

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

175 YEARS ~ 1837 - 2012

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH [C] Sunday – 30th December 2012

My dear friends

Thank you all for a wonderful celebration of the Feast of Christmas. Thanks to all those who helped in any way in the celebration of the liturgy. Special thanks to those who provided the music and the beautiful flower arrangements. For our parish church, it was the 175th Christmas celebration! We your priests are extremely grateful for all the Christmas cards and gifts and for your great generosity to us at Christmas.

Today we come together to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph. As we remember their shining example, we are increasingly worried about the legislation before parliament that seeks to change the definition of marriage as we understand it. The government has chosen to ignore the views of over 600,000 people who signed the petition calling for the current definition of marriage to stay. I have written to our MP expressing the strong opposition of the Roman Catholic community to such a Bill and encourage you to do the same (Sir Bob Russell MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA). MP's are now being given a free vote rather than following the party line.

May God bless you and reward you for all you have done for the parish during 2012 and may the New Year 2013 bring you many blessings in the Lord.

Fr Tony McKentey

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Friday 4 th	7:30pm	Please see <i>Mass Schedule</i> for ANY changes	
Sunday 6 th	8:00pm	Catholicism Course Replay	Crypt
		Ratzinger Reader	Crypt

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy followed by Rosary	3pm
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
PRAYER GROUP:	See below	
MEDITATION GROUP:	See below	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Ian Cole, Richard Cox, Stanley Crane, Nancy Drummond, Gianni Emoli, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Paula Nash, Dennis O'Neill, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Sabina Rhatigan, Patricia Roche, Catherine Spicer, Jacqueline Sykes, Filomena Velasquez, Ron Wheeler, Tony White.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Ian Dickie

BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND: **Amelia Simmans.** God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

NEWLY ARRIVED? If you are new in our Parish, the Parish community welcomes you. Kindly introduce yourself to the Priest after Mass and also complete the Parish registration form, a copy of which is available in the Church lobby.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be Thursday 31st January and Thursday 7th February 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].

CATHOLICISM: Next Friday, the 4th of January, there will be a replay of the episodes we have seen so far. 7:30 pm, after the evening Mass with more on Sunday in the afternoon at 4:00 if there is a demand. The next episode, number 6, will be shown on **Friday 11th and Sunday 13th.**

THE RATZINGER READER: Recommences on Sunday the 6th January at 8pm with the petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Get a copy of *Jesus of Nazareth* and come along!

MEDITATION GROUP: The next meeting will be Tuesday 8th January at 8pm.

PRAYER GROUP: The next meeting will be Monday 7th January at 8pm

SCRIPTURE GROUP: Scripture Study Group starts again on Wednesday 16 January at 6:45pm. Anyone is welcome to join us in the study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

SVP: The next meeting will be Wednesday 9th January at 7:00pm

2nd COLLECTION: BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: There will be a second collection on the 5th / 6th January for the Children's Society. **CHRISTMAS CRIB:** Donations made at our Christmas Crib will also go to the 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.

DIARIES FOR 2013: Reduced to £2.50. Available from the repository.

FILIPINO FAMILY EVENT: Saturday 26th January in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. More details to follow shortly. Everybody is welcome.

100 CLUB RENEWALS: Members will have the opportunity to renew their £12 subscriptions for 2013 at Priory St after all Masses on 13th and 20th January. Renewal arrangements for those attending the other parish churches will be announced in next week's newsletter. New members are most welcome to join this worthwhile exercise.

A SPECIAL KIND OF RETREAT FOR THE NEW YEAR: A Foyer de Charité retreat will be held at the Sion Community, Brentwood from Sunday 10th March (6pm) – Saturday 16th March (2pm). Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day. For more information or to book a place, contact Mgr Barltrop: 07879 953 953; St Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London. W2 5DJ. keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk

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. 23rd – 29th January and 6th – 12th February. Please ring Pernille on 01206 549 885 for more information. Thank you and God Bless.

ST THOMAS MORE FORM SIGNING: The school will be sending out the Priest reference forms in January. Fr Tony will be available to sign the forms on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January from 4pm – 6pm. Please make contact through the church office to book your appointment time. **Please bring completed forms with you - ready to sign**

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 3rd January – Team 2.

Statement on the government response to the same sex marriage consultation

Bishops Conference of England and Wales

The meaning of marriage matters. It derives that meaning from its function as the foundation of the family. The union of one man and one woman for love and mutual support and open to procreation has over the centuries formed a stable unit we call the family.

Marriage is the enduring public recognition of this commitment and has been rightly recognised as unique and worthy of legal protection.

The government has chosen to ignore the views of over 600,000 people who signed a petition calling for the current definition of marriage to stay, and we are told legislation to change the definition of marriage will now come to Parliament. We strongly oppose such a Bill.

Furthermore, the process by which this has happened can only be described as shambolic. There was no electoral mandate in any manifesto; no mention in the Queen's speech; no serious or thorough consultation through a Green or White paper, and a constant shifting of policy before even the Government response to the consultation was published.

We urge everyone who cares about upholding the meaning of marriage in civil law to make their views known to their MPs.

11th December 2012

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH [C]

30th December 2012

Saturday December 29th	6:15 pm	Ints: Linzi Ford
Sunday December 30th	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Brenda
	6:30 pm	Derek Harvey RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Ints: Joseph Ngeh & Family
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Nellie Williamson RIP
Monday 31st	Seventh day within the Octave of Christmas	
	9:15 am	Patrick John Lyons RIP
Tuesday 1st	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
	10:00 am	Church Albert & Louise D'Souza RIP
Wednesday 2nd	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd	
	12:15 pm	Church Ints: Tony White
Thursday 3rd	Feria of Christmastide	
	9:15 am	Church Ints: Brenda
Friday 4th	Feria of Christmastide	
	9:15 am	Church Ints: Silva Family
	6:30 pm	Elizabeth Deakin & Family
Saturday 5th	Feria of Christmastide	
	9:15 am	Church Phyllis, Cora & Deirdre RIP

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Holyday of Obligation)

6th January 2013

Saturday January 5th	6:15 pm	Michael McInerney RIP
Sunday January 6th	8:00 am	Brigid Philomena Alderston RIP
	10:30 am	Abraham & Aleyamma RIP
	6:30 pm	Ints: Ron Wheeler
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Ints: Teresa Hogan
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Rita Daly RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Parishioners

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]

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