

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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (A)

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My dear friends

Sincere thanks to everyone for a great celebration of Christmas throughout the parish. Thanks to all those who helped in all the different liturgies, those who provided the music and all those who decorated our churches with flowers. Thank you for your generosity, kind wishes and many gifts that we were overwhelmed with in the Presbytery. Your ensured that your priests had a very happy Christmas. As we come together on the last Sunday of 2013, thank you for all your support for the parish during the year and may the New Year 2014 bring you many blessings in the Lord.

May God bless you and your families on this special feast.

Fr Tony McKentey

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 CRIB: Donations made at our Christmas Crib will go to the

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Donations should be placed in the wall safe in the Lady Chapel. These funds support a vital service to children and their families in difficulty in our Diocese. They work in all parishes, not least our own. Please give generously.

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 8pm	Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays at 8pm	Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Martin Dwyer, former headteacher of St Thomas More School. Funeral will be at Priory St and is yet to be arranged. Also, Fr Eamonn Magrath, retired priest of the diocese formerly Parish Priest of Brightlingsea. May they rest in peace.

PRAYER GROUP: There will be no prayer group on the 30th December. The prayer group's first meeting in the new year will be on the 6th January.

MEDITATION GROUP: Next Meditation Group will be on 31st December.

SVP: Next meeting is the 8th January 10:30am.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be on Friday February 21st and 28th 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]

MARY MOTHER OF GOD (January 1st): Why not start the new year at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in St James the Less and St Helen? Mass is at 10:00 am. At 12 noon there will be a procession in honour of Our Blessed Lady, followed by Mass. At 2:00pm there will be Mass in Polish.

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 9th at 7:30pm in the Crypt. This is for children presently in Year 3 and upwards and who belong to this parish.

Week Commencing 5th January in the Crypt: This Spring will be dominated by the double canonisation of Bl John XXIII and Bl John Paul II on the 27th of April, Divine Mercy Sunday. To launch ourselves deeply into this celebration we will be showing Witness to Hope - the biography of John Paul II - on Monday 6th at 10:00am, Friday 10th at 7:30pm and Saturday 11th starting at 2:30. It's 2 hours' long and I'm hoping that there will be volunteers to offer refreshments! Do join us for one (or more!) of these showings.

A long weekend in Krakow for the Canonisation: Yes, we know that it will take place in Rome, but it is already impossible to find a flight or a bed at a sensible price. Why not consider joining the crowds on the 27th April in the place where the Archbishop of Krakow fought for the Faith and to which he returned as John Paul II in that series of historic encounters which changed the world? We will be led by the same local experts as made our last trip to Poland so successful. Fr. Neil would appreciate signs of interest from possible pilgrims.

100 CLUB – DECEMBER DRAW: And the winners are: Elizabeth Griffin [1st]; Eddie Caldeira [2nd], Catherine Wood [3rd]. **100 CLUB – CHRISTMAS DRAW:** And the winners are: Michael Firmin [1st] (£100); Pauline Gilmore [2nd] (£70), Eva Read [3rd] (£40), Ron Griffin [4th] (£20), Mary Davies [5th] (free sub), Kay Knight [6th] (free sub).

LOURDES - Summer 2014: The 25th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage runs from 26th to 31st July 2014. From £618 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £418 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. It is also ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends. There is a full programme to opt in and out of, and everyone is welcome. There are brochures at the back of the church, or visit www.brentwoodlourdes.org for much more information and to order a brochure.

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMODATION PROJECT: Volunteers are needed to help run shelters for homeless people that the Night shelter doesn't have room for. 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 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 23rd January and Friday 24th 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: Saturday 4th January – Team 6.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - 29th December 2013

Saturday December 28th 6:15 pm Ron Wheeler RIP [BB]
Sunday December 29th 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
8:30 am Parishioners
9:15 am D/Rel: Cestari family
10:15 am Joan Norman RIP [OH]

West Mersea
Mile End
Monkwick

Monday 30th

Tuesday 31st

Wednesday 1st

Thursday 2nd

Friday 3rd

Saturday 4th

Sixth day within the Octave of Christmas

Church 9:15 am Jimmy Maguire RIP

Seventh day within the Octave of Christmas

Church 9:15 am Patrick John Lyons RIP

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - Solemnity

Church 10:00 am May Malone RIP

Church 12:00 pm Louisa & Albert D'Souza RIP

Church 2:00 pm **POLISH MASS**

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd

Church 9:15 am Ints: McAloon Family

Feria of Christmastide

Church 9:15 am Private Intention [MW]

Church 6:30 pm Holy Souls RIP

Feria of Christmastide

Church 9:15 am Mary O'Connor RIP

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - 5th January
(HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION)

Saturday December 4th

6:15 pm Sam O'Halloran RIP

Sunday December 5th

8:00 am Holy Souls RIP

10:30 am D/Rel: Alice & Philip White

2:00 pm **POLISH MASS**

6:30 pm Joan Norman RIP

8:30 am Ints: Margaret Malone

9:15 am Parishioners

10:15 am Gregory McElhinney RIP

West Mersea
Mile End
Monkwick

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION *Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm*
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter*
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE *At least six months notice is required*

SCHOOLS *St Thomas More* Head: Bridget Harris [865722]
St Benedict's Head: Mrs J Santinelli [549222]

Cardinal Bourne Hall cb.hall@btinternet.com

New Hall Number: 07758 805 263

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

