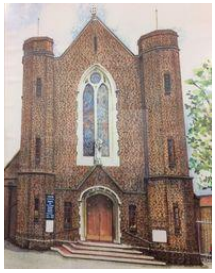
St Joseph's Catholic Church



Champion Road, Upminster

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

PARISH NEWSLETTER

7TH / 8TH NOVEMBER 2026

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, Pg 152

(Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13)

Praying for the dead is a distinctive aspect of our Catholic faith. This month of November, the month of the Holy Souls, is dedicated to this spiritual work of mercy (and how fitting that the annual commemoration of the fallen in war coincides with this month); but it is not just something we do for one month of the year. We engage in it whenever we ask for a mass to be said, when we visit a cemetery, bring a loved one to mind, read or hear about lives lost in a natural or man-made disaster. Indeed every Mass includes a commemoration of the dead in the Eucharistic prayer.

This deeply ingrained practice expresses an essential truth of our faith. We are made for life, and God does not allow death to have the final word. Christ's resurrection is not just for himself, but a victory which liberates the whole of humanity and allows us to share in his divine immortality. But it is also apparent that the life we are made for is not simply more of this life, which we would eventually grow tired of, and so death is still a fact of life, no longer the end but an entry into a life lived on an incomparably greater plane of existence. This is why we continue to experience the death of those we love as a painful separation.

Our practice of praying for the dead also resolves a tension between the perfection of heaven, and the reality that most of us are not perfect when we draw our final breath. If heaven - and its occupants - were less than perfect, it wouldn't give us much to hope for. And yet if the bar to entry was impossibly high our hope would be futile. The much misunderstood but ultimately hopefully teaching of purgatory offers a resolution. A state of purification where we are made ready for that place of perfection, cleansed and healed of anything that is not compatible with the life of God. We pray for the dead not to change God's mind about the judgement that is only his to make, or to shortcut this necessary process, but because Our Lord has chosen to share this task of purification with the members of his body, the church. It is not that anything is lacking in his redemptive sacrifice. He knows that it helps us to be able to do something for those we love; he also knows that prayer changes us, making us more receptive to the transforming effects of grace. Praying for the dead - who are in fact alive, otherwise there would be no point - brings us closer to them, to Christ, and to all our brothers and sisters who are members of his body, on earth, in heaven or journeying from one to the other.

Pope Leo has reminded us that this month is an opportunity not only to pray for our own dead, but also to make a point of praying for those who have no one to pray for them. We should not forget that one day we will benefit from the prayers of the church on earth as we ourselves are made ready to take up our place in the Father's house.

God bless, Fr Matthew

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: As permitted by our bishops, the 11 am Mass will be celebrated as a Requiem Mass for the fallen in war. Black vestments will be used as the traditional liturgical colour of mourning. Mass begins with an act of remembrance at a time when the whole nation is united in prayer and reflection.

PARISH MEETING: There will be an open meeting on the evening of Wednesday 18th November at 7.30 pm to which all parishioners are invited. This will be an opportunity to raise any aspect of parish life, including but not exclusively to do with our building plans. The last such meeting was on a Sunday afternoon and at the time I promised to vary when these meetings happen.

HOLY SOULS MONTH: you are invited to place names of departed family and friends in front of the altar. They will be remembered at Mass through this month. Please don't add money to the basket: if you wish to make an offering for the month of the holy souls please consider contributing to the new parish centre building fund.

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.

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mgr Bill Nix, priest of our diocese for nearly 60 years, who amongst other appointments served as Dean of the Cathedral and Vicar General.

PRAY FOR OUR NEW BISHOP: Please pray for Bishop Timothy Menezes as he prepares for his new ministry as the shepherd of our diocese. He will be installed in his Cathedral on 3rd December.

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.

BCCS CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR: Join us for Christmas crafts, stunning gifts & refreshments, in support of BCCS. Sunday 15th November - 10:30-15:30 - The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED. £1.50 entry (free for under 14s) & free onsite parking

SACRED HEART OF MARY 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING: Join us at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School 6th Form Open Evening on **Thursday, 12 November 2026, from 6–8pm**. Discover the exciting opportunities available, explore our courses and facilities, and find out what makes our Sixth Form a fantastic place to learn, grow and plan for the future. We look forward to welcoming prospective students and their families!

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

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact CAFOD representative Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org,uk or call 07776 493162.

HALL MEAD SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA: Friday 4th December 1.30pm – 3pm. Eat, drink and enjoy! Join us for a Christmas Afternoon Tea with sweet and savoury treats along with a choice of hot drink. Music performed by Hall Mead Students. Please RSVP to Karen Read on 01708-225684 / kread@elatschools.co.uk

'JESUS HEALS' SERVICE: FR. FRANKIE MULGREW ON 13TH NOV 2026: Come with your burdens, hopes, and prayers! We are happy to inform that the forthcoming '**Jesus Heals' Service** on 13th November 2026 at 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm in English Martyrs Parish, Hornchurch, RM12 6BJ, directed by Rev. Fr. Frankie Mulgrew. The Shalom global network UK will be organising this healing service. All are welcome to this Jesus Heals service.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Join BCCS for a delicious two-course meal, exclusively hosted in the beautiful Grade II listed Georgian House. Friday 4th December - 12:30-15:30 - The Lawn, Rochford, SS4 1PL. £38.50 per person.

MISSIO RED BOXES: Thank you to those who have already returned their Red Box. If you still have a box at home, please bring it in for counting by the end of November. Thank you.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph O'Hanlan, John McCarthy, Gertrude Brennan, Terence Clark, Maureen Downs, Ruth Davis, Harry Silverlock, Maureen Leonard, Ellen Russsell, Tom Murphy, Ethel Glass, Gwen Greetree, Hilda Coward, Robert O'Neil, Kenric Williams, Christopher Oliver, Simon Baxter, Patrick Munnelly, Timothy McCarthy, Dritan Qema, Nora Sheridan, Minnie Peak, Patricia Everett, Patrick Fahy, Kathleen Burge, Danny Loughhead, John Tylar, Maureen Conlon, , David Okey, Philip Brand, George Connor, Evelyn O'Flynn, Joan Day, Thomas Durrell, Helen Horgan, Teresa Rudd, Peter Jackson, Margaret Willis, Kathleen O'Reilly, Anne Cooper, Jack Ford, Judy Morgan, Jim Kelly, Betty Stables, Lynda Oliver, Amy O'Lochlen, Harry Black, Elizabeth Lintonbon, Kathleen Hart, John Marchetti, Thomas Harding, James Redden, Hilda Constable, Christopher Murrell, Norah Ash, Robert Fagg, Susan McReynolds, Joseph Pereira, Fr John Harden, Czeslaw Krol, Jenny Mapleseden, Gladys Foster , Alexander McTaggart , Doris McCorkell , Kathleen Brennan, Sr Agatha Lynch, Rosaleen Cartwright, James Servis, Julia Callagher, Agnes(Nancy)Foreman, Josephine McGoldrick, Edward McGoldrick, Frederick Mason, Christopher O'Brien, Michael Maguire, Norman Drury, Joan Garnier, Mary Duffey, Terence O'Brien, Noreen Gower, Rev Martin Hancock, Alfred Webb, Alice Turner, Robert Leech, Catherine McSwan, Agnes Brennan, David Burge, Dorothy Temple, Patricia Bruin, John Dobinson, Nora Porter, John Walsh, Lilian Reiger, Maureen Fitzgerald, Martin Augustine Ortisejafor, Susan Soper, Margaret Stacey, Margaret (Maggie) Ollington, Marie Ritchie, Kathleen May, Robert Holmes, Michael Glavin, Derry Fennell, Peggy Dukelow, Patricia Ashford and Patricia Webb. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 7th Nov	
5.30 pm—6.15 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
6.30 pm	Patrick Fahy RIP Anniv. (Family)
Sun 8th Nov	**THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
9.00 am	Anne Cooper RIP (Family)
11.00 am	People of the parish & the Fallen in War (Requiem Mass)
Mon 9th Nov	**THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**
9.15 am	Maureen Springham RIP (Brian)
Tues 10th Nov	**ST LEO THE GREAT, P,D**
9.15 am	Judy Morgan RIP Anniv. (Hugh)
Wed 11th Nov	**ST MARTIN OF TOURS, Bp**
9.15 am	John Bolton RIP 2nd Anniv. (Bedding)
12 noon—1 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
Thur 12th Nov	**ST JOSAPHAT, Bp, M**
9.15 am	Margaret Fogarty RIP (Mary Scully) (With our Year 1 Children)
Frid 13th Nov	
9.15 am	Mary Brennan RIP (Michael & Family)
Sat 14th Nov	
5.30 pm— 6.15 pm	**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS**
6.30 pm	Joseph John Newman RIP 1st Anniv. (Family)
Sun 15th Nov	**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**
9.00 am	People of the parish
11.00 am	Deceased members of the Mitchell & Maguire 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