

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

March 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Parish Mass Book page 151

"REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL" (Mk 1:15), was the phrase we heard last Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten exercises for this year's liturgical calendar (A) 2017.

Brothers and sisters, oftentimes we are more concerned with what makes us live than with what makes our life worth living. We are so engrossed with so many things around us. Material things like pleasures, big happenings, great achievements etc., than to focus our attention on what our soul should look into in order to stay in peace at all times and at peace with our Lord, with ourselves and with everybody.

The Gospel of today teaches us that life is not ONLY about satisfying ourselves of the things this world offers: loaves of bread, power, sex, material wealth, etc. Though we are to avail ourselves of this world's goods, nevertheless Jesus is inviting us not to focus solely on them, for these are the usual aspirations and desires of the people who believe that one's true happiness is possibly achieved through them only. The reality, however, would prove us wrong always! Have we ever thought of considering another approach like Jesus offers us in the Gospel of this Sunday? He simply renounced everything for heaven sake. Indeed, a big challenge isn't it?

Yes, this is what is expected from us. We are encouraged to look into our hearts and ask what is best to do this Lenten period. This is the right moment to speak with him, to stay with him, to examine our life in the light of his love and mercy and lastly, what practical acts we must do in order to please him (praying, fasting and alms giving).

Let us reflect on our priorities then and let us also ask ourselves about WHAT is it in our life which often leads us to a meaningless life: like our wrong choice of happiness, being anxious, no peace, being afraid of nothing, etc., so that we can

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Saturday March 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Mrs Holland RIP
Sunday March 5 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Mary and William O'Grady RIP
	10:30 am	Dr Roger Sykes RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Intentions: The Wynne Family
Mile End	9:15 am	Roy Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Margaret and Bernard Potter RIP

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> *Feria*  
Church 9:15 am Des Fuller RIP

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> *Feria*  
Church 9:15 am Fr Dennis Higgins RIP [Notts. Diocese]  
Church 6:30 pm Stns of the Cross – Polish/English + H/C

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> *Feria*  
Church 12:15 pm Intentions: Eleanor Fryer

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> *Feria*  
Church 9:15 am Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> *Feria* [CAFOD Lent Fast Day]  
Church 9:15 am Canon John Bloomfield RIP  
Church 12:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
Church 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> *Feria*  
Church 9:15 am Des Fuller RIP

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

Saturday March 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Roger Thurlow RIP
Sunday March 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Mick Haley RIP
	10:30 am	Dr Roger Sykes RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Derek Harvey RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Michael Mitchell RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Parishioners
Monkwick	10:15 am	John & Virginia Dimech RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

allow God's mercy and love to once again lead us to the right path. This is the moment, this is the time!

Lastly, during this Lent, let us avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Confession, because this is where all should start. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said: "New Evangelization begins at the confessional." To Repent and to believe... this is the beginning of a renewed journey with him if we want to follow the life of Jesus Christ to the Cross and later to his glorious Resurrection. Amen!

Fr Alex, rcj

**Please see Mass Schedule for ANY change**

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass  
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm  
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am  
FILMS FOR FAITH: Please see below

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Lorraine Atkin, Pat Banks, Antoinetta Caldeira, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, 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 Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Maureen Sheeran, Christine Staines, Patricia Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

**BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND:** We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism **Edlyn Akraasi and Bianka Kaczynska**. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

**LENT 2017**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Tuesday in Polish/English at 6:30pm followed by Holy Communion. Every Friday, at 12 noon followed by soup and a roll in the Crypt, with donations going to the Colchester Soup Run. Again, every Friday, Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm which, this year, due to the retirement of Canon Peter Walker, will all take place at Priory Street.

**PREPARING FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT – Lectio Divina** - reflective Reading of the Sunday scriptures]; Fridays at 6:30pm before Stations of the Cross, in the Crypt from March 3<sup>rd</sup> until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**"WALK WITH ME" BOOKLETS** are available for £1. A helpful prayer companion for the Lenten Season

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS:** Valerie Quinlivan will lead 3 one hour long Reflections on the following dates in the Church: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 6:30pm – 7:30pm; Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10:15am – 11.15am; Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 11.00am – 12noon.

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY:** Next Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, is the Lent Fast Day in aid of CAFOD with a second collection at all Masses next weekend. Envelopes are available in the porch this weekend for your donation if you wish to give via this method.

**FILMS FOR FAITH:** Films For Faith this Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, will be showing *The Ten Commandments, Part I*. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Part II will be screened, Timings: 1;15pm for a 1:30pm start in the Crypt. Refreshments will be provided and all are most welcome.

**SPRING 2017 "MISSIO TODAY" MAGAZINES** are available at the back of the Church, free of charge. If you are not already a Red Box Holder but would like to become one, contact Ron Griffin by phone on 571590, or after the 6:15pm Saturday Mass at Priory Street.

**ST PATRICK'S DANCE:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the Cardinal Bourne Hall at 7:30pm. Good food, Irish Dancing and live Irish singing and music. Raffle. Adults £12; children 6-12yrs £6. Contacts: Frances on 369568; Nora on 503410.

**STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:** The next study day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 11 am until 3 pm. The theme will be 'The Journey of Faith in the Gospel of John'. The day will be led by Fr Victor Darlington, professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Admission is free, tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. Please book your place by email to [gpstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:gpstudydays@gmail.com)

**COME AND PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** *Deanery Vocations Holy Hour* here at St James the Less, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, at 7:30pm with Fr Mark Swires, Parish Priest of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe and Chaplain to the University of Essex.

**REPOSITORY:** Open on Sundays in the Cardinal Bourne Hall after the 10:30am Mass. For cards, gifts, books and medals, First Holy Communion items. A limited number of missals and Bibles are available; On Line can provide a wider range. CTS booklets and items are available from the Church porch. Please place monies in the Repository wall safe situated in the porch above the cards.

**SAINSBURY'S SCHOOL VOUCHERS:** We are collecting these vouchers for St Thomas More's School. Please donate your vouchers by bringing them to the Parish Office.

**CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com) 07758 805263

**CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA:** Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Team 3.