

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 16th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 17th	Church	8.00 am	Mrs P. Okoli RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Dr. Colin Pace + Mr K. Ridge RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Chris Kenyon
Monday 18th			Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent
	Church	9.30 am	Private Intention (J.D.)
Tuesday 19th			ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	Church	9.30 am	Margaret & Andrew Couzins
	Church	6.00 pm	Polish Mass
		6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 20th			Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent
	Church	9.30 am	Michael Rush RIP
Thursday 21st			Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Friday 22nd			Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Church	12.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
	Mile End	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 23rd			Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent
	Church	9.30 am	Pauline Okoli RIP
			PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B)
Saturday 23rd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 24th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Joe & Ray Cauty & Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Patrick Irvine RIP

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING: after 10.30am Mass on Sundays in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brodt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: 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



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest." In this verse, the grain symbolizes the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and his Resurrection. This allegory teaches us about the cycle of death and rebirth, emphasizing that life emerges from the generosity of self-giving and that eternal life is attained through self-abnegation. It reminds us that acts of sacrifice and altruism have the power to bring about positive change.

With Easter just a few days away, we reflect in anticipation on the profound sacrifice of Jesus that gave birth to our salvation. Through this reflection, we understand that true life and growth come from dying to self and giving of ourselves.

Fr. Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: For New Martyrs. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE. God of hope and mercy, protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Amen.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33) **Unconditional love.** Love is called to be unconditional, not 'counting the cost', not 50/50, but both giving 100%. Today's Gospel reminds us a rich harvest is only possible when a single wheat grain falls on the ground and dies. Our loving efforts, trials and difficulties in marriage are ways of 'dying' to a lifestyle contrary to what God is calling us to.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Jimmy Clarin, Grace McCartney, 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 soul of John Belson who recently passed away. The parish community offers John's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time.

REPOSITORY: There is a selection of St Patrick Day Cards & Easter Cards for sale in Church porch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: There will be special collection taken today to aid Loli in her fundraising efforts so she can go on the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage this year.

WASHING OF FEET- MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER AT 8.00PM (Maundy Thursday). The washing of the feet imitates Jesus' act of love for His "twelve" on the night before He died, this ritual signifies their participation in Christ's mission of love and service to one another and to those in need. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the washing of feet list in Church Porch – only 4 volunteers now needed.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25th MAY 2024: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come, and wish to reserve a seat on the coach – please add your name to the Coach Seat Reservation list, which can be found on a clipboard in the Church Porch. A 53-seat coach will be picking up from East Hill near the corner of Priory Street at 07:45 for 8:00am departure, with tickets at £17.00 per person, payable on the coach for those who have reserved seats. Please bring a packed lunch, as the cafeteria at Walsingham will be very busy.

BAPTISMS: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent. It does not matter if they are male or female. If you choose two Godparents, traditionally a male and female that meet the requirements for Godparents. There is no provision for more than two godparents.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2024

Date	Time	Service	Location
Monday 25 th March	9.30 am	Mass & Confessions	Priory Street
Tuesday 26 th March	9.30 am	Mass	Priory Street
Wednesday 27 th March	8.30 am	Mass	Priory Street
EASTER TRIDUUM			
28 th March:	9.30 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Priory Street
	8.00 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching until Midnight	Priory Street
29 th March:	9.30 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Priory Street
	10.30 am	Children's Stations of Cross	Priory Street
	3.00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion of The Lord	Priory Street
	12.00 pm	Stations of Cross	Mile End
30 th March:	9.30 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Priory Street
	6.30 pm	Solemn Vigil of Easter	Priory Street
31 st March:	EASTER SUNDAY (THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD)		
	Masses at usual Sunday times		
	[There will be no Mass at Monkwick]		
1 st April:	10.00 am	Mass	Priory Street

'BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT. *Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church.* Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese. Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

AN EVENING WITH THE ROCKIN' REV on 27th April at 7.30pm at St Teresa's Church Hall, Lexden. There is an evening with the Rockin' Rev, who plays guitar to songs including The Shadows and can be seen on YouTube. The tickets are £15 and include either a fish & chips or chicken & chips supper. Please contact Catherine Offord for tickets on 07971 052441.

SOUP RUN: Could you help the SVP deliver sandwiches at the Soup Run once a month? We would be grateful for donations of sandwiches, which can be left at the Church on our delivery day or picked up from your home. We can offer money for the ingredients. If you can help, please leave your e-mail or telephone number on: colchestersvp@gmail.com and we will contact you.

CUPPA CLUB: We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 18/03/24: **Team 3** / Monday 25/03/24: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING: 17/03/24: Peggy & Anne / 24/03/24: Yolande + !