

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

(Bible Sunday)

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	6.15 pm	Frank Nally	
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention	Live Streamed
	Church	9.15 am	Parishioners	
	Church	10.30 am	Lilian Southon RIP	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Anniv: Alice + Frank Waddell	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Atholl Brown RIP	

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Ambrose, Bp, D</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	Private Intention	
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	Honorio De Jesus Sr + Honorio Jr, RIP	
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	REEM	
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Our Lady of Loreto</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	Anniversary: Frank + Alice Waddell	
Private Service	Church	11.30 am	<b>Funeral Mass:</b> Miroslaw Witold Pauk RIP	
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	Deceased Members of Weale Family	
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	
	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Linda Thomas	

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**


('Gaudete' Sunday)

<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	6.15 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas	
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners	Live Streamed
	Church	9.15 am	Teresa O'Shea	
	Church	10.30 am	Lynda Andrews RIP	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	John Sales	
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Robert + Theresa Bradshaw (60 <sup>th</sup> Anniv 04/12/20)	

**FACEMASKS.** It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10<sup>am</sup> Mass and 5.30<sup>pm</sup>-6.00<sup>pm</sup>
- ❖ Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- ❖ If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES:** Sunday 8.00<sup>am</sup>  St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

 Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news/ clergy photos/videos + Reflections from Fr Paschal. Please remember to like and follow our page.

**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

**Address:** 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB  
**Tel:** 01206 866317  
**E-Mail :** [colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org)  
**Website:** [www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org](http://www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org)  
 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)****WEEK COMMENCING 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Pregnancy is fascinating! I recently read that the womb of a pregnant mother can expand from the size of a clenched fist to the size of a large watermelon stretching a staggering 500 times its pre-pregnancy size. Not only does the womb grow but sometimes so can your feet and interestingly with the increase of blood volume, a faster and stronger heart can increase the size of a mother's heart! Why do I share this? Because this season of advent is about preparation and expectation. What size will your heart grow this Advent? How can I expand my heart to receive more? On the second Sunday of Advent the Church turns our hearts and minds to the figure of John the Baptist the last of the prophets and the forerunner to Jesus. He comes to expand our hearts and minds to receive a new life so immense, so magnificent that its gestation period was not months or years but centuries! Like a neonatal scan St John the Baptist has seen the movements and heard the heartbeat of one is coming! One whose greatness leaves him in awe. This Christmas he who is to come to us is greater than us and all that surrounds us. His coming fills in the valleys of fear and shame and humbles the lofty mountains of sin and pride. One way we make straight the paths of the coming Christ child is through humble confession. Avail your heart to be expanded in the rivers of God's grace and healed by the balm of his love. In this great season of preparation, maybe we could expand our hearts by returning to mercy, going to confession and giving birth to new life!

Fr. Paschal

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 <sup>am</sup>	<b>All Temporarily suspended</b>
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 <sup>pm</sup> )	

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we are once again able to celebrate public mass, with a daily service at 10<sup>am</sup>. Please see Mass Schedule for week's masses. Thank you to all our volunteer Stewards, as without you this would not be possible. *Fr. Chris*

Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment :-

- Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Private Prayer & Mass (from 03/12/20)
- Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- We are still required to have Church stewards daily for private prayer and the church will be cleaned in readiness for the next morning.

**THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.**

*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: For a Life of Prayer.** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**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, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roy Gibard & Rosaline Smith who have recently passed away. May they rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of their respective bereaved family and friends. Roy's Funeral will take place here on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.15<sup>am</sup>. Funeral details for Rosaline are to be advised. Please note that due to Government restrictions – funeral attendance is by family invitation.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12) **Advent – a new beginning for us?** Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

**THE CELEBRATION OF MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.** Mass booking forms for Christmas mass attendance will have to be completed (i.e. seats have to be reserved in advance). Booking forms will be monitored and closed when the Church seating capacity has been reached.

**CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2020**

6.00 <sup>pm</sup>	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
8.00 <sup>pm</sup>	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
12.00 <sup>am</sup>	Priory Street	Midnight Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
12.00 <sup>am</sup>	Monkwick	Polish Midnight Mass	

**CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2020**

8.00 <sup>am</sup>	Priory Street	Christmas Dawn Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
8.30 <sup>am</sup>	Mersea	Christmas Dawn Mass	<a href="#">Mersea Booking Form</a>
9.15 <sup>am</sup>	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
9.45 <sup>am</sup>	Mersea	Christmas Day Mass	<a href="#">Mersea Booking Form</a>
10.15 <sup>am</sup>	Monkwick	Christmas Day Mass	<a href="#">Monkwick Booking Form</a>
10.30 <sup>am</sup>	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	<a href="#">Booking Form</a>
2.00 <sup>pm</sup>	Priory Street	Polish Christmas Day Mass	

**ST. STEPHEN DAY, SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2020**

10.00 <sup>am</sup>	Priory Street	Morning Mass
2.00 <sup>pm</sup>	Priory Street	Polish Mass

*(Please note that seats have to be booked in advance).*



**SPONSORSHIP OF CRIB STATUES (EXTERNAL NATIVITY SCENE):** We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Parish Communities for taking the time to consider sponsoring our Crib figures and their generosity and continued support as valued members of our Community. The figures drawn in the lottery were as follows: -

Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers) = King No 1	The Catenians = Ox
The Flower Ladies Group = King No 3	The Polish Community = Ass (donkey)
The Mercy Associates = Jesus	The Filipino Community = Sheep
The Knights of St Columba = Mary	St Thomas More School - Children and Parents = Shepherd
The Nigerian Community = Joseph	
The Syro Malabar Community = Angel	St Thomas More Staff = King No 2

The link to watch the Fr Chris and Fr Paschal draw the lottery is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VRwnOqByiM&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0Oz8gQft0piLUBFuY-3GyPeoN6iVaqDDa71-bOJcYCZZ1DEIP8zcTek> or via our Facebook page. Thank you

**MERSEA NEWS:** Mass Bookings will continue at Mersea in order to control numbers attending. Please use the following links for masses over the next 2 weekends (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times: - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December [Mersea Booking Form](#)

**PARISH FINANCES:** If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:

- By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering)
- Donation baskets are situated at entrance and exit of church
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-  
St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>  
St. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>  
St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>  
St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

**Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you**