



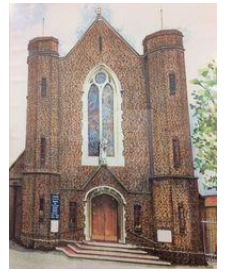
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

10TH / 11TH OCTOBER 2026

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 140

(Isaiah 25:6-10a, Philippians 4:12-14,19-20, Matthew 22:1-14)

Today we have an invitation: to the wedding feast of heaven. If we are not careful, this is an invitation we can easily end up putting to one side and forgetting about: the 'event' feels a long way off, the concept of God's 'kingdom' rather abstract. But it isn't: we are invited to be part of God's kingdom of love, which means allowing our lives to be shaped by him, rather than our own preferences – which is what the original guests in the parable are doing.

It's no coincidence that, shortly before communion, we hear these words: "Behold, the lamb of God... blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." This isn't a casual kitchen supper with a few friends. We instinctively think of the Mass as connecting us with the upper room and to Calvary, to the events of our salvation that were begun at the last supper. But the Mass also looks forward, as we are given a glimpse of the life of heaven, so richly described in the book of Revelation as the wedding feast of the Lamb. If we want to pursue this, we might observe that the visions given to St John and recorded in this book occur on a Sunday, and those visions have a number of parallels with the celebration of the Mass. Heaven is presented as a lavish banquet, a celebration of love, and an act of worship. For worship is how our lives gain their true meaning, properly centred on God. Something we do for our benefit, not his. Sacrifice, freely offered, is at the heart of true worship, and the deepest expression of love.

Which brings us back to the Mass, and the great invitation. Some of you may be aware that in September and October we are asked to count the numbers at Mass, and this year's numbers have been very encouraging. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a recent uptick in numbers may have some connection with the issuing of school forms. If that's the case, and if you are someone who hasn't been in the habit of being at Mass every week, then I'm not passing judgement or issuing condemnation, simply making an invitation. I invite you to make the weekly celebration of the Mass the fixed point of your weekend. Your presence enriches our community, and enriches you and your family by keeping you in close contact with Christ and his church. Here you will find the food that gives you spiritual nourishment and rest for souls. Here we find a deeper meaning and purpose to our

lives, lived not for ourselves but for God, and finding in him the fulfilment and the freedom we seek.

We can be honest and say there may be times when we don't feel like it, or see the point. Other things may seem more appealing. But if we are not careful, that invitation can fall to the bottom of the pile such that we don't even feel the need to make excuses. Instead, let us bring ourselves into the presence of the one who wants to show us how much more there is to life, if only we say 'yes' to him. God bless, Fr Matthew.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Connolly, who died recently. Maureen's funeral will be held here on Thursday 29th October 2026 at 10.30 am. May Maureen rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: This weekend we mark the beginning of a journey to first Holy Communion for nearly 60 children of our Parish, with a blessing and the presentation of activity passports taking place at each Mass. Please pray for these children and their families.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Please come to the youth room (through the prayer garden) for a practice at 5.30 pm this Saturday (10th) to help lead our worship at the 6.30 pm Mass. New members welcome.

MARANATHA EVENING: The second of these evenings to be hosted at our church, led by the Brentwood Catholic Charismatic Renewal, takes place this Thursday from 7 pm- 9 pm with Mass, adoration, praise and worship and reflection with refreshments in the club afterwards. All welcome.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC: If you missed the introductory session last Tuesday but are interested in joining our group exploring the faith, please speak to Fr Matthew this weekend. The next session is this Tuesday evening, 7.45 pm-9 pm in the Sacristy.

SCHOOL FORMS: Fr Matthew will be issuing Certificates of Catholic Practice for those applying for Catholic Secondary Schools **this Tuesday (13th October), 5 pm- 7 pm**. 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 this session, 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. If your child is not baptised, you are still free to apply for general consideration. No appointment needed; just be prepared to wait.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: Please note that there will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend in aid of Prisoners Sunday and next weekend, 17th / 18th October, in aid of World Mission Day.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Lily Beer, Grayson Beer, Jackson Andrews, Kyle Patel, Thomas Ingram and David McGroarty-Manley and their families who were received into the church through baptism last weekend. .

SAVE THE DATE – ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Saturday 5th December, 12 pm-3 pm. Free entry to all.

ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC CLUB – ‘THE BIG QUIZ FOR THE CANTERBURY WALK 2027’: Saturday 17th October 2026 7.30 pm – 11.30 pm. Tickets £10 per person, sold as tables & teams. To book tickets and for more info, please use the following link:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjosephscatholicclubupminster/2398506>

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 for adults, children free. Tickets from Bernadette in the Repository.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE: The BCYS offers retreats, events and pilgrimages for young people throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. If you’d like to get involved, you can find out more at www.bcys.net or follow @BrentwoodCYS on social media.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET: Saturday 14th November 2026 4 pm – 8 pm. Entrance £3, with an option to pay using the QR code (poster on the church noticeboard) to receive a free festive drink.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: Irene Acott, Cornelius O’Mahoney, Muriel Brown, Terence Smith, Kevin Danagher, Bernadette Humphreys, Josephine Tunnell, Eileen Cooke, Catherine Goddard, Anne Blaney, Maureen Faughnan, Gerry Presland, Elizabeth Widger, Patrick O’Shea, David Tarplett, Veronica McKeone, George Williams, David Perry, Catherine Ferguson, Victor Hughes, Caroline Saunders, Rosemary O’Hallaran, Sylvia Kinghorn, Isabella Markham, James Harkins, Rose McKeown, Sheila Higgs, Margaret Storey, Fred Regan, Jessie Burns, Margaret Ratcliffe, Michael Markham, Lauren Dixon, David Steward, Irene Ritchie, Sabrina Roberts, Stephen Barrable, Gwendoline Coate, Barbara O’Brien, Lynne Salmon, Bridget Martin, Stephen Barrable, Robin Clist, John Foy, Maureen Pereira, Rose Powell, John Rix, Mgr. McKenna, Maureen Pereira, Maria Judge, Kathleen Butters, Peggy McKeown, Joseph Cyril Pereira, Rose Mary James, William Shave, Christina Pinder, Colin Baker, Alan George Best, Catherine Gillespie, Marie Pearce, David Lawless, William Croly, Margaret Casey, Cornelius Coughlin, John Street, Joseph Barrett, Sarah Dailey, Joseph Burke, Madeleine Ferry, Danny(Desmond)Jones, Fr. Clay, John Rix, David Judge, Katelyn Hope Henry, Agnes Mason, June Gilson, Margaret O’Donoghue, George Gurney, Eileen McCheyne, Jessie Rapp, Fred James, June Gilson, Patrick Curtin, Emilia Taylor, Peggy Hill, Moira Valma Kennedy, James Leonard, Moira Kennedy, Frank Hosey, Mary Clark, Marie Barrett, Jane Winn, Theresa Saunders, Cyril Henden, William Hudson, Joan Behan, Eileen Furzer, Maureen Baillache, Edith Emily Keene, Patrick Hinchin, Margaret Kennedy, Daniel Corrigan, Margaret Connolly, Maureen Baillache, Roma Young, Christine Wright and Winifred Walker. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 10th October 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 11th October 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR John Street & Marie Pearce RIP Anniv. (Street) Robin Clist RIP (Family)
Mon 12th October 9.15am	Jennifer Smith's Intentions (Regan Family)
Tues 13th October 9.15am	Rose Powell RIP Anniv. (Margaret)
Wed 14th October 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	Patrick O'Sullivan RIP (Matton) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 15th Oct 9.15am	ST TERESA OF JESUS, V,D Maureen Connolly RIP (Ethna) With our Year 2 children
Frid 16th Oct 9.15am	Bridie Rabbitt RIP (Bridget Fowley)
Sat 17th Oct 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BP, M ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Catherine Osho's Birthday Intentions (Bridget)
Sun 18th Oct 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Eileen Furzer RIP Anniv. (Ferreira) 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* **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**