

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)



Saturday 4th	Church	6.15 pm	Marian Cullen RIP
Sunday 5th	Church	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Jude Kollamparambil
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour & Vespers
	Church	6.30 pm	Mr. Oliver McDonald RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.15 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Anne Sears RIP

Monday 6th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Lilian Southon RIP
Tuesday 7th			St Ambrose, Bp, D
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (R.J.)
Wednesday 8th			THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Maureen + Tom McElroy & Denis + Della O'Connor
Thursday 9th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Canon Anthony McKentey
Friday 10th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Frank + Alice Waddell
Saturday 11th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Lourdes Capinianas Dinglasan RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

'Gaudete' Sunday



Saturday 11th	Church	6.15 pm	Hughie Flanagan RIP
Sunday 12th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Clarke + McGuinness Fams RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour & Vespers
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Tessa Southon RIP
	Mile End	9.15 am	Kathleen + Victor Payne RIP
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Private Intentions

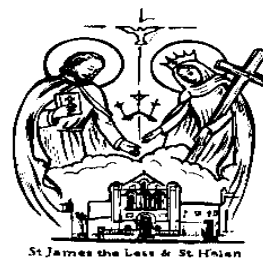
- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, Please contact the Presbytery.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ Colchester General Hospital: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church Entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).
- ❖ Repository in Church Porch: Mass Intention Cards available in Church Porch; All items purchased - Monies to be left in Repository Box.

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:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Paschal Uche
Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

WEEK COMMENCING 5TH DECEMBER 2021

Advent is a time of joyful hope. In the midst of the external joys of the season. This Sunday Holy Mother Church gives us the captivating figure of John the Baptist. In his life and ministry John the Baptist brings to completion the quest of the prophets, they looked for him in the distance John saw him in the flesh and knew him even from his mother's womb. When the people go out to see John, I imagine they see and hear a man who preached with an intensity of love deeply aware of the presence of Christ. This Advent we too want to have the joyful hope of the coming of Christ, to experience afresh and deeper the grace of Christmas, God's eternal unchanging love for us. However, with the endless shopping, cooking and various festivities we can miss Him. In my life and experience, Christ is unintentionally sidelined if he is not intentionally front lined. John the Baptist calls us to not lose Christ in the busyness of the day but rather make him the main business of the day. One way in which we can practically do this is by filling the valley of time on a Sunday afternoon by coming to adoration at 5pm for a Holy Hour here in the parish or laying low the mountain of our human pride, sin and selfishness with a good sacramental confession before Christmas. May the Lord lead you to prepare him a way. Wishing you every blessing for this joyful season.

Fr. Paschal

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
DAILY Mon-Fri	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	Temporarily suspended

Please refer to the Website Home Page or External Church Notice Board for details on the **Relaxation of Covid restrictions**.

As a Reminder: Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *Catechists*. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6) ***Smoothing out rough ways...to welcome You.*** Paul speaks of our '*partnership in the Gospel*' and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to '*come to true discernment*' about our choices. Luke's Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to '*prepare a way for the Lord*'? Are there 'paths' that need '*straightening*' or 'rough' attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Rosalie Sutcliffe & Alan Buck who have 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. Rosalie's funeral Mass will be held at St Theodore Church on Tuesday 30th December at 11am. Alan's funeral Mass will be on Friday 17th December at 10am (there will not be a 9.30am Mass on this day).

CANON ANTHONY MCKENTY RIP: The 9th December is the 4th Anniversary of Fr Anthony (Tony) McKentey, Parish Priest of St James the Less and St Helen (2009-2017). Hear with favor our prayers, which we humbly offer, O Lord, for the salvation of the soul of Fr Tony, your servant and Priest that he, who devoted a faithful ministry to your name, may rejoice in the perpetual company of your Saints.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2022/2023]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/22). The signing of the "***Certificate of Catholic Practice***" will take place in the church crypt on the following dates: -

Friday 03/12/21 at 3.15pm-4.15pm	Saturday 04/12/21 at 3pm-4pm
Thursday 09/12/21 at 4.30pm-5.30pm	Monday 13/12/21 at 5pm-6pm

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 1st come, 1st served basis.

MILE END NEWS: Coffee Morning today after the 9.15am Mass at St Joseph's and will be held at the Dog & Pheasant. All welcome. **2nd COLLECTION:** There will be a Collection taken for Church Flowers today.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS: There will be a brief meeting in the crypt, after the 10.30am Mass today.



CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA next Saturday 11th from 2.30pm -4.30pm in Cardinal Bourne Hall. There will be a good variety of Cakes and Sandwiches along with Tea/Coffee. Please donate any unloved gifts for stall sale at event. Tickets: Adults -£7, Children 5-10yrs -£3. Contact Frances 369568 or Nora 503410.

MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD: listed below:-

CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

Priory Street	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass
Monkwick	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.15 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass

ST. STEPHEN DAY, SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER

Priory Street	8.00 am	Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Mass
Mile End	9.15 am	Mass
Monkwick	10.15 am	Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Priory Street	6.30 pm	Mass



REPOSITORY: Christmas Cards & Diaries are now available for sale in the Church Porch. **BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022:** available at £2.80 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on the following dates at 8pm: Friday 17th Dec, Monday 20th Dec, Wednesday 22nd Dec at Priory Street. **FILIPINO MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The Mass will take place on Monday 27th December at 4pm followed by Christmas party in hall.

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): These will take place at 6.30pm on the following Thursdays in December: 9th +16th + 23rd.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: *What are the unique insights of Catholic Social Teaching?* takes place by Zoom on Sunday 5th December 4-5pm. The input and discussion will be led by Fr Dominic Howarth, Episcopal Vicar for Youth Ministry and Pastoral Care. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk

FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: As Christmas draws closer we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as 'infancy narratives' with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1. The videos are available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy.

LEXDEN PRAYER & PRAISE. A monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month in St Teresa's church hall, 16 Clairmont Rd, Colchester CO3 9BE, starting at 7.25pm. Open to all Christian's young and old. There's Power in Praise. Come and join us. All welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 06/12/21: **Team 2**
CBH COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 05/12/21 (Yolande +1) / 12/12/21 (SVP) Rotas in Church porch