

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

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My dear friends,

We were very shocked last weekend to hear of the death of Sr Mary Thérèse. She was present at the Saturday Vigil Mass and died later that evening, very suddenly. She gave so much to our Parish family in the different ministries and by her warm friendship and counselling to many. She will be greatly missed. She loved coming to St James the Less and her funeral will take place here at a date to be announced.

Today we begin a new Church Year with the Season of Advent. At the beginning of Advent we are told to be always ready and alert for the Lord's coming. We do not know the day nor the hour when he will call us home.

During Advent you will find the booklet "Walk with Me" very useful. It contains a foreword from Bishop Alan. There is Lectio Divina on the Saturdays in Advent in the Crypt from 5-6pm, which is the 5th, 12th and 19th December. This consists of a prayerful reading of the Scripture passages for the following Sunday. We also have a special Day of Reflection on Saturday, 12th December, in the Crypt 11am to 3pm – "From Nazareth to Bethlehem". Try to come to weekday Mass and follow the Advent theme each day.

As we go to Press, we are looking forward to a very successful day at the Christmas Market. Thanks to all those who make this event possible. The Christmas Draw will be taken at a social event in the Hall on the 19th December.

May God bless your Advent journey to Christmas,

Fr Tony

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [YEAR – C]

Saturday November 28 th	6:15 pm	Douglas and David Finch RIP
Sunday November 29 th	8:00 am	Margaret and Dermot Moriarty RIP
	10:30 am	Tony Southon RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Maureen McCarthy RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Henry Johnson RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Annie Livingstone
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 30th **ST ANDREW, Ap Feast**
Church 9:15 am Casiano Pasumbal RIP

Tuesday Dec. 1st **Bl John Beche, Ab, M**
Church 9:15 am In Thanksgiving

Wednesday 2nd **Feria**
STM Advent Mass Church 9:15 am Fred Judge RIP [J&DH]
Church 12:15 am Rev George Lyons RIP [Westm'r Dioc]

Thursday 3rd **St Francis Xavier, Pr [Migrants Day]**
Church 9:15 am Intentions of Williams Family

Friday 4th **Feria**
Church 9:15 am Patrick Hogan RIP

Saturday 5th **Feria**
Church 9:15 am Anne Sears RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [YEAR - C]

Saturday December 5 th	6:15 pm	Intentions of Silva Family
Sunday December 6 th	8:00 am	Mr and Mrs Macdonald RIP
	10:30 am	Lilian Southon RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Victoria Ogbolu RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Ernest Jardim RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Catherine Spicer RIP

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
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays – Crypt 8pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Brian Bagioni, June Bickersteth, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Athene Jones, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Joanne Leon, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercedes, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Olive Newland, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Colin Whittle, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

RCIA [JOURNEY OF FAITH] MEETING: On Thursdays in the Crypt from 7:30pm.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr Mary Thérèse of the CRSS Community and Elaine Proudfoot who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families, friends and for the Community.

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the church family through the Sacrament of Baptism Olivia Washira. God bless this child and congratulations to her family. .

HAVE YOU COLLECTED THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE FOR YOUR CHILD? Please collect when you come to Mass, or contact the Parish Office on a **Tuesday between 10am and 2pm** to arrange to pick them up. There are still **many, many** uncollected certificates. Don't leave it too long Thank you. .

CLERGY MEETINGS THIS WEEK: Monday - first meeting of the new Canons at Brentwood; Thursday – Clergy Day of Recollection at Chigwell Convent; Friday - Colchester and North Essex Deanery meet with Bishop Alan at Abbotswick.

FILMS FOR FAITH: .The next showing will be in the Crypt on Monday, November 30th at 7pm and Wednesday 2nd December at 1:30pm. Part 2 of Bishop Barron's 4 week Course "The Mystery of God". For more details, please see poster in the porch.

ADVENT FORTY HOURS DEVOTION at Brightlingsea with Wivenhoe parish. Forty hours of continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Tuesday 1st to Wednesday 3rd December [to include Adoration at Essex University Chaplaincy]. Please see the posters in local churches, or <http://www.b-a-wparish.org.uk/>.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION ABOUT "PROCLAIM 15": With Fr Tony and the Parish Council on Friday 4th December, 7:30pm in the Crypt. Preparing for the Year of Mercy.

ADVENT TALKS AT CATHEDRAL HOUSE: Saturday 5th December 2015 - **Bishop Alan Williams, SM** – Theme: The Advent Journey. Cathedral House, Brentwood. 9.15am – 12.00pm. Saturday 12th December 2015 - **Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon** –

Theme: The Seven Bells to Bethlehem. Cathedral House, Brentwood. 9.15am – 12.00pm If you would like to register a place for both or either of these talks please contact: Lisa Gunther at lisagunther@dioceseofbrentwood.org or on 01277 265285.

ADVENT EVENTS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: Saturday 5th December 4pm Advent Service [to be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 6th December at 8.10am]. Tuesday 8th December Mass – Mass to open Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy at 7pm. Sunday 20th December Nine Lessons & Carols 4pm. Thursday, 24th December 11pm, Live broadcast of Midnight Mass for BBC Radio 4.

ST THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL 2016-17 INTAKE: Fr Tony will be signing the Certificate of Practice forms on the 11th December between 4pm and 6pm. Please phone the Parish Office to make an appointment. [The 9th December list is full].

"SIMBANK GABI" Filipino Mass here at 8 pm on December 16th, 18th and 23rd. For more information, please contact Fr Alex or Mr Jimmy Clarin.

POLISH ADVENT PREPARATION: Masses in honour of Our Lady on the Tuesdays in Advent at 6:30pm, the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Everyone is welcome on the 8th, when there will be a Marian procession in honour of the Immaculate Conception.

GRAND DRAW 2015: Tickets are available for the Grand Draw due to take place on Saturday, 19th December. Please take at least one book of 5 for each family.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS: Next weekend we will have a second collection for Aid to the Church in Need. A second collection at *Priory Street* will be taken on 12th/13th December for Christmas flowers and *also another collection at Mile End for Christmas flowers there, the recent one unfortunately raising insufficient funds.*

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School [Group 1, NOR112] Dovercourt, Harwich is seeking to appoint a Headteacher from April 2016. Pleasantly situated in the town of Harwich close to the sea and attractive coastal areas, the school has a "Good" Ofsted and Diocesan ratings. Visits are welcomed. Contact Gill Colley on 01255 503493 or admin@st-josephs-dovercourt.essex.sch.uk Application packs from www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk. Closing date: 4.1.2016 at 12 noon.

BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY 2016: Now available - price £2:75. Please put money in the Repository Wall box. Also Brentwood News – free of charge!

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: is from Sunday 14 to Friday 19 August. Come and celebrate both the Feast of the Assumption and the Year of Mercy at our Lady's Grotto. Brochures and booking forms will be available soon. As we discussed at the Parish AGM, it would be good to encourage as many of us to go as possible. Fr Tony will be attending.

CAR PARKING PROBLEMS: The small, private carpark behind the Cardinal Bourne Hall is solely for the use of the Clergy, Presbytery staff/visitors, hall hirers, and weekday Mass attenders. Your co-operation is appreciated; persistent offenders will be dealt with accordingly. *Fr Tony*

S T I L L DESPERATELY REQUIRED: **Reliable and committed** volunteers to help with cleaning the Church. Please contact Helena on 01206 794636 [mornings before mid-day].

CLEANERS' ROTA: December 3rd – Team 4.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL: To book: 07758 805263; cb.hall@btinternet.com