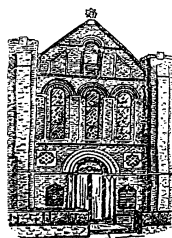


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [A] April 3rd 2011

My dear friends

The fourth Sunday of Lent, believe it or not, is the halfway point of the Season of Lent. There are 20 more days to go before Easter. On this "Laetare" Sunday, there is the theme of joy at the thought of God's loving plan to save us in Christ. The opening prayer says: "Father of peace, we are joyful in your son, Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to you".

This Sunday always coincides with Mothering Sunday. We wish all our mothers a very happy day. We give thanks for the unconditional love of our parents which made us who we are.

This weekend, our First Communion children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. There are two more Saturdays before Easter for us to celebrate this Sacrament of healing and forgiveness. In Holy Week, your priests will be available for this Sacrament on the Monday [18th] and the Tuesday [19th] at 7:30pm. Ideally, we should try to come to Jesus in this Sacrament before the Easter Triduum begins.

We return to that opening prayer: "Let us journey towards Easter with the eagerness of faith and love".

Fr Tony McKentey

EVENTS THIS WEEK - See Schedule for Changes or Extra Masses

Monday 4 th April	7:30pm	Mercy Associates Meeting	See below
Wednesday 6 th	12:45pm approx	Lenten Lunch	Crypt
"	6:45-8:45	Scripture Group	Crypt
"	7pm	SVP Meeting	
Thursday 7 th	7:30pm	RCIA	Crypt
"	7:30pm	Mersea Meeting	
Friday Apl 8	7:30pm	Stations of the + East Hill - See below	
"	7:30-9pm	FHC Programme	Crypt
Saturday 9 th	5-6pm	Lectio Divina	Crypt

DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am. [Wed. 11:15am]
PRAYER GROUP Mondays @ 8pm in the Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays @ 8pm in the Crypt
EXPOSITION:

SICK: Please remember in your prayers: Sr Mary Thérèse Bamford, May Banks, June Bickersteth, Joan Boyden, Frank Campbell, Nancy Drummond, Charlie George, ,Cara Maude, Bridie Murphy, Denis Nolan, Leah Patterson, Hector Silva, Ellen Woodley.

GIFT AID: Sets of envelopes for the new financial year are now available throughout the Parish. There will also be the usual supply of un-numbered boxed sets for those that have previously used this method of giving.

RCIA: There are two members of our community, Daniel and Jennifer, who are preparing to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. We journey with them in prayer.

CONGRATULATIONS: to the Union of Catholic Mothers on the second anniversary of their formation in the Parish.

BAPTISM TODAY: Oliver Price. God bless this child and congratulations to his family.

EASTER LILIES: If you would like to donate a bloom in memory of a loved one, please enclose whatever you can afford in an envelope marked "Easter Lily" and deliver to the Priests' House.

SECOND COLLECTION AT PRIORY STREET FOR EASTER FLOWERS:
As already mentioned, there will be a second collection next Sunday, 10th April, at Priory Street for Easter Flowers.

CHOIR LOFT: Please note that the Choir Loft is now out of bounds for Health & Safety reasons.

MERCY ASSOCIATES: Meet next at 7.30 pm on Monday 4 April at Christ Church Court (tel. 763049)

LENTEN EVENTS

LENTEN LUNCHESS ON WEDNESDAYS IN CRYPT: After 12:15 Mass. Homemade soup and a roll for 50p. Proceeds to Childcare.

MILE END STATIONS OF THE CROSS: At St Joseph's at 7pm on Wednesdays, 6th April and 13th April.

LECTIO DIVINA: On Saturday evenings in Lent in the Crypt 5pm – 6pm.

LENT LECTURE: Sr Helen Costigan, SHCJ- **What does it mean to forgive and to be forgiven? Tuesday 5th April Cathedral Conference Centre, 7.30pm. Cost £5 per person.** For booking all events please contact the Adult Religious Education office on 01277 265255.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS FRIDAY [8TH April] AT EAST HILL: Will be led by the Bishop of Colchester and Seeking God's Blessing in Colchester [SGBC] Committee Chair, the Rt Rev Christopher Morgan.

SOUP AND ROLL HUNGER LUNCH: At St John Payne Parish Hall, Greenstead on Saturday 9th April between 12 noon – 2pm. Proceeds in aid of Christian Aid.

THE SGBC GROUP are holding a Local Elections Hustings at St Botolph's Church on 11th April at 7:45pm [Refreshments from 7:15pm]. Bishop Christopher will chair the session and all four Parties will be represented.

STUDENT CROSS : The large cross currently in Priory Street will be carried by pilgrims to Walsingham over Holy Week. The cross bearers will also gather the prayers of the communities that provide hospitality on their journey. If you are interested in helping with an evening meal on Friday 15th April or an early breakfast followed by a short prayer service in the church on the Saturday morning (16th April) please contact Hywel Edwards on 867325. Simon Chaplin (Keeper of the Repository) will again be joining the pilgrims and can tell tales of both sore feet and sore head!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' DAY; In The Cardinal Bourne Hall, 16th April 10:30am-4pm. *Please bring a packed lunch;* teas, coffees will be provided.

"TREASURES OF DARKNESS": The **Cantus Firmus Trust** present a *Good Friday Reflection* in words, music and drama at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester, on 22nd April at 7:30pm. Admission free with a retiring offering.

SVP TEA PARTY will be held in Cardinal Bourne Hall on Saturday, 7th May, at 2.30pm with entertainment by Colne Harmony. There is no charge, but please phone Anna on 242170 *by 24th April* to book your place.

WORLD YOUTH DAY MADRID 2011: There are still places available for the World Youth Day [age 16+] with the Dominican Group, through Br Lawrence Lew. Please see Fr Neil for details or contact Stephen Bailey at chaplaincy@stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk

MARCH DRAW"100 CLUB" WINNERS: 1st: Wendy Higgins; 2nd: Adrian Livesley; 3rd: Molly McLaren. Congratulations to all!

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, 7TH April .Team 1.

LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

3RD April 2011

Saturday April 2nd	6:15 pm	Moira and Dennis Pryke RIP
Sunday April 3rd	8:00 am	George Onwuemezi RIP
	10:30 am	Intentions of the Union of Catholic Mothers
	6:30 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
<i>Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Jim England RIP [A]
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	D/Rels: Scanlan/Brown Families RIP
Monday 4th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	7:30 am	Elizabeth Murphy RIP
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Intentions of the Pauk Family
Tuesday 5th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15am	Phyllis, Cora and Deirdre RIP
<i>Church</i>	7:30pm	Intentions of the KSC
Wednesday 6th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	7:30 am	Susan and Joseph Savage RIP
<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Thursday 7th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Fr Gerard Collins RIP
Friday 8th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Intentions of the Pauk Family
<i>Church</i>	12:15pm	REQUIEM – ELIZABETH DAVIES RIP
<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm	Shane Cronin RIP
<i>East Hill</i>	7:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 9th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Mr and Mrs Minator RIP

LITURGY FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

10th April 2011

Saturday April 9th	6:15 pm	Delia Connolly RIP [A]
Sunday April 10th	8:00 am	Michael Barrett RIP
	10:30am	Gelindo & Sophia Vencarto RIP
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	Theodora Robinson RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Geraldine Mahoney RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15am	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: John O'Hara

[549222]

www.marriagecare.org.uk or 0800 389 3801. www.brentwoodvocations.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092