


THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION

Saturday 6th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Robert Renford RIP
Sunday 7th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Mike Hanley RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Mrs Mary Sebastian RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention (JS)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention
Monday 8th			The Baptism of the Lord
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Donors Intention
Tuesday 9th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	K. M. John RIP
Wednesday 10th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 11th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Kathleen McIntyre + Jackie McIntyre RIP
Friday 12th			St Aelred of Rievaulx, Ab
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Susan Margaret Dove RIP
Saturday 13th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of De Mello Family
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) Peace Day			
Saturday 13th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Roger Kemp RIP
Sunday 14th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Mary Newton-Lewis RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	David Darlington
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.
- ❖ 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).

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

 Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & 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:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

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Tel: 01206 866317

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Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (B)

Week commencing 7th January 2024

Today the Church celebrates the Epiphany, the manifestation of Jesus Christ as Messiah, Son of God and Saviour of the world. This great feast is a celebration of the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (Magi) from the east. And the Gospel of today sees the Magi as the first fruit of the nations who accepted the good news of salvation that came through the coming of Jesus into the world. Again, the Epiphany shows that the full number of nations now take its place in the family of the patriarchs. So, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to enlighten all peoples and to brighten the night of humanity. Today's Solemnity invites us to open our hearts to let in the light of Christ. Like the Magi, let us say "Where is the infant King?" May the Light of Christ be our guide on this our journey through life.

Fr. Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY *For the gift of diversity in the church:* We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian Community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE. We pray for the people of all worn torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for the laying down of all weapons.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12) *The gift of unity.* At this joyful time of the year, let us look with delight at one another, remembering that we have each been entrusted, by God, with the grace he meant for each other when we got married. God's gift has made us one body and the gift of our children is this grace made flesh bringing joy into our hearts.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Fr Francis Coveney, Grace McCartney, Margaret Brookes, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR PHILIP: We hope you enjoyed the festive break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the clergy Christmas collection, cards and gifts received. Our gratitude to all of you who, in any way, made our Christmas celebrations run so smoothly. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS: Our gratitude to all the Church volunteers who are an crucial part of the running of this Parish; Garden Maintenance Team, Altar Linen cleaner, Coffee morning volunteers, Repository Administrator, Readers, Choir, as well as the hard working "Cleaning" and "Floral" Teams who made our church look so resplendent over the festive period and to all adults who decorated our amazing Christmas Tree and Crib. Our volunteers are vitally important to the running of this parish and they do not necessarily have the time but they have the heart. We are truly grateful for all you do for our Parish. Thank you.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: When we lose someone we have loved, a relationship where we felt safe, or a job where we felt fulfilled, we are left with grief that affects us emotionally and spiritually. Working together with two neighbouring parishes, we offer opportunities for support at a time of bereavement and loss: **Group support** at St Teresa's, Lexden and St. John Payne's Greenstead and **one to one help** in St James the Less, Priory St. The leaders are trained and experienced and are, or have been part of St Helena's Hospice Counselling and Emotional Support Team. More details on Notice Board, website and Facebook.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: There are copies of the directory available in the Church porch – these are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Priced at £2.95 per copy. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: Every year, with the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales, Pax Christi promote Peace Sunday as a way of observing the World Day of Peace. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace' - to read Pope Francis Message please click on the following link: - <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Pope-Francis-Message-for-World-Day-of-Peace-2024.pdf> There will be a collection taken at all Masses next weekend for Pax Christi (Peace Day).

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES OF BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:

We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we prepare to celebrate our 40th year in 2024, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese since the Charity was formed. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all. All proceeds from our parish crib collection will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, to support children and families in our Diocese.

The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you? The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

EVC (Empowering Vulnerable Children in Uganda) are a Christian charity providing a future through education for some of the poorest children in the world led by Fr Boniface Kaayabula. If you would like to support their work by donating or sponsoring a child please see the link <https://www.evcuganda.org/>

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers

A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS: On Saturday 3rd February from 11^{am} until 2^{pm} (coffee at 10.30 ^{am}), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If attending in person please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 08/01/24: **Team 3** / Monday 15/01/24: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING: 07/01/24: African Community / 14/01/24: Diane + Adrian