

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

September 11th 2016 - Parish Mass Book Page 136

From Adrian Lowe, Seminarian.

At Mass this week, we hear the parable of the prodigal son. The word prodigal is strange to us, we only really use it in connection with this bible story and tend to think of it meaning someone who has gone away and come back - like the son who leaves his father with his inheritance in the gospel story; however, its real meaning is wasteful or extravagant. Perhaps the prodigal son really took after his father – a father who is extravagant, in a different way – not with money and luxuries but with his love, mercy and tenderness.

I am guessing that anyone coming to church, even for a short time, would have probably heard many wonderful sermons on this parable, read about it in bible commentaries, spoken about it in study groups or seen reflections about it on websites from spiritual writers. So I would like to suggest a different way to approach this text, and that is to take it to prayer, to either imagine yourself in the gospel scene or as one of the characters in the story, or to find a line from the text and gently repeat it as you go about your day – *thinking* the text rather than *thinking about* it.

Whichever way you like to pray, there is a chance to learn more about different ways of praying at our parish day of reflection on prayer, at 11am, on 17 September. The morning session will be a series of gospel based reflections on prayer, led by Valerie Quinlivan from our parish, and in the afternoon there will be short talks from various parish groups about the type of prayer they use and how it works. It will be a great chance to learn more about the different ways of spending time with God. Please see the notice further on this newsletter for details and we hope to see you there.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

Saturday September 10th 6:15 pm Canon John Bloomfield RIP
Sunday September 11th 8:00 am George Perles RIP
10:30 am Joan Jackson RIP
2:00 pm Polish Mass
5:00 pm Holy Hour
6:30 pm Intentions: Mary O'Sullivan
West Mersea 8:30 am Holy Souls RIP
Mile End 9:15 am Holy Souls RIP
Monkwick 10:15 am Parishioners

Monday 12th **Feria**
Church 9:15 am Derek Harvey RIP

Tuesday 13th **St John Chrysostom, Bp.D.**
Church 9:15 am In Thanksgiving [Mr & Mrs Mathews]
Church 6:30 pm Mass/Procession – Polish/English

Wednesday 14th **EXALTATION [TRIUMPH] OF THE HOLY CROSS**
Church 12:15 pm Bridget Lloyd RIP
Church 1:15 pm REQUIEM – HILDA PARKER RIP

Thursday 15th **Our Lady of Sorrows**
Church 9:15 am Intentions: Canon Anthony McKentey

Friday 16th **Ss Cornelius, P, and Cyprian, Bp, Mm**
Church 9:15 am Sarah Betts RIP

Saturday 17th **Feria**
Church 9:15 am Hector Silva RIP

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

Saturday September 17th 6:15 pm Mr and Mrs Blanchette RIP
Sunday September 18th 8:00 am Roger Goodin RIP
10:30 am Intentions: Sykes Family
4:00 pm Polish Mass
6:30 pm Eileen Pooran RIP
West Mersea 8:30 am Holy Souls RIP
Mile End 9:15 am Parishioners
Monkwick 10:15 am Ints: Paul & Margaret Everett

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays - Crypt 8:00pm
FILMS FOR FAITH Next showing September 21st 1:15pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Vicky Culham, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercedes, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

CLERGY NEWS:

CANON TONY – HEALTH UPDATE: Sadly Fr Tony continues to only make slow progress with his recovery, which will be interrupted again by the necessity of yet another invasive procedure in the next few days. Despite being very poorly and frail, he maintains his humour and charm. He thanks everyone for their continued prayers as well as the many gifts and cards. Those wishing to send cards, please bring them to the Parish Office for forwarding. Thank you.

ADRIAN LOWE: There will be a “sending off party” for Adrian on Wednesday, 21st September, in the Crypt at 7:30pm – any offers of food and drinks greatly appreciated. Adrian then leaves us for Rome two days later. Please contact the Parish Office or Jane Hopgood if you can assist with catering.

FR SABU: Fr Sabu will be moving to his new position as Assistant Priest at Hornchurch Parish on Saturday, 17th September. We thank him for his service here during his brief stay, and wish him every success in his new role. Huge thanks go to Parishioners for their generosity last week towards his collection.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Simone and Sean married here yesterday.

MERSEA COFFEE MORNING: The next Mersea Coffee Morning takes place on Tuesday, September 13th, and will be hosted by Anne Marie Jacobs at Rewsalls Farm, starting at 10:30am. All are most welcome.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Olive Johnson who has recently died. May she rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of her bereaved family. Details of her funeral at Mersea will be announced in due course. The funeral of Hilda Parker takes place here on Wednesday, 14th September at 1:15pm

JOURNEY IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.): The Journey in Faith programme is a series of

informal weekly meetings to provide knowledge and guidance to those adults who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. The first meeting took place last Thursday but there is still time to join our Group – next meeting - Thursday, 15th, 7:00pm in the Crypt. Please come along if you are keen to find out about the Catholic Faith. Give your name and contact details to one of the Priests, to the Parish Office or contact Cathy O'Connor 01206 501146 email cathy_oconnor83@hotmail.com

THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE FOR NEW BORN UP TO AGED 6: Will take place on *Fridays 16th and 23rd September in the Crypt from 7:30pm-9pm*. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. Both sessions must be attended, and the date of baptisms will be booked during the course.

PRIORY STREET THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS: “So Many Decades - Jukebox Musical”. Sing along to well known songs. Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September 7.30 pm in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Door open 7.00 pm. Adults £5 children and concessions £2.50. For more information contact Lesley 01206 512310.

RSCM ESSEX & EAST LONDON CHOIRS FESTIVAL: Next Saturday, Sept 17th, Chelmsford Cathedral 10am – 4pm. Contact: Shirley Timmins 01277 233302 shirleytimmins@btinternet.com for all details.

PARISH DAY OF REFLECTION 17TH SEPT. In Lent this year we had a day devoted to works of Mercy, with parishioners giving accounts of how this played out in Parish life. This September’s Day is devoted to **Prayer**. In the morning from **11am** (coffee 10.30 onwards), there will be Gospel-based reflections on prayer. From **13.45** in the afternoon, representatives of different prayer activities in the parish will give short talks about the type of prayer they are drawn to and how it is practised. We shall finish **between 3.00 and 3.30pm**. Thanks to the people who are willing to speak. We hope the rest of the parish will support this day; prayer is the basis of all our activities. There is a poster in the porch. Any further information: Valerie Q 01206 561196.

TURN YOUR CONCERN INTO ACTION: More than 6 million adults live in absolute poverty in Britain. This means they are destitute and are deprived of basic human needs, such as food, sanitation, health or shelter. But poverty isn’t the only deprivation; chronic loneliness and isolation is a significant and growing problem. According to the Office of National Statistics, Britain has become the loneliness capital of Europe. Even here in Colchester isolation can be a very real problem. But what can we do about it? The first step is to attend Mass here on Sunday, 18th September when the St Vincent de Paul Society will explain how we can work together in this parish to take action.

YEAR OF MERCY MASSES AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: September 18th at 6:30pm. Welcoming those who have been betrayed physically or emotionally abused. Preacher: Fr Graham Smith.

100 CLUB AUGUST DRAW WINNERS: 1st Adrian Porter; 2nd Eva Read; 3rd Christopher Jenner. Congratulations to all!

CHURCH CLEANERS’ ROTA: Thursday, September 15th, Team 1.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263