November 2026 4pm - 8pm, tickets will be available at the gate via Boundary Road and we are working on a QR code for anyone that wants to prepay and receive a free festive drink. More details will be published once available.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 19th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm The Greene Family's Intentions

Sun 20th Sept

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am Sally McHugh RIP (Gulvin)

11.00am People of the parish

Mon 21st Sept

ST MATTHEW, Ap, Ev

9.15am Fr Matthew's Intentions (Bemand-Qureshi)

Tues 22nd Sept

9.15am Swan Kee's Birthday Intentions (Nestle)

Wed 23rd Sept

ST PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO) Pr

9.15am Thanksgiving (Regan)

12 noon—1pm

ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Thur 24th Sept

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM (with our Year 5 children)

9.15am Fr Jack Dennehy RIP Anniv. (Regan)

Frid 25th Sept

9.15am Patricia Annesley RIP (Slattery)

Sat 26th Sept

5.30pm—6.15pm ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

6.30pm Lily O'Regan & Families RIP (Regan)

Sun 27th Sept

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am Chrstine & Joe Smith's 60th Wedding Anniv. Intent. (Gulvin)

11.00am 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**