

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



St James the Less & St Helen

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

**(Expectant Mothers)**

Parish Mass Book – Page 90

On these last days of Advent we hear in the Gospels the immediate events leading to the birth of Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew, our Gospel for this church year, describes these events from St Joseph's point of view. He is told in a dream of his special role as the guardian and protector of Our Lady and Our Lord. We have recently been instructed to remember St Joseph whenever we pray the Eucharistic Prayer.

We your priests, look forward to celebrating the feast of Christmas with you all. Whether you are here in the parish or elsewhere, we hope you have a joyful celebration of the great feast. Within the newsletter are all the times of the Christmas services.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Fr Tony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

Fr Philip Willenbrock

### **Prayer before the Crib**

*"Heavenly Father, as we wonder and hesitate like the Shepherds of Bethlehem, fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in this helpless Babe the revelation of your love, and the radiant vision of your glory. Filled with wonder at the nearness of our God in Mary's newborn Child, may we now offer Him our praise, worship and thanksgiving, and give Him the*

*love and loyalty of our hearts."*

**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 and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. [Please hold off the King costumes until Sunday 5th January ...] Thank you.

**WANTED:** Musicians and singers for the Christmas Vigil Mass ... our usual help is not available this year, could you help? Global superstar or hidden talent - could you lead a few carols, maybe more? Please contact Hywel & Pam Edwards - 867325 or after 10:30 Mass. Thank you

*Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes*

<b>SUNDAYS:</b>	<b>Divine Mercy followed by Rosary</b>	<b>3pm</b>
<b>DAILY:</b>	<b>Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy</b>	<b>8:35am</b>
<b>EVENING PRAYER:</b>	<b>Fridays</b>	<b>at 6pm</b>
<b>Church</b>		
<b>PRAYER GROUP:</b>	<b>Mondays at 8pm</b>	<b>Crypt</b>
<b>MEDITATION GROUP:</b>	<b>Tuesdays at 8pm</b>	<b>Crypt</b>

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK (new entries are in bold type):** Please remember in your prayers, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, **Karl Collins**, Emma Cooper, Val Crane, Olive Crawford, Amy Daggitt, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Christine Farrell, Gianni Emoli, Charlie George, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Venetia Hetherington, Maurice Highfield, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Pat Keene, Patrick King, Declan Knight, Mirella Leonardi, Val Ling, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Margaret Norman, **Ijeoma Ozor**, Leah Patterson, Piotr Ploskonka, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Sabina Rhatigan, Douglas Rogers, Carley Saunders, Catherine Spicer, **Bernard Stevens**, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

**PRAYER GROUP:** There will be no prayer group on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30th December. The prayer group's first meeting in the new year will be on the 6th January.

**SVP:** Next meeting is the 8<sup>th</sup> January 10:30am.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED?** The next Baptism course will be on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in the Crypt from 7:30pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry into the Crypt is via the Church [This course is for new-borns up to age 6]

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** The Offertory Collection at all the Christmas Masses is, by tradition, the parishioners' personal gift to the Clergy. In this parish, Fr Tony and Fr Neil are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Thank you from the Flower Team at Priory St for the generous donation of £430.

**FILIPINO MASS:** There will be a Filipino Mass at Priory St on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** If you would like your child to make their First Holy

Communion in 2014, the next parents meetings will be on Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Crypt. This is for children presently in Year 3 and upwards and who belong to this parish.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** A children's collection will be offered up 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.

**100 CLUB – NOVEMBER DRAW:** And the winners are: Paul & Anna Horwood [1<sup>st</sup>]; Jennifer Bebb [2<sup>nd</sup>]; Lucy Millate [3<sup>rd</sup>]. Congratulations to you all. The special Christmas draw prizes this year will be £100, £70, £40, £20 and two free subs.

**WINTER RESERVE ACCOMODATION PROJECT:** Volunteers are needed to help run our shelter at the Cardinal Bourne Hall for homeless people that the Night shelter doesn't have room for. 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February. Please ring Gemma English on 01206 844 751 for more information. Thank you and God Bless.

**St Thomas More's Primary School 2014-15 Intake:** Any parent wishing to apply for a place at St Thomas More's School must complete a Supplementary Information Form in addition to the Local Authority application form. Forms are available to download on the school's website [www.stthomasmores.co.uk](http://www.stthomasmores.co.uk) or by contacting the office on 01206 865722.

**ST THOMAS MORE FORM SIGNING:** Fr Tony will be available to sign the application forms in connection with the above Intake on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 4pm-6pm. Please contact the Parish Office to book your appointment time. *Bring the completed forms with you, ready to sign, and if your child was not baptised here, please bring a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.*

**CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Team 5.**

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### **Christmas Eve, Tuesday 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, Wednesday 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



### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

**Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> 6:15 pm Paula Nash RIP**

**Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 8:00 am Beatrice & Geoffrey Foley RIP  
 10:30 am John Buckland RIP  
 2:00 pm **POLISH MASS**  
 6:30 pm Robert Davies RIP  
*West Mersea* 8:30 am Ints: Samantha Hume  
*Mile End* 9:15 am Derrick & Leo Foley RIP  
*Monkwick* 10:15 am Joan Norman RIP [CB]

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** **Feria**  
*Church* 7:30 am Ints: Caroline & Gareth  
*Church* 9:15 am Pauk & Zlocki Families RIP  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>** **(Morning) Feria**  
*Church* 9:15 am Cecily Sim RIP  
**(Evening) THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST THE LORD**  
*Church* 6:00 pm Canon Thomas Clarke RIP  
*Church* **Midnight** Parishioners  
*Monkwick* 8:00pm Celestine Tighe RIP  
*Monkwick* 11:30pm **Midnight Mass (Polish)**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** **CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)**  
*Church* 8:00 am Des Fuller RIP  
*Church* 10:30 am Parishioners  
*Church* 2:00 pm **POLISH MASS**  
*West Mersea* 9:00 am Parishioners  
*Mile End* 9:15 am Parishioners

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>** **ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr**  
*Church* 8:00 am Agnes Chee RIP  
*Church* 10:00 am V Varkey RIP

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** **ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist**  
*Church* 9:15 am Ints: Tony White [TW]  
*Church* 12:00 pm **HOSPITAL MASS**  
*Church* 6:30 pm Dennis O'Neill RIP

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>** **THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm**  
*Church* 9:15 am Eileen Hollis RIP

### **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup> 6:15 pm Ron Wheeler RIP [BB]**  
**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00 am John Lowe RIP  
 10:30 am Special Intention [TW]  
 2:00 pm **POLISH MASS**  
 4:00 pm **FILIPINO MASS**  
 6:30 pm Michael & Ellen Kate Conlon RIP  
*West Mersea* 8:30 am Parishioners  
*Mile End* 9:15 am D/Rels: Cestari family  
*Monkwick* 10:15 am Joan Norman RIP [OH]

