

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER
175 YEARS ~ 1837 - 2012

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

“Gaudete” Sunday - 16th December 2012

My dear friends

We come to the third Sunday of Advent called “Gaudete” meaning “Rejoice”. The theme of joy in the readings is not merely that Christmas is near, but speaks of the lasting joy that the Lord is always with us, we have nothing to fear. He came to us in history as our Saviour and is constantly with us in his church and we are confident in his promise that he will come again.

I love these words from the prophet Jeremiah 29:11,13: *“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”.*

Today you will receive a Christmas card from your priests with the times of our Christmas Masses and our good wishes to you all for the Feast; one card per household. We welcome Fr Nick Farrell, the Garrison Chaplain, who will be helping us over Christmas. We are glad to have his assistance when his other commitments allow.

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Advent

Priests will be available for confession on Friday evening 21st December at 7:30pm. Also next Saturday at the usual times morning and evening (9:45am – 10:30am and 5:30pm – 6:30pm) and on Christmas Eve morning between the Masses and 9:45am – 10:30am.

May God bless you all

Fr Tony McKentey

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy followed by Rosary	3pm
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
PRAYER GROUP:	Mondays at 8pm	Church
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays at 8pm	Crypt

<i>EVENTS THIS WEEK</i>		
Sunday 16th	8:00 pm Ratzinger Reader	Crypt
Wednesday 19th	7:00 pm SVP	Crypt
Friday 21st	7:30 pm Lectio Divina	Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK (new entries are in bold): Please remember in your prayers, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Ian Cole, Richard Cox, Stanley Crane, Fr. Ian Dickie, Nancy Drummond, Gianni Emoli, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Paula Nash, **Dennis O'Neill**, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Sabina Rhatigan, Patricia Roche, Catherine Spicer, Jacqueline Sykes, Filomena Velasquez, Ron Wheeler, Tony White.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: Sofia Doria Agut, Frieda Grant & Emily Harper. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be Thursday 31st January and Thursday 7th February in the Crypt from 7:30pm – 9pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. [This course is for new-borns up to age 6].

MEDITATION GROUP: The Meditation group will not meet on the 25th Dec or the 1st Jan.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: There will be a collection for Christmas Flowers (Priory St only) this weekend 15th – 16th December. Thank you for your generous donations for BEEF (this year for the promotion of vocations) and for National Youth Sunday. They raised £575.91 and £680.65 respectively.

CTS NEW SUNDAY MISSAL – People’s Edition for 2013 : Available now.

2013 BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY: Available from the back of church. Price £2.75

PARISH HISTORY: 175th Anniversary by Fr Stewart Foster. Priced at £5. A lovely Christmas gift for any budding historian – Just a few copies left.

ADVENT PREPARATION: LECTIO DIVINA: Among the suggestions our Bishops have made for the Year of Faith is the practice of Lectio Divina: reflective reading of scripture. As in the past, we do this before the Sundays of Advent. The last session is this Friday 21st at 7:30pm. See poster in porch.

MASSES OF OUR LADY IN ADVENT: in Polish starting with indoor Procession: This Tuesday 18th at 6:30 pm in St James the Less and St Helen.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS BOOKS: There is a range of good-quality children’s

books for sale in the crypt bookcase. Answer your present needs with a visit below.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS: From St John Payne Greenstead - A professional CD recording of 28 Favourite Hymns of Praise. Make a really nice gift for Christmas. price £12 for set of 2 CD's. Tel: Jean Henley 865038/email mjh38@sky.com.

A SPECIAL KIND OF RETREAT FOR THE NEW YEAR: A Foyer de Charité retreat will be held at the Sion Community, Brentwood from Sunday 10th March (6pm) – Saturday 16th March (2pm). The theme is **God's Plan for the Fullness of Time**, and the preacher will be Mgr Keith Barltrop. Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day, and offer a holistic way of deepening our faith in the Church's teaching and our life in Christ. The Foyers are communities of consecrated lay people living with a priest in order to help others grow closer to Christ and live the Catholic faith more fully. For more information or to book a place, contact Mgr Barltrop: 07879 953 953; St Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London. W2 5DJ. keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk

ST THOMAS MORE FORM SIGNING: Fr Tony will be available to sign your application forms for St Thomas More School on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January from 4pm – 6pm. Please make contact through the church office to book your appointment time. **Please bring completed forms with you - ready to sign**

TEACHING VACANCY: St Mary's Primary in Tilbury are seeking a new Headteacher to start in April or September 2013. The closing date is 7th January, please contact the school for an application pack, we welcome informal visits, please contact Mrs Alison Bishop at the school to arrange to arrange a visit. Tel: 01375843254 admin@tilburystmarys.thurrock.sch.uk

CHURCH CLEANERS: Saturday 22nd December – Team 6.

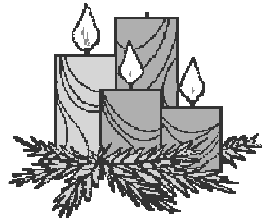
CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December

<i>Priory Street</i>	18:00	Vigil Mass especially for families
<i>Monkwick</i>	20:00	Vigil Mass preceded by Carols at 19:30
<i>Priory Street</i>	24:00	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 23:30

Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December

<i>Priory Street</i>	08:00	Christmas Dawn Mass
	10:30	Christmas Day Mass
<i>Mersea</i>	09:00	Christmas Dawn Mass preceded by Carols at 08:30
<i>Mile End</i>	09:15	Christmas Day Mass preceded by Carols at 09:00



“Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus, Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!”
Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary — rejoice!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] - (“Gaudete” Sunday)

16th December 2012

Saturday December 15th	6:15 pm	Douglas Finch RIP
Sunday December 16th	8:00 am	Arthur & Beryl Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Maria Soutar RIP [DP]
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Ints: Brenda
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Derrick Foley RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Peggy & Family RIP
Monday 17th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Don Carlon RIP
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Nellie Williamson RIP [SVP]
Tuesday 18th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Hector Silva RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm POLISH MASS – Our Lady in Advent
Wednesday 19th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Holy Souls RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm D/Rels: Mr & Mrs White
Thursday 20th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Joseph McEnaney RIP
Friday 21st	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Josef Gottfried von Wrede RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm Canon Thomas Clarke RIP
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 pm CONFESSIONS
Saturday 22nd	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Ints: Kia Higgins & Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] - (Expectant Mothers)

23rd December 2012

Saturday December 22nd	6:15 pm	Dennis Slocum RIP
Sunday December 23rd	8:00 am	Beatrice and Geoffrey Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Des Byrne RIP [IJ]
	6:30 pm	Thomas Kelly RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Leo William Foley RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Nellie Williamson 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