

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Ron & Margaret Wheeler RIP
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Ints: Grazyna Osmolski
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Patrick Kehoe + William Stevenson
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.00 pm	Advent Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6pm
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Michael Taylor RIP

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ayad Michael RIP

<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas

<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield

<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Ambrose, Bp, D</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Clarke Family
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)

<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
<b>DEANERY DAY OF MERCY</b>	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP

<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon Anthony McKentey RIP

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Patricia Blair RIP
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Roger Kemp RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Bridget Ann Irvine RIP

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ 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 **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ For Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please see poster in Church porch for details.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass

**SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING:** Anyone who has half-an-hour to spare after Mass is most welcome to stay for coffee and biscuits after 10.30am Mass on Sundays. All welcome.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** [colchester@brodt.org](mailto:colchester@brodt.org)
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com)



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & follow** our page

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest:  
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

The Church begins a new year this Sunday, with a change of readings, particularly the Gospel, so best wishes for a happy new year. It may seem at times that we are just spinning around in circles, caught like hamsters in a wheel. In practice, because we are constantly making choices in the exercise of our free will, we are changing. In one sense we are the same person as we were this time last year, with the same name, NI number and probably address. In another sense we're not the same person, having grown in virtue (hopefully not in vice). The new year can provide the impetus to continue our journey through life, although that may sound like a cliché it remains true. We might even make some new year's resolutions, for example, rather than deciding to go to the gym more often instead a commitment to stay awake by praying more, serving God and loving our neighbour.

Fr. Chris

**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>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *For persons with disabilities.*** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE.** We pray for the people of all worn torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for the laying down of all weapons.



**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37) ***Thanking God for each other.*** "Stay awake for you never know when the time will come..." Today's Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on forever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Fr Francis Coveney, Grace McCartney, Margaret Brookes, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Margaret Ashmore, William Allison & William Reddy who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. William Allison's funeral service will here be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1.00pm. Margaret Ashmore & William Reddy' funeral details are to be advised.

**DAY OF MERCY:** On **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**, the Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 9.00pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

**REPOSITORY:** The Repository now has a selection of boxed sets and single Christmas Cards & 2024 Diaries and Calendars available for sale in the Church Porch along with a new selection of Mass Intention cards. All monies to go into Repository Box. Thank you.

**'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (ADVENT EDITION):** Last few remaining Booklets are available in church porch at £1 a copy – please leave monies in Repository Box.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING:** Volunteers are needed to help clean the church for Christmas. Please join us on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after 9.30am Mass to make our church resplendent for the Celebration of the birth of our Savior!

**CALLING ALL YOUNG PERFORMERS:** Would you like to take part in this year's nativity? It would be great if any children from this year's first Holy communion class and anyone else from key stage 2 (year's 3-6) to come and take part. If you are interested, please come to the hall after 10.30 mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, about 12.00ish, so we can sort out parts and work out rehearsals. Please could you email me so I can have an idea of numbers on '[stressedclaire45@gmail.com](mailto:stressedclaire45@gmail.com)'



**CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.

**ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2024/2025]:** (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/24). The signing of the "***Certificate of Catholic Practice***" forms will take place in the Church Crypt on the following dates: -

<b>Saturday 09/12/23 at 11.15am-12.15pm</b>	<b>Monday 11/12/23 at 3.15pm -4.15pm</b>
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There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis.

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE:** Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree. Just as your **tree** lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

**POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate):** These will take place at 6.30pm on the following Thursdays in December: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>.

**FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES:** These will take place at 8.00pm on the following dates: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Priory Street.

**FILIPINO MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The Mass will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm followed by Christmas party in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

**JOSIE'S KITCHEN:** Josie is looking for donations of various items to make her food packages for the Homeless at Christmas. If you can spare any of the following items: - cup-a-soups, sachets of noodles, pot noodles, sachets of coffee drinks, hot chocolate, long life milk. Tins of ready meals e.g. tuna, soups, chilli-con-carne, casserole, minced beef, tinned potatoes, tinned tomato, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, tinned fruit & puddings, tins or cartons of custard, crisps, biscuits, small multipack snacks, small bottles of fizzy or flavored water. Josie also needs thermal underwear (vests, tights +leggings, scarves). These items make a big difference to their lives and show them that they are cared for in our community. Please drop your donations into the Presbytery before 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

**MYLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER** are singing Christmas Carols outside the Chesterwell Co-op on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm, please do come along.

**CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL:** Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers

**SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO**, 26 February – 11 March 2024. Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). [www.desert-retreat.com](http://www.desert-retreat.com) or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

**NEWHAM DEANERY DAY OF RECOLLECTION:** 'The New Year - Praying for Peace with Our Lady' led by Fr. Stewart Foster on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Upton Park E13 9BF : Mass at 9.15am, talk in the hall, Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction ending at 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

**LOST & FOUND PROPERTY BOX:** Are you missing anything?? Please check if it has been left in the *lost & found* property box in church porch. Thank you.

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Friday 08/12/23: **Team 5** / Thursday 14/12/23: **Team 1**  
**COFFEE MORNING:** 03/12/23: **Peggy & Anne** / 10/12/23: **Yolande + 1**