

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

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From Adrian Lowe, Seminarian.

It would be strange if the gospel that we hear this week did not make us feel uncomfortable. Our Lord tells us that we cannot be his disciple unless we hate everyone else, including our mother, father, brother etc. What can this mean? It seems strange that it has come from the same Jesus who tells us elsewhere to, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

The answer lies in the Aramaic language that Jesus would have spoken and that sometimes used two words with opposite meanings to emphasise a contrast. In this case, "hate" means "love less." In Matthew 10:37, Jesus makes the same point with softer words.

The writings of the rabbis at the time have other examples of using language in this way. Take a look at this example from a Rabbinic commentary on Exodus, "By three names is this mount known: the mountain of God, Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai. Why The mountain of God? Because it was there that God manifested His Godhead. And Sinai? Because [it was on that mount] that God showed that He **hates** the angels and loves mankind."

God doesn't hate his angels; the writer is trying to show how much God loves humanity.

We can be comforted by this short lesson in Aramaic, but Jesus is still making a tough demand in this gospel as he asks us to love Him above all else. A good exercise before going to confession is to ask where we have preferred God to other things in our life and where the opposite is the case. The cost of discipleship can seem high, but when we make Christ our priority we find ourselves able to love God and all those around us with true freedom.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

Saturday September 3 rd	6:15 pm	Jim O'Hare RIP
Sunday September 4 th	8:00 am	Special Intentions
	10:30 am	Intentions: Marco Bertoni
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Deacon Yves Ferriere RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Virginia Mitchell RIP

Monday 5th *Feria Church* 9:15 am Sabu Matthew RIP

Tuesday 6th *Feria Church* 9:15 am Deacon Yves Ferriere RIP

Wednesday 7th *Feria Church* 12:15 pm V.Rev Canon Joseph Whitfield RIP

Thursday 8th *THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Church* 9:15 am Ints: Michael & Roseanne Lynch

Friday 9th *Feria Church* 9:15 am Jim O'Hare RIP

Saturday 10th *Feria Church* 9:15 am Holy Souls RIP [Mr & Mrs C]
Church 12:30 pm **WEDDING: Simone and Sean**

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

Saturday September 10 th	6:15 pm	Canon John Bloomfield RIP
Sunday September 11 th	8:00 am	George Perles RIP
	10:30 am	Joan Jackson RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	Holy Hour
	6:30 pm	Intentions: Mary O'Sullivan
West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays - Crypt 8:00pm
FILMS FOR FAITH Resume on September 7th

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Vicky Culham, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercedes, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: There will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend for Fr Sabu who is leaving us shortly for pastures new. We thank him for his invaluable help during his stay with us.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism, Daniel George and Camille Jolly. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Hilda Parker who has recently died. May she rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of her bereaved family. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

FILMS FOR FAITH RECOMMENCE ON 7th SEPTEMBER: In the crypt at 1pm for a 1:15pm start. The film being screened is the Richard Burton classic, "The Robe". All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will take place on 7th September at 7:30pm. In the Cardinal Bourne Hall.

JOURNEY IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.): The Journey in Faith programme is a series of informal weekly meetings to provide knowledge and guidance to those adults who wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Have you or someone you know ever thought about becoming a Catholic? Are you married to a Catholic or about to get married and want to know more? Perhaps you have been baptized as a child but for various reasons haven't received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation. Then this programme may be for you. The first meeting will take place on *Thursday 8th September* at 7:00pm in the Crypt. Please come along if you are keen to find out about the Catholic Faith. Give your name and contact details to one of the Priests, to the Parish Office or contact Cathy O'Connor 01206 501146 email cathy_oconnor83@hotmail.com

HERITAGE WEEKEND 9TH/10TH SEPTEMBER: Are you interested in history and like meeting people? Volunteers are needed to help at St. John's Abbey Gatehouse. For more information please call Pauline on 01206 768418

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA: The Knights of St. Columba are having their annual pilgrimage to *Clare Priory, Suffolk on the 10th Sept. 2016*. All parishioners are welcome. Cost £16. Please contact Stewart Taylor for details on 07545 829333.

YEAR OF MERCY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: Bishop Alan is inviting the people of the Diocese to come to the Cathedral on a day of pilgrimage. "At 3pm on Saturday 10th September I will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral together with Dean Fr Martin Boland. The Mass will be the culmination of a day of pilgrimage for the people of our Diocese and everyone is invited to enter through our Door of Mercy in this Year of Mercy. The theme of the pilgrimage is the suffering of children in our midst". The President of *Brentwood Catholic Children's Society* says he would like "to make this a very special day of prayer for all our children. More and more we see children suffering and our day of pilgrimage will be a show of solidarity with them and a raising of consciousness about their plight."

MERSEA NEWS: The next Mersea Coffee Morning takes place on Tuesday, September 13th, and will be hosted by Anne Marie Jacobs at Rewsalls Farm, starting at 10:30am. All are most welcome.

THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE FOR NEW BORN UP TO AGED 6: Will take place on *Fridays 16th and 23rd September in the Crypt from 7:30pm-9pm*. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. There is no need to make an appointment – just turn up. Both sessions must be attended, and the date of baptisms will be booked during the course.

PRIORY STREET THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS: "So Many Decades - Jukebox Musical". Follow two children through the decades of musicals 1930's – 2000 to complete a homework assignment. Sing along to well known songs. Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September 7.30 pm in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Door open 7.00 pm. Adults £5 children and concessions £2.50. For more information contact Lesley 01206 512310.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Day of Reflection and Presentations – Saturday 17th September 11am – 3pm. Prayer in the Parish. Poster in the Porch.

THE POLISH COMMUNITY invite you, on *18th September from 5pm-8pm*, in the Cardinal Bourne Hall, to a celebration of Polish and English music with coffee and Polish cakes, to commemorate St Stanislaus Kostka. All welcome – free entrance.-

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Recommences on Wednesday, September 28th, here in the Crypt, 10:00-12:00. Topic: the First Letter of St John.

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, September 8th : Team 4.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263