

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]**

<b>Saturday 21<sup>ST</sup> January</b>	<b>6:15 pm</b>	Ron Wheeler RIP
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Holy Souls RIP
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Jim O'Hare RIP
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	Polish Mass
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Seamus Power RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	<b>8:30 am</b>	Joan Donnelly
<i>Mile End</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Parishioners
<i>Monkwick</i>	<b>10:15 am</b>	Bert Hewitt RIP
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>	
<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Intentions: John and May Coffey
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Francis de Sales, Bp, D</b>	
<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Stephen Hilton RIP
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, Ap</b>	<b>Feast</b>
<b>N.B.</b>	<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b> Gillian Bennett RIP
		<b><u>NO 12:15PM MASS</u></b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus, Bpp</b>	
<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Roger Goodin RIP
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Angela Merici, V</b>	
<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Alfredo J Ramos RIP [A]
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Thomas Aquinas, Pr, D</b>	
<i>Church</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]**

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>6:15 pm</b>	Donal Healy RIP
<b>Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Maurice and Kitty Foley RIP
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Alredo J. Ramos RIP [A]
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	Polish Mass
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Seamus Power RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	<b>8:30 am</b>	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Terry Sheeran RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	<b>10:15 am</b>	Celestine Tighe 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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One of the most important things to remember about Jesus' mission is his great interest in spreading the Good News. His priority is the preaching, while the healings come after.

Many a times, Jesus would gather first the people to himself as his listeners and tell them about the Good News, like for example, the call to repentance for the kingdom of God, which shows the mercy of his Father. He would also speak about the light the people should have in order not to live in darkness; about the love of God and neighbour which are indispensable for someone who believes in his Father, and the acts of charity (big or small it may be) which are expressions of one's faith, to name a few.

Many of us Catholics know about many things of our faith from our childhood catechism classes. Some of us would even declare that their faith journey is fine and smooth sailing, and therefore they need no further studies and knowledge other than what they have, or they may think they have. But wait, remember that this "Knowing" is different from "Owning-Living" the Bible. We may know it through and through, through our daily reading and yet we remain far from living it. We may know and talk about Jesus and what he did and would and could do for us, but if we do not talk to Jesus and with Jesus all this is nothing. We are just like a clanging cymbal as St. Paul would put it.

Coming to this consideration, I believe that everyone should be reminded of this dictum: "Text without context is pretext". We will never see and understand the true

meaning of the passage if we do not go back to its cultural context and to the intention of the Holy Writers.

This thing in my opinion is indispensable for a correct way of praying the Bible.

Today we need people who know how to defend themselves from the fast growing and numerous challenges of our faith. We need real witnesses who can stand for their faith amidst the culture of individualism, consumerism, communism and relativism with the Bible as their armour.

Lastly, let us pray that we learn to love the Scripture and to use it as the daily source of our inspiration so as to be guided in our everyday quest for the Truth of life. If we do so, we shall surely see the Light and our nation will become great. Amen. Send O Lord, holy apostles into your Church!

Fr Alex, rcj

**Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes**

**N.B. 9:15am Mass on Wednesday; NO 12:15pm Mass**

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:	Please see below	

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Lorraine Atkin, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, 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, Patricia Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

**FILMS FOR FAITH:** Returns on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm for a 1:15pm start in the Crypt. The film will be “Bernadette” 1. On the 8th February the showing will be “Bernadette” 2 [the sequel] and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February - “12 Ordinary Men”. Refreshments are provided and all are most welcome.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Mayes and Mary Waqarioba who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. The funeral of Ronnie Hammond has been arranged for Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, at 12 noon, here at St James the Less.

**PRIORY STREET THEATRE GROUP:** present their annual pantomime **Aladdin**. In the Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street, on Friday, 27th January, at 7.30 pm and Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>, Matinee 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm. Tickets Adults £5 and concessions £2.50. For more information contact Lesley 01206 512310.

**PARISH FINANCE REPORT:** The financial year 2016/17 has been an exceptionally expensive year for the Parish and, for a number of reasons, we are heading for a deficit of about £20,000 this year. That is an unprecedented and

alarming figure. You have all put a lot of effort in over the last few years to dig our Parish out of the overdraft we had five years ago but our small surplus is now being wiped out. There are a number of reasons but the major costs are for supply priests during Canon Tony's absence, no Parish Funds Appeals whilst he has been away and urgent electrical and fire safety works required following a health & safety survey by the Diocese. We do hope that this is an exceptional year with a number of special factors and our normal break even pattern will resume next year but we need to do something about it now. There will therefore be **a special Parish Funds Appeal collection at all masses next weekend on 28 and 29 January 2017** and I am sure you will all be as generous as you have been in the past. Thank you for your help. *Adrian Livesley: Parish Finance Committee*

**CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY :** In accordance with new 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 Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**NEXT BAPTISM COURSE FOR NEWBORNS UP TO AGE 6:** Will take place on Friday **February 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** in the Crypt from 7:30pm to 9pm. There is no need to make an appointment, **but both sessions** must be attended. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church.,

**MASS FOR THE SICK:** Our Lady of Lourdes is both patroness of our Diocese and the sick. As a Diocese we are invited to join Bishop Alan on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead, to celebrate our annual Lourdes Mass as part of the Diocesan centenary celebrations. During Mass the Sacrament of Anointing will be given to those who are unwell. This Mass is replacing the mass which is usually celebrated at the Cathedral.

**DIOCESAN CENTENARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY: Please see above and. Saturday 11 February** – (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Principal Patron of the Diocese): Inauguration of Centenary Celebrations with Day of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in every parish church; Inauguration of Schools' Competition

**VACANCIES:** Volunteers are required for the Soup Run. Ideally, this would suit a couple, so if you would like further information please contact Armando or the Parish Office.

**BCCS:** Quiz Night at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School – 25<sup>th</sup> February 7pm. Teams of 8, cost £7.50p.p. Must be prebooked. All proceeds to BCCS. For further information: [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) 07912 277413.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES:** There are still some available in the porch, price £2:75. Ringbound £4.

**CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com) 07758 80526

**CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA:** TBA