

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR [Gaudete Sunday]

Saturday December 10th	6:15 pm	Mr & Mrs Pryke RIP
Sunday December 11th	8:00 am	Rev Arthur, Beryl & John Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Julie Bath RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Ann de Smith RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Joan Donnelly RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Ernest Jardim RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Lesley Hawken RIP
<i>Monkwick [not Mile End]</i>	6:00 pm	Kerala Mass
Monday 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe	
	Church 9:15 am	Timothy English RIP
Tuesday 13th	St Lucy. V,M	
	Church 9:15 am	William Guild RIP
	Church 6:30 pm	Polish Mass
Wednesday 14th	St John of the Cross, Pr, D	
	Church 12:15 pm	Intentions of Fr Tony
Thursday 15th	Feria	
	Church 9:15 am	Donald H Sutcliffe RIP
Friday 16th	Feria	
	Church 9:15 am	Nula Toone RIP
Saturday 17th	Feria	
	Church 9:15 am	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A [Expectant Mothers]]

Saturday December 17th	6:15 pm	Tony Herry RIP
Sunday December 18th	8:00 am	Geoffrey and Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	In Thanksgiving [Sykes Family]
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Cyril O 'Driscoll RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Bridget Smith RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Derrick Leo Foley RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Bert Hewitt RIP

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

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

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR [A]
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The third week of advent is Gaudete Sunday. This Latin word means rejoice! All Christians; Catholics are invited to rejoice for Christmas is close at hand. Therefore we light the third candle whose colour is pink or rose to symbolize that JOY is close at hand as promised by St. John last week!

In the Gospel, St. John the Baptist send his disciples to verify if the one who arrived is Jesus Christ indeed. He worked hard proclaiming the coming of the Messiah who will bring redemption to all nations. So, Jesus without much ado, sent back the messengers to report to him that yes he is indeed the one who was sent; the one who is to come. However, this self-revelation is not only verifiable through his words, but also through his good deeds: the blind see, the lame walk, the possessed liberated, sinners forgiven and love and, above all, the Gospel (Good News) proclaimed to everyone. Yes, brothers and sisters, Jesus is our real Messiah, the fulfilment of all that has been prophesied in the Old Testament. And so let us rejoice and be glad!

The disciples were lucky people because they have seen, touched and lived with the Lord. They were fortunate for they have witnessed all that Jesus did during his earthly life. This being fortunate and great for the apostles is accompanied

with responsibilities and challenges too; that is, to see the Lord's face in every person they encounter. Remember, Our Lord said, whoever is the greatest among you should be at the service of the least, the lost and the last. Although we are not as lucky as the apostles were, yet we can be so blessed like them if we have faith that impels us to serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters. For though we have not seen him, yet we believe! And with the eyes of our faith we see and serve him through them. This is the essence of being great, a servant we become!

And so, this Sunday calls us to rejoice in our faith for we experience God's merciful love. We believe in his power and so we have the reason to feel great, happy and joyful. GAUDETE! His coming through brothers and sisters is once again a proof of how close he is to us. Be happy and let us celebrate with faith for the Lord Jesus Christ is close at hand. REJOICE!

Fr Alex

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	8:00 pm
FILMS FOR FAITH:	To be Advised	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Kay Knight, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, 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,

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism **Hilary Fadojutimi and Ned Pereira Partner**. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: With full details of Christmas Masses throughout the Parish are available this weekend.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND AT MILE END *only* for Christmas flowers.

PARISH GRAND DRAW: Tickets will be available at all Masses for this year's Grand Draw on 17th December 2016. Money prizes of £250, £150 and £75, plus many other special gifts. Please ensure that each household buys at least 1 book to support the church repair programme. All donations of items for the Grand Draw are welcome. See next item.

CURRY NIGHT NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH: In the Cardinal Bourne Hall 7:30pm. Various curries and desserts. Tea and Coffee. Bring your own drinks. Grand Raffle also to be drawn. Adults £10; Children under 12years £5. Items for Grand Raffle still needed. Tickets available from Norah 503410 and Frances 369568.

LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT: Reflective reading of the Sunday scriptures. Saturdays 5 -6pm in the Crypt.

WORD MADE FLESH - An Advent Reflection on Saturday 17th December, from 11am – 3.00pm in the Crypt. Coffee from 10.30am. Please bring a packed lunch

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS : During the 6pm Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we would encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costume - we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! We are also looking for some new narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30 Mass. Thank you

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY : A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass to be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent children, young and old, are asked to save their change and wrap as presents to be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sundays of Advent please collect a card bauble to decorate for the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas.

POLISH COMMUNITY: celebrate 50 years of Polish Mass at St James the Less on December 18th at 2pm with the blessing of a special commemoration banner. A food and drinks reception will follow afterwards in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Tickets £5.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY: The traditional *Filipino Simbang Gabi* is scheduled for the following dates: December 16th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, all at 8pm, and the Christmas Filipino party is on December 26th from 1pm, following on from Mass at 11.30am.

100 CLUB NEWS: The December and Christmas Bonus Draw will take place in the Cardinal Bourne Hall next Sunday, 18th December, after the 10:30am Mass.

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 2017-8 INTAKE: Fr Alex will be signing the Certificate of Practice forms *by appointment only* on Monday, December 12th, Tuesday December 13th and Monday, January 9th. All between 4pm-6pm. Please contact the Parish Office to book.

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

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, December 15th - Team 2.