



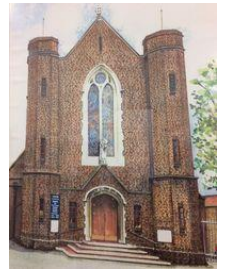
St Joseph's Catholic Church

Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward

upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432



PARISH NEWSLETTER

3RD / 4TH OCTOBER 2026

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 137

(Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43)

This week we have the third in a series of parables concerning a vineyard. But the imagery has become more violent, and there is a growing tension between Jesus and his audience, the chief priests and elders of the people. As we hear in our first reading, the vineyard was an image for God's people, showing his care for them, but also his frustration with their lack of faithfulness. The violence in the parable, culminating in the killing of the vineyard owner's son, is an obvious allusion to the death of Christ, at the instigation of those he is speaking to now. And the implication is that the chosen people are to be replaced by a new people. We should be absolutely clear, especially in view of the terror attacks three years ago this Wednesday, there is no justification whatsoever for antisemitism in any shape or form. Jesus' criticism is aimed at the leaders of the people, who have resented newcomers (the first parable), have failed to keep their promises to God (the second parable) and now, having received to carry out their sacred calling, are contemplating violence against the one whose divine authority they refuse to accept.

God's choice of a particular people was not a matter of favouritism: God's choice is always for a purpose. It is a call. The Israelites were chosen and called to be the means by which the whole world would be brought to the knowledge and right worship of the one true God. This task is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, the one who draws all people to himself, as saviour not just of his own people but of the world. As God first revealed himself to a chosen people, so Christ established his church as the means by which the whole world would come to him. The church is thus referred to as the 'New Israel' – representing an expansion, rather than rejection of, his first chosen people. For God rejects no-one and is always faithful to his promises, persisting even in the face of rejection. But what is offered to us – the status of being sons and daughters of God – is a free gift that must be received as such; it is not something we can grasp for ourselves whilst pushing God out of the picture. And it is a status that brings a responsibility to bear fruit. For if that sacred calling, to lead the whole world to the knowledge and love and worship of God, is now ours as members of his church, then we must take it seriously.

The Church is truly Catholic, universal, bringing good news of salvation to all people, regardless of place or identity. But the church is also local, bearing witness in every place it has taken root and serving as a sign of Christ's closeness to his people everywhere. This weekend we mark the anniversary of a Catholic parish being established 103 years ago to serve the growing population of Upminster. As we give thanks, let us also recognise and respond with generosity to the call we have received from God to serve him here and now, and bear fruit to his glory.

God bless, Fr Matthew

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

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Those parents who have already registered should have received an email with information about the introductory evening on Monday. If you haven't received this email, please speak to Fr Matthew. Registration is now closed for this year.

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 4 pm-6 pm** 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).

PARISH ANNIVERSARY: Saturday 3rd October is the 103rd anniversary of the canonical erection of our parish. As part of our centenary celebrations, we commissioned two lasting memorials, a prayer garden dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, and an angelus bell named in honour of St Gabriel. These projects were funded entirely by donations from parishioners as well as two legacies. These gifts will be acknowledged with a plaque to be installed in the porch this week.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR LEARNING MORE? 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 any Mass this weekend, when Fr Matthew will introduce the programme of preparation leading up to Easter 2027. The first session will take place in church this Tuesday 6th October from 7.45-9 pm and will include a tour of the church. This is open to all.

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/>

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 Christmas rehearsals will be in the Church on Mondays at 7.30 pm, starting on **Monday 5th October**. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mark on 07763 210946 or mark142857@hotmail.com for more details.

SECOND COLLECTION: Please note that there will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend – 3rd – 4th October in aid of Harvest Fast Day. There will also be a collection after all Masses next weekend in aid of Prisoner's Sunday.

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: [Buy tickets – The Big Quiz – St Joseph's Catholic Club](#)

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. .

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

CAMPION SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING at 4.30pm on Thursday, 8th October, with Headteacher's talk at 4.30pm & 6.00pm.

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 (7 pm-8 pm). Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, Wanstead (E11 2PR).

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? Evening for enquirers. Tuesday 6th October 2026. The next talk is by Fr Francis Abara. For more information, please contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

CAMPION SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT on Friday, 9th October. Doors open 7.00pm and quiz starts at 7.30pm. Teams of 10 (max). £5 per person, BYO drinks and nibbles. For details of how to pay and to register your team, email pachair@thecampionschool.org.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 3rd October 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS Gerald (Gerry) Presland RIP 2 nd Anniv. (Hayward)
Sun 4th October 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR People of the parish Seamus & Dinkie Burke RIP (Burke)
Mon 5th October 9.15am	Jim Green RIP (Regan Family)
Tues 6th October 9.15am	Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)
Wed 7th October 9.15am 12 noon—1pm	OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY Fr Matthew's First Mass Anniversary (Bemand-Qureshi) ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS
Thur 8th Oct 9.15am	ST OSYTH, REL Fred Regan RIP Anniv. (Family) With our Year 3 children
Frid 9th Oct 9.15am	ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, PR, D Mary Rickard RIP (Deacon)
Sat 10th Oct 5.30pm—6.15pm 6.30pm	ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS People of the parish
Sun 11th Oct 9.00am 11.00am	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR John Street & Marie Pearce RIP Anniv. (Street) Robin Clist RIP (Family)

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**