

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Canon Anthony McKentey

Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ

Fr Philip Willenbrock

51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

Tel: 01206 866317

E-Mail colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [C] [Laetare Sunday]

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My dear friends,

Today we come to the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. The readings overflow with thankful joy for God's loving mercy, expressed so perfectly in the parable of the Prodigal Son. This Gospel most certainly expresses the theme of the Holy Year of Mercy. This Sunday marks the half-way stage of our Lenten journey as in twenty days time it will be Easter Day. May we re-double our efforts to prepare for that Day. We also remember all our mums on this Mothering Sunday and pray that they will have a blessed day.

DEANERY DAY OF PRAYER

A special event for the Holy Year of Mercy is a Deanery Day of Prayer at St. James the Less on the Monday of Holy Week, March 21st, from 10am to 10pm. During these twelve hours the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar and Priests from our Colchester Deanery will be available for confession and/or counselling.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Everyone is invited to the Mass of thanksgiving on Easter Monday, March 28th at 12 noon to help me celebrate my forty years as a priest. There is also the reception afterwards in the Cardinal Bourne Hall.

May God bless us during these final days of Lent.

Father Tony

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [C] – Laetare Sunday

Saturday March 5th	6:15 pm	Roger Thurlow RIP
Sunday March 6th	8:00 am	Lydia Charlot RIP
	10:30 am	Jadwiga Pauk RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Rudolph Schmitz RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Nora O'Sullivan RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Peggy Wilding RIP
Monday 7th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	Alan Doleman RIP
Tuesday 8th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Wednesday 9th	Feria	
[STM –Y5]	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	June Bickersteth RIP
	<i>Church</i>	
	12:15 pm	Ints: Family of Renata Baker
Thursday 10th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	
	12:30 pm	FUNERAL – BEULAH WRIGHT RIP
Friday 11th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	Anna Marsiglia RIP
Saturday 12th	Feria	
	<i>Church</i>	
	9:15 am	Derek Harvey RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT [C]

Saturday March 12th	6:15 pm	Stephen Mooney RIP
Sunday March 13th	8:00 am	Peter Hansbury RIP
	10:30 am	Peter, Teresa & Simon Monk RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	Christopher Grahame RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	John O'Sullivan RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Mona Redgewell RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Giovanni Dimech RIP

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy followed by Rosary
3pm DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy
8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays – Crypt 8pm

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

LECTIO DIVINA: *Every Saturday evening between 5pm-6pm in the Crypt.* Come and prayerfully read through the Readings for Sunday.

THANK YOU: For your generosity at Priory Street last weekend for the second collection in aid of flowers for Easter.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Ivor Morris and June Bickersteth who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved family. [The Funeral of Beulah Wright takes place here on Thursday, 10th March, at 12:30pm].

BAPTISM: We welcome into the church family, Alexander Nwaker, through the Sacrament of Baptism. God bless this child and congratulations to his family.

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE FOR NEWBORNS UP TO AGE 6: Will take place on **Friday, 22nd April and Friday 29th April**, in the Crypt from 7:30-9pm. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. There is no need to make an appointment – just turn up – but both sessions must be attended. These Baptisms will then take place between May and June and will be booked during the Course.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at mid-day here, followed by soup and a roll; Fridays at 7:30pm we will alternate with St James the Great [11th March here]. Fridays, 10am at Mile End; Tuesdays, Stations of the Cross in Polish and English at 6:30pm, followed by Mass.

MILE END ON PALM SUNDAY: 9am - blessing of palms prior to Mass at 9:15am.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS: On this special Sunday we particularly remember the Union of Catholic Mothers in our parish who celebrate their seventh anniversary today.

FILMS FOR FAITH: Concludes on Monday, March 7th, at 7pm, with a second showing on Wednesday 9th, at 1:30pm. It will be the final episode of “Jesus of Nazareth”. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL YEAR OF MERCY MASS on Sunday 13th March at 6.30 pm. Are you a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) man or woman? Are you the parent, relative or friend of a LGBT man or woman? You and all people are warmly invited to join the community at Brentwood Cathedral and come into the presence of the living, merciful God. Preacher: Fr Dominic Howarth

CATERING FOR REFRESHMENTS ON MARCH 28TH: To anyone who would be interested in helping with refreshments after Canon Tony’s Jubilee Mass on the 28th March, we are currently looking for donations of cheese and fruit. If you can donate fruit, please contact Jane on 07761 557375. If you can donate cheese, please contact Frances on 01206 369568. For any other donations of food, please contact either Jane or Frances. Many thanks.

GOVERNORS–ST BENEDICT’S COLLEGE: Are you a practising Catholic, interested in supporting Catholic education by becoming a school governor? If you would like to know more about becoming a governor at St Benedict’s Catholic College, please attend our informal information evening to be held on March 16th 2016 at the College. You are welcome to drop in any time between 6pm and 7pm. Please confirm your attendance at the information evening via email to johnsont@stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk or by phoning 01206 549222.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: St Patrick’s Dance – Saturday, March 19th, 7-30pm to 11pm. Traditional Irish Dancers. Live music. Good food, good company and great fun. Bring your own drinks. Adults: £12. Children 5-12 yrs. £6. Contact Frances 369568; Norah 503410.

WALK OF WITNESS: More than half-way through Lent, we can look forwards to **Good Friday**. The ecumenical Walk of Witness is always supported by our clergy, the Canonesses and some parishioners. It would be wonderful if many Catholics turned out to swell the ranks and bear witness to this solemn day, showing the mainly indifferent shoppers that it is more than a day for commercial “special offers”. **The Walk starts at Headgate at 11:45am**. More details about the route will follow.

CLEANERS’ ROTA: Thursday, March 3rd – **Team 2**

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