SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR [A]

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Saturday December 3 rd		6:15 pm	Roger Thurlow RIP			
Sunday December 4 th		8:00 am	Dermot and Margaret Moriarty RIP			
		10:30 am	Olive Newland RIP			
		2:00 pm	Polish Mass			
		4:00 pm	Filipino Mass			
		6:30 pm	Jack Plumb RIP			
West Mersea		8:30 am	Parishioners			
Mile End		9:15 am	Leo William Foley RIP			
Monkwick		10:15 am	Herbert [Bert] Hewitt RIP			
Monday 5 th	Feria Church	9:15 am	Anne Sears RIP			
Tuesday 6 th	St Nicho Church Church Church	9:15 am 3:00 pm	Intentions of Fr Tony Reception of Coffin Polish Mass			
Wednesday 7 th	St Ambr Church Church		REQUIEM – Barbara Hollis RIP Lilian Southon RIP			
Thursday 8 th	THE IMN Church		CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M. Mr Bradshaw RIP Followed by Procession & Rosary			
Friday 9th	Feria Church	9:15 am	Yves Ferriere RIP			
Saturday 10 th	Feria Church	9:15 am	Ernie & Mildred Lane RIP			
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A [Gaudete Sunday]						
Saturday December 10 th		6:15 pm	Mr & Mrs Pryke RIP			
Sunday December 11 th		8:00 am	Rev Arthur, Beryl & John Oliver RIP			
		10:30 am	Julie Bath RIP			
		2:00 pm	Polish Mass			
		6:30 pm	Ann de Smith RIP			
West Mersea		8:30 am	Joan Donnelly RIP			
Mile End		9:15 am	Ernest Jardim RIP			
Monkwick		10:15 am	Leslie Hawken RIP			

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

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

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Canon Anthony McKentey Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ Fr Philip Willenbrock 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB Tel: 01206 866317 E-Mail <u>colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u> <u>www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org</u>

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR [A]

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We are in the second Sunday of Advent and the figure of St. John the Baptist is highlighted in the Gospel. St. John is always described as a voice crying out from the desert, saying: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight your path!"

Advent reminds us that, however hard life turns out to be, God would still deign to continue to reach out his hands to us. So, by presenting John the Baptist, as the forerunner of the Lord, the Gospel shows us that he is the awaited Elijah whose coming presages the coming of the Messiah. (Mal 4:5).

The advent of Christ Jesus is the sign of contradiction that dispels the darkness of our selfishness; that brings us a renewed life if we maintain our communion with him, who is the goal of our life, the only way back to the Father.

As we continue our journey in this season of preparation for Christmas, let us once again be reminded that if Christ is in us, he will become our hope and glory! He will lead us to the straight path of life if we only hold fast to our faith in him. The way to holiness is tricky so we need strength from him so that he could lead and guide us toward the right direction in life. So let us prepare the way for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ by staying always AWAKE. Amen.

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 GRC	UP: Tuesdays – Crypt	8:00 pm
FILMS FOR FAITH	To be Advised	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Kay Knight, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, 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,

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism **Harriet Fleury**. God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

THANK-YOU: From our Flower Team at Priory Street for the donation of £235 towards flowers, not just for Christmas, but will need to stretch until Easter. Very gratefully received.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY: For Fr Paul McCourt. As previously mentioned, Fr Paul will be leaving for Sandhurst shortly and we wish to show our appreciation for all his help to the Parish during Fr Tony's absence. There will also be a Farewell Soirée to him on Wednesday, 14th December, in the Crypt at 7pm. If you are able to help with food and drink, please contact the Parish Office or Jane Hopgood.

DECEMBER 8TH – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Following the 9:15am Mass this Thursday, December 8th, there will be Rosary and Procession

PARISH GRAND DRAW: Tickets will be available at all Masses for this year's Grand Draw on 17th December 2016. Money prizes of £250, £150 and £75, plus many other special gifts. Please ensure that each household buys at least 1 book to support the church repair programme. All donations of items for the Grand Draw are welcome. See below.

CURRY NIGHT DECEMBER 17TH: In the Cardinal Bourne Hall 7:30pm. Various curries and desserts. Tea and Coffee. Bring your own drinks. Grand Raffle also to be drawn. Adults £10; Children under 12years £5. Items for Grand Raffle still needed. Tickets available from Norah 503410 and Frances 369568.

THANK YOU: To everyone who was involved in any way with the Parish Church Fayre held in the Cardinal Bourne Hall last Saturday. A grand total of £945 was raised for Parish Funds, despite the closure of Priory Street car park. Well done!

LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT: Reflective reading of the Sunday scriptures. Saturdays 5 -6pm in the Crypt.

WORD MADE FLESH - An Advent Reflection on Saturday 17th December, from 11am – 3.00pm in the Crypt. Coffee from 10.30am. Please bring a packed lunch.

100 CLUB – NOVEMBER DRAW: And the winners are.... James Dowson – 1^{st} prize of £25; Nial Conlon – 2^{nd} prize of £15; and Mary Davies – 3^{rd} prize of £10. Congratulations!

St Thomas More's Primary School 2017-18 Intake Any parent wishing to apply for a place at St Thomas More's School must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in addition to the Local Authority Application Form. SIFs are available to download on the school's website <u>www.stthomasmores.co.uk</u> under the admissions tab or by contacting the office on 01206 865722. You will also need to supply the school with a Certificate of Practice. Dates when Father Alex will be signing these will be: *Monday, December 12th, Tuesday December 13th and Monday, January 9th. All between 4pm – 6pm.* Please contact the Parish Office to book an appointment.

POLISH COMMUNITY: celebrate 50 years of Polish Mass at St James the Less on December 18th at 2pm with the blessing of a special commemoration banner. A food and drinks reception will follow afterwards in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Tickets £5.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY: The traditional *Filipino Simbang Gabi* is scheduled for the following dates: December 16th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, all at 8pm, and the Christmas Filipino party is on December 26th from 1pm, following on from Mass at 11.30am.

MASS FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Thursday 29th December (Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Patron Saint of Pastoral Clergy) at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 161 Leigh Rd, Southend-on-Sea, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1NG. All are welcome.

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: For women who feel they may have a vocation to religious life. Led by the Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus. 13th-15th January 2017 at the Bar Convent, York. For more information, get in touch via vocations@congregationjesu.org.uk

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC DIRECTORY FOR 2017: Copies now available in the porch at Priory Street, price £2.75.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: <u>cb.hall@btinternet.com</u> 07758 805263 CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, December 8th - Team 1.