

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)				Peace Day
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Roger Kemp RIP	
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Mary Newton-Lewis RIP	
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners	
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	David Darlington	
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention	
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	C. T. Joseph RIP	
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Paul Richard B. Brusola RIP	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Anthony, Ab</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Morgan RIP	
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: A + P Hagan	
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Fred McNamara RIP	
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	David Darlington RIP	
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)				
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Roger Kemp RIP	
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Kitty Reilly RIP	
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners	
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Erwin Cagadas + Marilou Barraca RIP	
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention	

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.
- ❖ Colchester General Hospital: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital, please contact the presbytery direct on (01206 866317).

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** [colchester@brcdt.org](mailto:colchester@brcdt.org)
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com)

 Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & follow** our page

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

### WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

#### 1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**Peace Day**

**Week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

One characteristic of the society in which we live is the readiness of so many people to be followers of others. In the arena of social media there are, I believe, influencers who are highly paid precisely to influence others in the hope of generating sales. Fashion also comes to mind. There are also many groups which claim to be churches offering the Gospel (wrongly). Common to all this kind of behaviour is submission of will by the followers, they submit to being influenced. When it comes to submitting to the true Gospel as proclaimed by the Catholic church for about two thousand years, people are often reluctant to listen and may indeed make statements such as, 'no-one is going to tell me what to do', while letting so many others tell them what to do. Central to the Gospel is becoming a follower, a disciple, someone who listens to the voice of God, in whose will is our peace. Jesus gave us the Catholic church to be his voice on earth, it would have been odd if he hadn't done so as that would just have left a cacophony of voices. Let us listen to his voice.

*Fr. Chris*

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY** *For the gift of diversity in the church:* We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian Community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE.** We pray for the people of all worn torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for the laying down of all weapons.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 John 1:35-42) **Welcomed in His name.** When Andrew and Simon Peter met Jesus, they asked Him: "Rabbi, where do you live?" He said: "Come and see." They went, and stayed for the rest of the day. Did Mary, His mother, return to find strangers in her house and welcome and serve them in her Son's name? Do we welcome and serve one another in His name?

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Grace McCartney, Margaret Brookes, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Pinchbeck, Gloria Vicary, Beryl Chase-Gardener and Joan Kerrins who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. The Funeral for Michael will be held at Colchester Crematorium on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10.00am; The Funeral Service for Gloria will be here on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb at 11.30am; the Funeral for Beryl will be held at Colchester Crematorium on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.30pm; the funeral service for Joan will be held here on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 1.45pm.

**DIOCESAN 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** There will be a collection taken at all Masses this weekend for **Pax Christi (Peace Day)**. Every year, with the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales, Pax Christi promote Peace Sunday as a way of observing the World Day of Peace. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace' - to read Pope Francis Message please click on the following link: - <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Pope-Francis-Message-for-World-Day-of-Peace-2024.pdf>

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** When we lose someone we have loved, a relationship where we felt safe, or a job where we felt fulfilled, we are left with grief that affects us emotionally and spiritually. Working together with two neighbouring parishes, we offer opportunities for support at a time of bereavement and loss: **Group support** at St Teresa's, Lexden and St. John Payne's Greenstead and **one to one help** in St James the Less, Priory St. The leaders are trained and experienced and are, or have been part of St Helena's Hospice Counselling and Emotional Support Team. More details on Notice Board, website and Facebook.



**CUPPA CLUB:** We meet every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am in the Hall. This is an opportunity to relax and catch up with others from the local community

**CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2<sup>nd</sup>] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024:** There are copies of the directory available in the Church porch – these are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Priced at £2.95 per copy. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

**THE SVP ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO HELP CHILDREN PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION. COULD THIS BE YOU?** The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on [youngvincentians@svp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@svp.org.uk). You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**PILGRIMAGE TO PADUA & ASSISI:** St Teresa of Lisieux, Lexden, Colchester, Invite you to join us 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024; 7 nights at £1269 per person. For info, please contact: Alex McArthur [mcarthur77@outlook.com](mailto:mcarthur77@outlook.com) Please see poster on our Facebook page for details.

**BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENTEN TALKS:** A series of 4 talks on the recent Synod on Synodality, which took place in Rome last October has been organised for the Holy Lenten season this year. We have managed to secure 4 speakers who were participants at the Synod. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024) who was appointed by the Pope as the Guest Preacher and Spiritual Director for the whole Synod; The Revd Dr Jan Nowotnik (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024) Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference, and its National Ecumenical Officer; Mr Austen Ivereigh (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024) Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis; Writer, speaker on contemporary Church affairs; Bishop Nicholas Hudson Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024) Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, (former Rector of the Ven English College, Rome), appointed delegate at the Synod last October. All the Talks will take place at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. Considering the Bishop's Pastoral Letter recently this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Synod on Synodality, and this invitation is open to the whole Diocese.

**UPCOMING BCYS EVENTS LISTED BELOW: -**

- Youth Mass - on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday every month from 6.00pm at Brentwood Cathedral and in the Parish Hall.
- Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage - applications are now open
- Year 12 Retreat - takes place from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February for anyone in Year 12 to explore their faith further and learn more about God's role in our lives.
- FLAME 2025 - tickets are now on sale.
- Walsingham House - for academic year 2024/2025, applications are now open for anyone currently in year 13 or above to volunteer.

For more information on any of the above, please visit [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net).

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 15/01/24: **Team 4** / 26/01/24: **Team 5**  
**COFFEE MORNING:** 14/01/24: Diane + Adrian / 21/01/24: The O'Sullivan's