



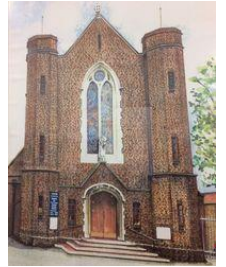
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

26TH / 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 134

(Ezekiel 18:25-18, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32)

We've heard a series of parables and interactions in recent weeks that highlight the difference between God's thinking and man's. God's way is that of boundless generosity and mercy; the recognition that we become more fully ourselves the more we make a gift of ourselves out of love for another, because then we become more like God in whose image we are made. This mindset allows us to make sacrifices and even accept hardship and suffering in the knowledge that our true freedom and ultimate happiness is attained by following the way of the cross rather than avoiding it.

Today we have a much simpler parable to grasp. Actions – even if preceded by an initial reluctance – count for far more than empty words and broken promises. But there is more to this parable than meets the eye. It's not just about being reliable or keeping the promises we make to others, however good those qualities are. Its target is the leaders of the Jewish people; the chosen people of God to whom was entrusted a sacred mission of leading the whole world to the knowledge and right worship of the one true God. Jesus is comparing them to the son who promises much but does little. It's a reminder that our membership of the church through baptism involves a commitment to the work God has entrusted to his church. Do we make empty promises to God? Do we say that we believe in God, whilst giving him only a small place in a tiny corner of our every day lives? Are we content to be identified as Christians, without allowing our lives to be truly Christ shaped? Such self-examination may be uncomfortable. Our Lord's parables are meant to challenge us, with the aim of leading us to a more intentional discipleship.

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 11 am. May Maisie rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

FIRST COMMUNION REGISTRATION: Registration is closing soon 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 Wednesday**. 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? If you are an adult who wishes to be baptised, confirmed or received into the Catholic church, or want to find out more about what this involves, please stay behind after Mass next weekend, and Fr Matthew will introduce the programme of preparation leading up to Easter 2027. This will happen after all the weekend Masses.

CONFIRMATION: Please follow this link for Confirmation registration for those in Year 10 or above <https://forms.gle/PqoNzXemkMJXsEK49>

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 8th 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).

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/>

SECOND COLLECTION: Please note that there will be a second collection after all Masses next weekend – 3rd – 4th October in aid of Harvest Fast day.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS SCHOOL OPEN EVENING: Wednesday 7th October 2026 6 pm – 8 pm. Address by headteacher 7.30pm.

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: Fr Martin Boland will lead a series of four talks exploring Catholic moral thinking and some of the fundamental questions that shape the way we live, make decisions and relate to one another, over four consecutive Wednesday evenings starting 7th October (7pm-8pm). Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, Wanstead (E11 2PR).

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

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 7.30 pm in the church. £10 adults children free. Tickets from Bernadette in the Repository.

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.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Catherine Juniper, Mary Farrell, Patrick Dean, Oliver McCourt, John Mann, Patrick McGreevy, Roger Woodbridge, Marie Harding, Alice Daley, Phoebe Bickers, Thomas Gilham, Ellen Shirley, Joseph & Catherine Herbert, Patrick Sullivan, Cecil Acott, Cecilia Sharp, Pamela Scott, Paula Phillips, Albert Morris, Angelina Harkins, John Marquis, Michael Joseph Murphy, Katherine Horti, Anne Goldstein, Noreen Harris, Harriet Lofthouse, Bertha Murphy, James Cottingham, Dierdre Harman, Sr Angela Day, Peter Lowe, Catherine Lydon, Richard Cooper Terence Finn, Patricia (Pat) Walsh, Eileen Mahoney, Katherine Wisely, Sr Alcantra, Richard DePol, Noel Lynch, Christina Lawson, Irene Hamond, Gerard Moran, Adeliza Gray Scogins, Enid Manghan, Maureen McTaggart, Winifred Burke, Desmond Campbell, Archbishop Beck, Nicholas Holden, Anthony O'Shaugnessy, Denise Kemery, Mgr. Kearney, Agnes Fowlie, Sr Agnes, Ellen Helliard, Nancy Bolton, Mary Cahill, Isabella Player, Adrienne Fletcher, Vincent Baker, Vincent Ferguson, Bernard Rainbird, Lena Kenny, William Dible, Vincent Ferguson, Vincent Connor, Alice Southernwood, Martin Walsh, Patrick Hallahan, Patricia Gard, Theresa Bater, Barbara Collins, Catherine Wisely, Joe Treacy, Ellen Dewhurst, Colleen Ward, Bridget Gillan, Mary Smith, Sr Maria Immaculata, Philip Salmon, Nicola Hallmark, Mary Gray, Mary Nathan, Mary Lane, Thomas Halligan, Samuel Sinclair. Joy Redden, Harriett Stocker, Patricia Dorling, Joy Redden, James Hill, David Gilmour, Agnes Gurney, Joy Redden, Samuel Gagen, Malcolm Hallows, Michael F. Murphy, Denise Kemery. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 26th Sept 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Lily O'Regan & Families RIP (Regan)
Sun 27th Sept 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Christine & Joe Smith's 60 th Wedding Anniv. (Gulvin) People of the parish
Mon 28th Sept 9.15am	Ellen & John Maplesden RIP (Maplesden)
Tues 29th Sept 9.15am	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL ARCHANGELS Eamon Gabriel Rory's Intentions (Byrne)
Wed 30th Sept 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	ST JEROME, Pr, D Mary Rickard RIP (Rudgeley) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 1st Oct 9.15am	ST THERESE OF THE CHILD OF JESUS, V, D Mavis Frith RIP (Bemand-Qureshi) With our year 4 children
Frid 2nd Oct 9.15am	THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS Grace Wingrove RIP (Cunningham)
Sat 3rd Oct 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Gerald (Gerry) Presland RIP 2 nd Anniv. (Hayward)
Sun 4th Oct 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Seamus & Dinkie Burke RIP (Burke)

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**