

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

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Saturday December 6 th	6:15 pm	Sr Mary Scullin RIP
Sunday December 7 th	8:00 am	Helen, Joseph & Julien Horeau RIP
	10:30 am	Lilean Southon RIP
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Annie McGunnigle RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Deceased Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Gelsomina Fappiano & Family
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 8th

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - Solemnity

Church 7:30 am Canon John Bloomfield RIP

Church 9:15 am Colleen Mercas RIP

Church 6:30 pm Parishioners

Tuesday 9th

Feria

Church 9:15 am Mr Terry Thomas RIP

Wednesday 10th

Feria

Church 7:30 am Edward Walsh

West Mersea 9:30 am **Holy Communion Service**

Church 12:15 pm Ray Small RIP

Thursday 11th

Feria

Church 9:15 am In thanksgiving [MW]

Friday 12th

Feria

Church 9:15 am Joe McEnaney RIP

Church 6:30 pm Lisette Graziani RIP

Saturday 13th

St Lucy, V, M

Church 9:15 am Patrick Lyons RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

("Gaudete" Sunday)

Saturday November 13 th	6:15 pm	Moira & Dennis Pryke RIP
Sunday November 14 th	8:00 am	Arthur, Beryl and John Niven RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Sykes Family
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	D/Rels: Healy / Barr Families
West Mersea	8:30 am	Matt, Eddie & Pat Hogan RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Ida & Angelina Cestari & Family
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

My dear friends

Last weekend was extremely memorable. The Christmas Market was great and the transformation of the hall into a winter wonderland was a tribute to all those who helped make it such a great success. The Christmas Draw will be taken on the Curry Night on Friday 19th December. We await news of the final result.

After the Market, I was glad to be part of the first Lectio Divina for Advent in the crypt, when in a prayerful atmosphere, we read the Sunday Advent readings. Try and come to the next Lectio meetings on Saturday 13th and 20th from 5 – 6pm.

What a special beginning to Advent to have our bishop preside at the 10:30am Mass. Bishop Alan welcomed into the church the new relic of St John Paul II and we were glad to hear from Fr Adam Podbiera of Krakow who had known Pope John Paul personally. There were other occasions that Sunday for people to venerate the new relic and we will all gain from the intercession of our new saint who is with us in this special way.

It was good for many of us to meet our new bishop after the Mass and when he travelled up to the Abbey Gatehouse for the inauguration of the new sign there commemorating the Martyrdom of Blessed John Beche. This sign is one of several that have been erected in the town highlighting historical monuments.

We continue on our journey through Advent as we take to heart St John the Baptist's call to prepare a way for the Lord.

May God bless you all.

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 7:45pm Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays at 8pm Crypt
SCRIPTURE GROUP: Wednesdays at 6:45pm [Term time only] Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Władysław Antończak, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Karl Collins, Olive Crawford, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Joan Donnelly, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Charlie George, Bill Graves, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Pat Keene, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Pat Maloney, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Stephen and Sabina Rhatigan, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW TICKETS: Please return unsold tickets or the counterfoils with your name, contact details, and money to the Presbytery by the 19th December to be entered. Help us raise funds for the church. Excellent prizes on offer. Don't miss out!

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 2015-16 INTAKE: Any parent wishing to apply for a place at St Thomas More's School must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in addition to the Local Authority Application Form. SIFs are available to download on the school's website www.stthomasmores.co.uk or by contacting the office on 01206 865722. **DRAFT ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The draft Admission Criteria for applicants to St Thomas More's School 2016-17 is available on the school's website www.stthomasmores.essex.sch.uk. If you have any comments to make on this please email the school at the following address office@st-thomasmores.essex.sch.uk by Friday 16 January.

LECTIO DIVINA FOR ADVENT: Prayerful reading of the Sunday texts, at 5pm on Saturdays, continuing Saturday 13th and 20th December in the Crypt.

ADVENT and the SIGN of the CROSS: Day of Reflection Sat 13th December in the Crypt, 11 am – 3pm. Coffee 10.30. Poster in Porch. Further info from Valerie Q 01206 612196.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS COLLECTION: Weekend of the 13 / 14th December. Priory St & St Joseph's Mile End.

CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS & DIARIES: are available in the repository in Priory Street. A small number of Advent calendars are also in stock. Why not give a good book at Christmas? Some carefully selected and attractive ones are available for different ages.

RORATE CAELI: Drop down dew, you heavens from above! During Advent there is Mass with Procession of Our Blessed Lady each Tuesday evening starting at 6:30, in conjunction with the Polish people. Bring a candle for the procession.

PROCESSION AND MASSES FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY: Monday 8th December. Masses are at 7:30am, 9:15am and 6:30pm. The 6:30pm Mass will begin with a procession. The novena for this feast will take place every day from Sunday November 30th just before the Rosary is said.

UCM CHRISTMAS CRAFTS: 1pm to 3pm. This Sunday 7th December. Cardinal Bourne Hall. Hot dogs and soup served from 12.45pm. Make a nativity scene, reindeer food, table and tree decorations, letter to Santa and a special guest appearance! £3 per child. £5 per family.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DANCE: With Indian cuisine will be in the Cardinal Bourne Hall on Friday 19th December 7:30 – 11pm. The Grand Raffle will be drawn on the night. Music and singing by Steve Williams. Tickets – Adults £12, Children 5 – 12 years £6. Tickets are limited to eighty seated. Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Contact Frances 369568 or Norah 503410.

BRENTWOOD 2015 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY: Packed full of useful contacts and information for the diocese and the wider church. Contains an appreciation of Bishop Thomas by Fr Brian O'Shea and obituaries of Revv. Ambrose O'Gorman, Andrew Hurley and John Timmins. It also contains the church's liturgical calendar with many feast days specific to this diocese; useful if you say Morning and Evening prayer at home. Available now for £2.75. There has been a report that some copies are missing a section. If your copy is faulty, please return to the presbytery for an exchange.

SUNDAY 7th & 14th DECEMBER: at 74 Howe Close, Greenstead. Tea at 4.00 p.m. followed by Evening Prayer at 4.30 p.m

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Brochures available from the back of church for this pilgrimage that runs from 26th – 31st July 2015.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN: An evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. What inspired him to become a priest? Hear his story on Thursday 18 December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00 pm, including fish & chip supper. Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org. The evening is free, but registration is required – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: on Sunday 21 December at 4.00 pm led by Bishop Alan. This is a beautiful service of music, readings and prayer to which everyone in the diocese is welcome. If you would like to prepare for Christmas in a really special way this year, then please come along.