

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

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My dear friends

As I write this, I am looking forward to the Christmas Market, to an enjoyable day and a fruitful result. As the noise of the market subsides, we begin the season of Advent and the start of a new Church year.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Thomas. We are grateful for his continued leadership as we all await the appointment of his successor.

The Bishop also writes a foreword to the Advent book, "Walk With Me" (available today at £1). This helpful prayer companion is based on Pope Francis' first encyclical Lumen Fidei "The Light of Faith". I am sure you will find it helpful. Don't forget our Lectio Divina for Advent and try to come to Mass during the week if you can.

Now that the Year of Faith has concluded, we have a new logo at the top of the newsletter. It is an etching by Françoise Guild based on her painting of St James and St Helen, which hangs in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

A symbol of our preparation is the Advent Wreath and here is a prayer of blessing for it:

*"Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."*

May God bless you all

Fr Tony McKentey

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes			
SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy followed by Rosary		3pm
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy		
8:35am			
EVENING PRAYER:		Fridays	at 6pm
Church			
PRAYER GROUP:		Mondays	at 8pm
Crypt			
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays at 8pm		Crypt

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please remember in your prayers, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Emma Cooper, Val Crane, Olive Crawford, Amy Daggitt, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Christine Farrell, Gianni Emoli, Charlie George, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Venetia Hetherington, Maurice Highfield, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Pat Keene, Patrick King, Declan Knight, Mirella Leonardi, Val Ling, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Margaret Norman, Leah Patterson, Piotr Płoskonka, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Sabina Rhatigan, Douglas Rogers, Carley Saunders, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Open your hearts to the Word of God this Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Lectio Divina, Holy Reading, is all about prayer not study. We shall be preparing for the Sunday readings each Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4.45pm in the Crypt. Info Valerie Q. T:621196.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED?** The next Baptism course will be on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in the Crypt from 7:30pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry into the Crypt is via the Church [This course is for new-borns up to age 6]

**MASS REQUESTS:** When making Mass Requests please use the brown envelopes provided in Church in preference to other methods. Please state clearly if the Mass is for someone's intentions or for the repose of their soul. Many thanks.

**BEACON HOUSE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** In support of the homeless in our community. Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm to 5pm. Handmade cards and cakes, Coffee and mince pies. Head massages and foot treatments. 90-91 East Hill.

**Monday 2nd December 10:00am: The Last Things** - a half-hour documentary on the Catholic teaching about the four Last Things. A salutary way to end the month of the Holy Souls, or else a good launching pad into Advent: take your pick. In the Crypt. Refreshments courtesy of volunteers.

**Tuesdays in Advent – 6:30pm:** Joint Procession followed by Polish Mass as in previous years. A genuine way of preparing for Christmas. Starts this week, Tuesday 3rd December.

**Sunday 8th December 13:30:** The Polish Mass will be preceded by a joint procession in honour of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception.

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