

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A [Expectant Mothers]

Saturday December 17th	6:15 pm	Tony Herrity RIP
Sunday December 18th	8:00 am	Geoffrey and Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	In Thanksgiving [Sykes Family] RIP
	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
Monday 19th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Tom Schofield RIP
	<i>Church</i>	8:00 pm Filipino Mass
Tuesday 20th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Christina Francis RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm Polish Mass
Wednesday 21st	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	11:00 am St Thomas More School Carol Service
	<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
	<i>Church</i>	8:00 pm Filipino Mass
Thursday 22nd	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2:15 pm REQUIEM – Aimée Stammers RIP
Friday 23rd	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Deacon Yves Ferriere RIP
	<i>Church</i>	8:00 pm Filipino Mass
Saturday 24th	Feria [Morning]	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Des Fuller RIP
	[Evening] THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST THE LORD	
	<i>Church</i>	6:00 pm Ronald Wheeler RIP
	<i>Church</i>	Midnight Dec & Living Members of Galvin Fam.
<i>Monkwick</i>		8:00 pm Ints: Hawken Family
<i>Monkwick</i>		Midnight Polish Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Solemnity

Sunday December 25th	8:00 am	The Chrysopoulos Family RIP
	10:30 am	Cecily Sim RIP & Agnes Chee RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	NO MASS
<i>West Mersea</i>	9:00 am	Ints: Margaret and Michael Norman
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Brian Baggiony RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	NO MASS

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Canon Anthony McKentey
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“Man proposes God disposes” I guess this saying is very familiar to all of you. In our relationship with the Lord, very often we expect that things will just happen the way we plan it to be. We put all our might, energies, time, resources, and we think that we can make things happen as we want them to. But wait, this is not the way it works with God.

In the Gospel during this fourth Sunday of Advent, God introduces Joseph into the mystery of the Incarnation. Like any other human being, Joseph has got his own personal plan, and mind you, he is determined to get it done. Yet, here comes the confusion, fear and doubt when God entered into the picture and turned everything upside down. Furthermore, when this mysterious call seemed beyond his understanding he tried his best to avoid it; worse, he wanted to run away from it. So Joseph made up his mind and planned to leave Mary quietly, for he was believed to be a righteous man. This is the fruit of an anxious discernment any human being is capable of, away from God’s help.

Alas! God finally came to his rescue and helped him from his deep anguish and confusion. In a dream, an angel explained everything to him, most specially the Motherhood of Mary, the chosen one among women. Being righteous, Joseph accepted the will of God for him.

Sisters and brothers, faith does not assure us of full comprehension of the

mystery God would like to reveal to us. But it can sustain and strengthen us in order to be able to accept his plan. God will always assure us of his light, through discernment, prayer and openness to his will, for he is in control of everything. That is why it is necessary that we keep his teachings firm and alive in our daily life so that through his mysterious way we can gain wisdom and happiness.

Like Joseph and Mary, let us present all our plans to him and put our 100% trust in his hands so that everything will be alright. Pray, not only for anything, but for everything that could lead you to him and in every moment of your life. Amen.

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, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kenneth McKechnie, Aimée Stammers, James Paton and Lawrence Tuohy who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families and friends. Aimée's funeral has been arranged for next Thursday, 22nd December, here at Priory Street at 2:15pm. Lawrence Dennis Tuohy's funeral is at Colchester Crematorium Wednesday 28th December at 12:30pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

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

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

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

For all other Masses, please see Schedule overleaf

FILIPINO COMMUNITY: The traditional *Filipino Simbang Gabi* is scheduled for the remaining following dates: December 19th, 21st, 23rd, all at 8pm, and the

Christmas Filipino party is on December 26th from 1pm, following on from Mass at 11.30am.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: A programme for children in Year 3 and above will start in the New Year- an information pack is available after all Masses at the back of the church. Please take one per child. If you have any questions, please contact Hywel and Pam Edwards on 01206 867325.

TIME TO VOLUNTEER WITH CAFOD? CAFOD are looking for a volunteer who cares about global poverty, can work with children and young people and is able to travel to schools in the Colchester area to deliver a short presentation on an aspect of their work. You don't need to be a global expert or a trained teacher – CAFOD offer all their volunteers a full training programme, ongoing support and a wide range of exciting materials and resources to get you up and running. Contact Chris Driscoll at the CAFOD Volunteer Centre on 01277 218730 / 07776 493162 or email brentwood@cafod.org.uk

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 2017-8 INTAKE: The final date for form signing will be on Monday, January 9th between 4pm-6pm. Please contact the Parish Office to book.

CBH CAR PARK: A reminder that the limited parking spaces in the Hall Car park are **solely** for the use of Church and Hall users as the Notices display. Not for school drop off/pick up or shopping in town. Your co-operation is appreciated

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The offertory from all the Christmas Masses goes directly to the clergy of the Parish and constitutes a major part of their annual salary.

CHRISTMAS CRIB: In accordance with new Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of The Lord (February 2nd). All Crib offerings go to Brentwood Children's Society

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

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, December 22nd - Team 3.