


EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)				Day for the Unemployed
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Maire Knapp RIP	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners	
	Church	10.30 am	David Langdon RIP	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Tinneveld Family	
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	Church	9.30 am	Bridget Ann Irvine RIP	
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	Church	9.30 am	Chachy Joseph RIP	
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
	West Mersea	9.00 am	Private Intention	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Maureen McElroy	
	Church	12.15 pm	Private Intention	
	Monkwick	6.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	7.30 pm	Roberta Fitzgerald RIP	
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</b>	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Joan Harvey	
<b>✚ Funeral Mass</b>	Church	1.00 pm	✚ The late Mrs Monica Francis Howley RIP	
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Friday after Ash Wednesday</b>	
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas	
	Church	12.30 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</b>	
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Eric Proudfoot RIP	
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)</b>				
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Patricia Urquhart RIP	
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention	
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	William Grahame RIP	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Valerie Reynolds RIP	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.</li> <li>❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us <b>at least 6 months</b> in advance. Thank you.</li> <li>❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).</li> <li>❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:</b> <a href="mailto:colchester@brcdt.org">colchester@brcdt.org</a></li> <li>➤ <b>SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):</b> Tel: 07493 439427/email: <a href="mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com">colchestersvp@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>				
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# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



St James the Less & St Helen

**Parish Priest:**  
**Assistant Priest:**

Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

## EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Day for the Unemployed

Week Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

### LENT IS HERE.

This coming Wednesday, we step into the sacred season of Lent, a time of renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth. Lent is a journey that calls us to turn our hearts more fully toward God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is not just about giving something up, but about bringing Christ into our daily lives. How can we enter into this season with open hearts? We can deepen our prayer life, setting aside quiet moments to listen to God. We can fast, not just from food, but from impatience, gossip, or other things that pull us away from love. And we can give - sharing not only material goods with those in need but also our time, kindness, and forgiveness. As Ash Wednesday approaches, let us ask ourselves: How can I use this Lent to grow closer to God? May this holy season be a time of grace and renewal for all of us.

*Fr Philip*

## PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>
<b>LEGION OF MARY</b>	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 7.30 pm</b>



The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is 'Pilgrims of Hope', and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: For families in crisis.** Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45) **Praise and thanksgiving.** Actions speak louder than words! As married couples we rely on each other for help and support but sometimes we are not listening or paying attention. The Gospel today reminds us that to accuse each other is hypocritical, whereas when we encourage one another, we help each other to build up ... *'that store of goodness in her/his heart'*.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irlen, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

**NEXT DIOCESAN 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTIONS:** Will be for CAFOD Lent Fast Day on 16<sup>th</sup> March and a special collection for Church Easter Flowers (*Mile End + Priory Street*) on 30<sup>th</sup> March

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT):** This will take place every Friday afternoon at 12.30pm commencing on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Priory Street.

**POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Lent):** This will take place every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in Priory Street, commencing on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March only exception will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

**SAVE THE DATE: DAY OF MERCY** on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025:** The Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 8.30pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

**THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET:** The Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025 is published in a collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion Booklet will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. And a whole lot more - numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. **THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY**

**'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (LENT EDITION):** These are available for sale in the church.

**DATE CHANGE - WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP:** The next film showing will now be on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** and will continue the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome.

**DIOCESE VACANCIES:** <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

**MISSIO MAGAZINES FOR SPRING 2025** are available free in the church porch.

**MISSIO BOXES:** Emptied Red Boxes can be collected from the Presbytery. Thank you.



**ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION:** The social committee at St Teresa's parish would like to invite you all to join us for our St Patrick's celebration 2025. To be held at St Teresa's school, **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7-10.30pm**. 2-course meal, music, singing, dancing and shenanigans. Adults £15, child £5, family ticket £35. For more information speak to Paula Light 07718088834. Please ask if you require any assistance regarding travel, costs or anything at all.



**LENTEN TALKS 2025** A series of Lenten talks on the power and significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives of faith, entitled, *"Those who believe, don't leave."* Canon John J Harvey (Cathedral Dean). which will take place in the Cathedral

- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Brendan Thompson who is the U.K. Programme Director for Word on Fire Ministries. Brendan is a Lay Theologian speaking to thousands of people each year. Theme: This is my Body – Eucharistic revival.
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Fr Philip Caldwell who is a parish priest of the Salford Diocese who taught Theology for many years at Ushaw Seminary before its closure; he writes for the Catholic Truth Society and gives retreats. Theme: The Eucharist & the Saints.
- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Bishop Alan Williams, our own Bishop of the Diocese, a Marist, former Director of the Shrine in Walsingham, and Bishop of the Diocese for over ten years. A Doctor of Psychology, and the Conference of Bishops' delegate on many commissions. Theme: The Eucharist & Our Blessed Lady.
- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Fr Stephen Morrison (O Pream), Norbertine Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham. After studying French at Oxford entered the Norbertine Order. Latin Scholar and speaks several other languages. Gifted preacher. Theme: "Eucharistic Doctrine of Song: The 'Lauda Sion' of St Thomas Aquinas."

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS:** Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall over 6 Tuesday evenings (29<sup>th</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> June). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own *'Holy Door'* as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.



**JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR:** You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. For more info and to Sign up: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

**INTER FAITH DIALOGUE:** An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.



- **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
- **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND:** This is a special residential weekend Programme for widowed, separated & divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next Programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email [BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com).

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 03/03/25: **Team 4** / Friday 14/03/25: **Team 5**  
**COFFEE MORNING ROTA:** 02/03/25: Yolande + 1 / 09/03/25: SVP