

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Fr Anthony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

Fr Philip Willenbrock

51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

Tel: 01206 866317

E-Mail colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER [B]

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This weekend we pray for Vocations. More than that, I commit myself to finding what vocation God has for me. Perhaps it is priesthood. What does St. Jean Vianney, patron of priests, have to say? "What is a priest! A man who holds the place of God - a man who is invested with all the powers of God. "Go," said Our Lord to the priest; "as My Father sent Me, I send you. All power has been given Me in Heaven and on earth. Go then, teach all nations. . . . He who listens to you, listens to Me; he who despises you despises Me." When the priest remits sins, he does not say, "God pardons you"; he says, "I absolve you." At the Consecration, he does not say, "This is the Body of Our Lord;" he says, "This is My Body." "

In the same vein the saintly Curé continues: "When the bell calls you to church, if you were asked, "Where are you going?" you might answer, "I am going to feed my soul." If someone were to ask you, pointing to the tabernacle, "What is that golden door?" "That is our storehouse, where the true Food of our souls is kept." "Who has the key? Who lays in the provisions? Who makes ready the feast, and who serves the table?" "The priest." "And what is the Food?" "The precious Body and Blood of Our Lord." O God! O God! How Thou hast loved us! See the power of the priest; out of a piece of bread the word of a priest makes a God. It is more than creating the world."

Those of you who are secure in your vocation, ask yourselves, when did I last challenge a promising young man: "Have you thought about being a priest?" Take a card when you leave Mass and don't forget to support our seminarians with prayer and a contribution to today's second collection.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER [B]

Saturday April 25 th	6:15 pm	Mary & William O'Grady RIP
Sunday April 26 th	8:00 am	Frank Dwyer RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Eileen Hollis
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	4:00 pm	FILIPINO MASS
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Teresa Hogan RIP [MW]
Mile End	9:15 am	Mr Paddy Crowley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	D/Rels & Friends: Wright & Wrobel families

Monday 27 th	Feria	
	Church	7:30 am Ints: David Long
	Church	9:15 am Ints: The Riley family
Tuesday 28 th	Feria	
	Church	9:15 am Holy Souls RIP
Wednesday 29 th	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V, D – European Feast	
	Church	7:30 am Ints: Clare Carver
West Mersea NB		9:30 am Private Intention
	Church	12:15 pm Norah Hewitt RIP
Thursday 30 th	Feria	
	Church	9:15 am Ints: Roseanne Lynch
Friday 1 st	Feria	
	Church	9:15 am May Banks RIP
	Church	6:30 pm Alan Emerson RIP
Saturday 2 nd	St Anthanasius, Bp, D	
	Church	9:15 am Roy Whitworth RIP
	Church	2:00 pm WEDDING: Amber Shaw & Steve Harris

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER [B]

Saturday May 2 nd	6:15 pm	Peter, Teresa & Simon Monk RIP
Sunday May 3 rd	8:00 am	D/Rels: Critchley family
	10:30 am	In thanksgiving – Sykes family
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Ints: Pat Brown [SVP]
West Mersea	8:30 am	Vincent Gales RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Marjorie Khan RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION **Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm**
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE **At least six months notice is required**

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy followed by Rosary 3pm
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy
8:35am
EVENING PRAYER: Fridays at 6pm Church
PRAYER GROUP: Mondays at 7:45pm Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays at 8pm Crypt
SCRIPTURE GROUP Wednesdays at 10am Crypt
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 9:45am – 10:30am and 5:30pm – 6pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK (new entries in bold type): Please remember in your prayers; Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Karl Collins, John & Olive Crawford, Paul Crocker, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Charlie George, Bill Graves, Bert Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Ronald Jay, Mary Jose, Pat Keene, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, Eileen McGee, David Merryman, Byron Miller, **Olive Newland**, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Stephen and Sabina Rhatigan, Margaret Scammell, Aimée Stammers, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Brian Baggiony, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Stephen Hill of Mersea. May he rest in peace.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC): will be publicising their work after Mass next Sunday. SPUC is the largest pro-life organisation in the UK, and works to protect human lives from conception to natural death. They campaign against threats to the sanctity of life, such as abortion and euthanasia. SPUC also provides support to protect the most vulnerable in our society, in particular pregnant mothers, their unborn children, the elderly and the disabled. The second collection will be for SPUC. Isaac and Rhoslyn from SPUC will be explaining more about the problems SPUC is speaking out against and inviting you to join SPUC. There will also be an opportunity to meet them in the crypt following the 10.30am Mass. Everyone is most welcome and there will be refreshments provided as well!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be Friday May 8th & 15th 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]

SECOND COLLECTIONS - World Day of Prayer for Vocations: There is a second collection this weekend 25th / 26th April, on Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The collection is for Vocations Promotion within the Diocese, especially vocations to priesthood and the religious life, and is the only source of income for this work. On the website www.brentwoodvocations.org you will find Pope Francis' Message for today, and a video of a conversation with Bishop Alan about his call to the priesthood, along with much more information for anyone considering a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life. You are also very welcome to contact the Vocations

FLOWER TEAM: We are a small group but would welcome new members. Experience is not necessary but enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are essential, as is physical fitness since a certain amount of lifting and carrying is involved. Members must be able to make a regular commitment to the church flower rota. Volunteers should leave their name and contact details at the Church Office addressed to the 'Flower Group'.

SVP SUMMER PARTY: for Senior Parishioners on 20th June in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. The Party will commence with a Healing Mass at 1pm followed by Afternoon Tea and Entertainment. There will also be a raffle. Tickets for the Afternoon Tea and Entertainment are £5.00 per person. Apply to Jennifer Bebb for Tickets on 07970 408 707

QUIZ TIME AT ST JOHN PAYNE: Has had to be cancelled due to illness.

ELECTION HUSTINGS: St Botolph's Church. Monday 27th April 7:45pm. An opportunity to hear from the candidates standing in the General election here in Colchester and to ask questions.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: 23rd May. A 16 seat minibus will be leaving East Hill at 8:15am. For more details contact Theresa Higgins on 523 501.

SPONSORED WALK: In aid of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Saturday May 2nd 10am. Circular walk of 5½ miles. Starting and finishing at St James the Less. For walker's packs, please contact Gary Hull 530 863 or George Johnson.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: are hosting an evening of classical music in the beautiful surroundings of Ingatestone Hall on Saturday 23rd May at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £22 and include wine and nibbles. For tickets or further information, please call Amy Pether on 01268 784544 or email apether@bccs.org.uk

MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The Annual Mass for Migrants in honour of St Joseph the Worker, will be held on Monday, 4th May at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. There will be a banner procession at 10.30am followed by Mass at 11am. The Main Celebrant will be Archbishop Peter Smith who will be joined by other Bishops, including our own Bishop, Alan Williams, and clergy from the three Dioceses of Brentwood, Westminster and Southwark. Everyone is most welcome to attend this joyous occasion to celebrate the contribution made by migrants in our communities.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 30th April – Team 1
