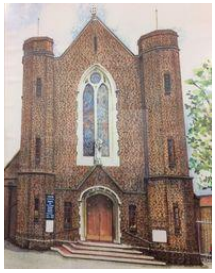
St Joseph's Catholic Church



Champion Road, Upminster

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Parish Secretary: Rachel Hayward
upminster@brcdt.org / 01708 222432

PARISH NEWSLETTER

21ST / 22ND NOVEMBER 2026

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, Pg 158

(Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-16, 28, Matthew 25:31-46)

The symbol carved on the front of our altar is a classic Christian symbol, combining two Greek letters, Chi (X) and Rho (P), the first two letters of Christ. 'Christ' is not a surname, but a title; it is the Greek for 'anointed one', Messiah in Hebrew. On today's feast bringing the church's year to a close, we consider one particular aspect of Christ's triple anointing as priest, prophet, and king. From Old Testament times, right to the present day, kings and priests have typically been anointed with oil at the beginning of their office, whilst Old Testament prophets were considered to be anointed by the spirit of God. Jesus, who never held an official public role, is, nevertheless, anointed directly by his Father as the true and only priest, prophet, and king, on whom all others depend.

As Christians, we are not just followers of Jesus Christ; we are to become more and more like him. In baptism, we become 'christs', anointed ones, sharers in that triple office of priest, prophet and king; a fact brought out through our anointing immediately after baptism with the sacred oil of chrism, a symbolic crown upon the head. Whatever our particular calling and context in life, we are called to share in Christ's kingly, priestly and prophetic roles: a mission and a dignity given to us by God. We participate in the worship of the church through our baptismal priesthood, and as prophets bear witness to the truth and power of the gospel. Most pertinent to today's feast, the kingly office is a summons to use whatever authority, power, and influence we may have, in the workplace, home or society, as well as directing whatever material goods come into our position, for good.

As I set out recently, our stewardship of our material possessions includes our duty to care for the poor and the responsibility we have to support the mission of the church. Today, in light of our November preoccupation with mortality, I want to say a few words about how this continues after death. As in life, we have a moral obligation towards those who are dependent upon us and a natural desire to provide as best we can for the security of those closest to us. This does not necessarily prevent us making some form of gift to the church after we've died, as in life. Moreover, if our estate is subject to inheritance tax, it's worth bearing in mind that, not only is a charitable bequest such as to

the church free of inheritance tax itself, but also when over a certain percentage can reduce the inheritance tax rate that applies to the rest – so a significant benefit to the church does not mean other beneficiaries lose out in the same measure (do take professional advice though!). There are no doubt some who have no surviving relatives to share their estate with, and might contemplate leaving a substantial portion to the parish. Some might not see much point in making a will. The rules of intestacy might mean your material goods end up either going to the government or some very distant relations will be tracked down by a specialist 'heir hunters' for a significant cut. This may not be what you want, so I do urge you if you haven't done so to give careful thought to making a will, thus exercising prudent stewardship over your material goods.

It would be highly inappropriate to try and excise influence on someone's will personally, especially at a vulnerable time, and of course, I would never do such a thing. But from the distance of the newsletter I do make this plea, particularly in view of the building appeal that is to be launched next week, at least to consider whether you might be able to make a difference to the church in this way, like so many have done before. And though we can be reticent to discuss such a personal matter, it is enormously helpful for the parish's future planning if you are able share such a decision with me in confidence, which allows me also to make sure the bequest is worded correctly way so it does end up in the right place.

God bless, Fr Matthew

***

FATHER MATTHEW'S BIRTHDAY: I am celebrating my 50th birthday next month, and I would delighted for parishioners to join me in the social club after Mass on Saturday 12th December. No gifts please, but donations to the building appeal welcome instead!

BUILDING UPDATE: Our planning application has been acknowledged by Havering and published on their website with reference P1243.26. The latest plans are also available to view on our parish website, and our building appeal will be formally launched next weekend.

CDOT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & CAROLS: Friday 27th November at 7.30 pm in the church, raising funds for our new Parish Centre. The junior choir from St Joseph's Primary School will be joining us. Our parish knitting group will be in the porch selling their beautiful Christmas items. Payment by cash or card (raffle cash only). Tickets from Bernadette in the repository or call 07825235717. Also available online via our website and Facebook page. Adults £10, children free. The social club will be open after the concert if you would like to join us there.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret (Rita) O'Donnell, who died recently. Rita's funeral will be held on Tuesday 8th December at 10.30 am. May Rita rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

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

CWL LUNCH CLUB: The last Wednesday lunch club this year will be 16th December. We will be having fish and chips. As the fish and chips are very popular, we have limited availability. If you wish to book a place, can you, please let us know before Wednesday 2nd December.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Anyone who has already made their first communion and wishes to become an altar server should ask their parent to contact Fr. Matthew. There will be a series of three training sessions after the Saturday evening Mass on 21st and 28th November and 19th December.

THE CAMPION SCHOOL SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY – SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 2026: 12.30 pm – 5 pm with lunch served at 1.30 pm. As Christmas time approaches, The Campion School would like to invite parishioners to their Senior Citizens' Party on 13th December. If you would like to attend, please contact the parish office on 01708-222432.

BISHOP TIMOTHY MENEZES: Our new Bishop will be installed and begin his ministry on Thursday 3rd December. Masses of Thanksgiving will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy around the diocese in the week following, and all are welcome. Tuesday 8th Dec: 11:00 am Brentwood Cathedral; Tuesday 8th Dec: 7:30 pm – St Antony's Forest Gate; Wednesday 9th Dec: 7:00 pm - St James the Less and St Helen, Colchester.

PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY: Our parish has received a small version of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that is designed to travel around the homes of our parish 'on pilgrimage', to foster devotion to Our Lady within our homes and families. If you wish to be among the first to receive a week-long visit of the statue when we get underway at the start of Advent, please email the parish office or speak to Michelle McDonagh.

BCYS NOTICES: WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY: 22ND NOVEMBER: There will be a second collection for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, supporting events, retreats and pilgrimages for young people in Essex and East London. If you wish, you can also donate online at www.bcys.net/donate, and please do visit the website to find out more about how to get involved. **BCYS ADVENT RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: 12TH-13TH DECEMBER:** A weekend of festive fun, friendship, prayer and reflection exploring the meaning of Advent. Open to anyone in school years 10-13. All information and applications at www.bcys.net/events **BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE:** 17th-24th July 2027: Join BCYS in Lourdes for an unforgettable week of faith, friendship and service, supporting elderly and infirm pilgrims while experiencing prayer, processions, excursions and plenty of opportunities to grow in faith! Applications are open NOW for all those in school year 10 and above. All information and to apply: www.bcys.net/events

LIVE STREAM: After Christmas, we will migrate to a new provider. The link from the website, and the shortcut link https://is.gd/sjuptv will continue to work but any provider-specific address (anything including 'seccom') will stop working.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 21st Nov	**THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
5.30 pm—6.15 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
6.30 pm	Josie Byrne RIP (Burgess)
Sun 22nd Nov	**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**
9.00 am	People of the parish
11.00 am	Michael Maguire Jnr RIP Anniv. (Mum & Dad)
Mon 23rd Nov	
9.15 am	Betty Byrne RIP B'Day (John & Family)
Tues 24th Nov	**ST ANDREW, DUNG-LAC, Pr & Comps, Mm**
9.15 am	Deceased members of the Byrne Family (John)
Wed 25th Nov	
9.15 am	Denis Sullivan RIP Anniv. (Kevin)
12 noon—1 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
Thur 26th Nov	
9.15 am	Hugh Maguire RIP (Maguire) (With our Year 5 Children)
Frid 27th Nov	
9.15 am	Baby Clara Francesca Bailey RIP Anniv. (Bemand-Qureshi)
Sat 28th Nov	
5.30 pm— 6.15 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
6.30 pm	Kay Sullivan RIP (Burgess)
Sun 29th Nov	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9.00 am	People of the parish
11.00 am	Rosemary Underwood RIP Anniv. (Family)

USEFUL INFORMATION

EUCHARISTIC 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

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