

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Fr Anthony McKentey
Fr Neil Brett
Fr Philip Willenbrock
51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
www.stjamesthelessandstheleen.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [C]
Sunday – 3rd February 2013

Parish Mass Book – Page 132

Pastoral Statement on the Same Sex Couples Marriage Bill
From our Bishop Thomas McMahon

As you will be aware, last week saw the publication of the same sex marriage Bill.

There is no doubt that every national government is at liberty to legislate on how marriage is celebrated in a particular country and as to its legal consequences there. However, no government anywhere has the right to re-define or change the essential nature of marriage itself. This is because marriage both comes from God, as revealed through the Scriptures, and is equally a fundamental part of universal natural law.

We have all heard that exemptions are being promised for religious bodies unable to accept this proposed change in the Law. But there are serious questions as to how effective these exemptions would be in the long term since they could be challenged in the Courts or indeed changed by Parliament itself in the future. As a result, there is genuine doubt as to whether there will actually be freedom of conscience and of teaching for all those – of any religious creed or none – who are unable to accept this arbitrary re-interpretation of the married state. Above all, it is of real concern that a change of this magnitude is being introduced in such unnecessary haste and, indeed, with no electoral mandate.

For all these reasons, I would urge you – if you have not already done so – to fill in the

postcard prepared by the Bishops' Conference and to send it immediately to your local MP.

Furthermore, it is important that we should all deepen our knowledge as to the understanding of marriage and of the issues now involved. And so I would very much encourage you to attend the sessions which we have organised for the diocese. and which are being held in seven different venues. There will be a meeting here on Thursday 7th February 8 - 9pm in Priory St, chaired by Fr Paul Keane.

Whilst responding to this serious situation – which is certainly not of the Church's making – it is crucial not to lose sight of the overall needs of persons of a same-sex attraction, of the Church's warm and committed pastoral care to them and their families, as well as our dedicated and on-going responsibility and duty towards them.

In the meantime, I would earnestly ask you to keep very much in your prayers those who, on behalf of both Church and State, are engaged in addressing the important questions raised by this Bill as well as very much remembering those who will be affected by it. +Thomas McMahon - Bishop of Brentwood

EVENTS THIS WEEK

	<i>Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes</i>		
Sunday 3 rd	4:00pm	Catholicism Course - Ep 7	Crypt
	5:00pm	Catholicism Course - Ep 9	Crypt
	8:00pm	Ratzinger Reader	Crypt
Wednesday 6 th	6:45pm	Scripture Course	Crypt
	7:00pm	SVP	
Thursday 7 th	6:30pm	Baptism Course (2 of 2)	Crypt
	8:00pm	Marriage Talk	Church
Friday 8 th	7:30pm	Catholicism Course- Ep 10	Crypt
Saturday 9 th	10:00am – 12:00pm FHC Programme		CBH
Sunday 10 th	4:00pm	Catholicism Course - Ep 10	Crypt
	8:00pm	Ratzinger Reader	Crypt

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 (new entries are in bold type): Please remember in your prayers, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Ian Cole, Richard Cox, Stanley Crane, **Lynne-Michelle Denton**, Nancy Drummond, Gianni Emoli, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Pat Keene, Patrick King, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Paula Nash, Denis O'Neill, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Sabina Rhatigan, Patricia Roche, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Ron Wheeler, Tony White.

SICK LIST: If you are aware of anyone who may now be recovered, please let one of the Clergy know.

BAPTISM COURSE: The second meeting on Thursday 7th February will be from 6:30pm onwards because of the meeting about marriage.

CATHOLICISM: There will be another showing of Episode 7 at 4:00pm this Sunday, February 3rd. Episode 9 will follow at 5:00pm. Otherwise the schedule is unchanged. Details are on the notice boards.

2nd COLLECTIONS: The next second collections will be for the Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund on the weekend of the 9-10th February and the CAFOD Lent Fast Day collection on the weekend of the 23-24th February.

CALLING DOWNTON ABBEY FANS: The SVP have secured an option on tickets for a visit to Highclere Castle on Sunday 18th August. Price £41 which includes coach travel with an opportunity to explore the House and Gardens. £10 deposit by 4th February please. To book phone Judy on 07970408707 or see an SVP member.

100 CLUB NEW SEASON: Prize-winners from the first draw of 2013 were: 1st - Grace McCartney (no 168), 2nd - Vivienne and Michael Andrews (no150), and 3rd - Julia Curties (no 28). Congratulations! The organisers would also like to express their appreciation for the hospitality received from the parishioners of Mersea, Mile End and Monkwick during the recruitment campaign.

RATZINGER READER: there will be two additional sessions on Sunday nights at 8:00pm in the Crypt at St James to complete Volume I of *Jesus of Nazareth*. Please see the notice boards for further details.

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMODATION PROJECT: Volunteers are needed to help run our shelter at the Cardinal Bourne Hall for homeless people that the Night shelter doesn't have room for. 6th – 12th February. Please ring Pernille on 01206 549 885 for more information. Thank you and God Bless.

CATHOLIC SINGLES: is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

VACANCIES – NEW HALL SCHOOL CHELMSFORD: School Nurse/Welfare Assistant & Mini-Bus Driver required. For more details and application forms contact the HR Department T:01245 467 588 E:hr@newhallschool.co.uk

AN EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC: In aid of parish funds at Colchester Castle on Saturday 9th March at 7:30pm. The Writtle Singers and the Wivenhoe based Cavendish Consort will sing a range of music from the 16th century, Baroque and the present day from composers including Tallis & Byrd. There will also be a short talk on the history of the castle from historian Philip Wise. Tickets are £15.00 and can be purchased after Mass on Sunday at Priory St or please make contact with Jennie or Pauline through the parish office.

ROME – EASTER WEEK 2013: Following the success of our trip to Poland last year, we are planning to visit Rome from Monday 1st to Saturday 6th April. Accommodation will be in a Polish centre. Includes daily Holy Mass and the veneration of a relic of the True Cross, climbing the Scala Santa and a tour of the English College. Interested? Meet on **Saturday 26th January at 11.30** in the Crypt (Railway Carriage) at Priory St.

FRIENDS OF PERU CHARITY: "Beetle Drive" – 16th February 7:30pm – 10:00pm in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Easy to play, come and join us in this family-fun game. Prizes for winners. Adults - £3.50, Children - £2.50 (5-12 yrs), Under 5's are free. Includes non-alcoholic punch or soft drink, hot dog and mince pie. There will also be a raffle. Please contact Nora on 503410 or Linda on 769429 for tickets.

FILIPINO EVENING: From Amy & Armando: Thank you to all who supported this event. It was a very pleasant evening and we raised £180.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 7th February – Team 1.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [C]

(Homelessness Sunday) – 3rd February 2013

Saturday February 2nd	6:15 pm	Michael & Mary Barrett RIP
Sunday February 3rd	8:00 am	Madge Scappaticci RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Ria & Family
	6:30 pm	Tony Southon RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Chris Debieux
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	In Thanksgiving – Mr & Mrs Mathew
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Parishioners
Monday 4th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Helen & Martin Lydon RIP
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Stella Nicanor RIP
Tuesday 5th	St Agatha, V, M	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Frederick Fordham RIP
Wednesday 6th	St Paul Miki and Companions, Mm	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Maureen Nicoll RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm D/Rels: Betts Family
Thursday 7th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Sallie Greene RIP
Friday 8th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Michael O'Keefe RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Saturday 9th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Oksana Zakhleniuk RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [C]

(Day for the Unemployed) – 10th February 2013

Saturday February 9th	6:15 pm	Derek Harvey RIP
Sunday February 10th	8:00 am	Ints: Josephine & Ray Carty
	10:30 am	Ints: Colchester Catenians & Families
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	Ints: Julie & Richard
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Tim Coffrey
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Parishioners
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION	Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM	Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE	At least six months notice is required
SCHOOLS	St Thomas More Head: Bridget Harris [865722]
	St Benedict's Head: Mrs J Santinelli [549222]

Cardinal Bourne Hall cb.hall@btinternet.com
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