

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Canon Anthony McKentey

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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Fr. Alex writes:

Today the whole Church celebrates the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ at the Jordan river by St. John the Baptist.

My dear friends, every time we think of Jesus's life and works including his baptism which is the prelude to his public ministry, we Christians, could not but stop to ask ourselves this question, why did he do it?

Based on our Catholic faith and Church teachings, the Sacrament of Baptism is an outward sign of God's goodness to us. Jesus, though he was in the form of God asked to be baptized because of his desire to be like us, except HE was without sin. He, as God is already complete, as a matter of fact, he lacks nothing. Yet, because of his great love for us he stripped himself of everything, thus giving us the possibility to share in his divine life.

Reflecting on this great mystery and connecting it with the gift of baptism which we all received by faith, we, Christians should try our best to live this life worthy of our calling and as 'demanded' of us to be holy as he is (1 Peter 1:16). Like Christ our mission is to fulfil the Father's will in whatever state we are in. Meaning, that everyday should be for us a commitment to be "light of the world and salt for the earth"

(Mt 5: 13-16). In this way, we can be real witnesses of Christ in words and in

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD [C] Feast

Saturday January 9 th	6:15 pm	Michael McInerney RIP
Sunday December 10 th	8:00 am	Ints: Maura and Frank Maguire
	10:30 am	Canon John Bloomfield RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	Holy Hour
	6:30 pm	Kath Davey
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Bill Morrow RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Bugeja RIP
Monday 11 th	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Intentions: Maureen & Tom McElroy
Tuesday 12 th	Feria [or St Aelred of Rievaulx, Ab]	
Church	9:15 am	Derek Harvey RIP
Mersea	11:00 am	REQUIEM – PATRICK [ERIC] BRENNAN RIP
Wednesday 13 th	Feria [or St Hilary, Bp. D]	
Church	9:15 am	Seamus Power RIP
Church	12:15 pm	Intentions: Fr Tony McKentey
Thursday 14 th	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
Church	11:30 am	REQUIEM – BERNADETTE IRVINE RIP
Friday 15 th	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
Saturday 16 th	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Norah Hewitt RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [C]

Saturday January 16 th	6:15 pm	Douglas & David Finch RIP
Sunday January 17 th	8:00 am	Elaine Proudfoot RIP
	10:30 am	For Nigeria
	4:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Bridget Frawley RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Henry Johnson RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Derrick Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

deeds to our neighbours.

Let that water from the baptismal font which was poured on our foreheads remind us of our individual mission here on earth so that we can focus on how we should intensify our practice of faith, hope and love everyday. Let the AMEN we proclaim every time we receive his Body and Blood be our total YES to him who willed also to call us his beloved children.

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, Brian Bagioni, June Bickersteth, 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, Joanne Leon, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercedes, 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.

WELCOME TO FR EMILE NKUMU who is come to stay for 10 days to help us while Fr Alex takes a well earned break.

100 CLUB: 2016 subs are now due. There will be an opportunity to join or renew your membership [at £12 per year] after all Masses at Priory Street this weekend.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: At all Masses next weekend there will be a second collection for SPUC [the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children].

RECENTLY DECEASED: The funeral of Patrick [Eric] Brennan takes place at St Cedd's at 11am this Tuesday, 12th January, and the funeral of Bernadette Irvine takes place here this Thursday, 14th January, at 11:30am; Next week, the funeral of Jadwiga [Julie] Pauk, takes place here on 21st January at 11am, with the coffin being received into church the previous afternoon at 4:30pm and then the funeral of Maurice Highfield takes place here on the 29th January at 12:30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016: For children in years 3 and above, an information pack will be available in the church and St. Thomas More's school from the New Year. For further information please contact Hywel or Pam Edwards on 01206 867325 or by email at prioryst.fhc@btinternet.com

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP: starts again this Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 10:00am. We are exploring the idea of Wisdom in the Old & New Testaments and how this can help us to live our Christian life more fully. **Anyone is welcome, just bring your Bible and an open heart and mind.** We hope to see you there on Wednesday, 13 January. Sister Angela

YEAR OF MERCY MASSES AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: The next Mass [of 12] during this Year of Mercy at the Cathedral takes place next Sunday, 17th January at 6:30pm and welcomes all those who are separated, divorced, remarried or who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage. The preacher is Mgr Gordon Read, the Diocesan Chancellor.

PRIORY STREET THEATRE GROUP: proudly present their annual pantomime A Fairy Tale Adventure in the Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory street on Friday 22nd at 7.30 pm and Saturday 23rd January 2016 at 3pm and 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 for Adults and £2.50 for concessions. For further information please contact Lesley 01206 512310.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY: The next meeting is on 23r January at 2:30pm at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood. Dr Carmen Mangion of Birkbeck College, University of London, will speak on "The English Catholic "modern girl" and religious life, 1940's – 1960's.

2 VACANCIES AT ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE: *Learning Support Assistant* – 28 hours p.w. Monday to Friday. Closing date: 25.1.16. *Kitchen Assistant* - 25 hours p.w. Monday to Friday. Closing date: 18.1.16. Contact a.jones@stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk 01206 549222. Applications accepted only on the College application form, addressed to the Principal.

THANK YOU: The Community of Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre of which Sister Mary Therese was a member wants to thank the Parish for their support, care and friendship for Mary Therese. She was a very committed member of the parish which she loved and knew many people. It was wonderful that a couple of hours before her sudden death she was at Evening Mass for Christ the King. Many thanks also for the expressions of support, appreciation and condolence which we have received during these weeks and for the uplifting funeral at St James. With our prayer and thanks.

NEW TO THE PARISH? Then please complete one of our Parish Registration forms which can be found in the porch at the back of the church.

NEWSLETTER: Please note that the deadline for items to be included in the Parish Newsletter is 5pm Tuesday of the preceding week.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A MONTH TO CLEAN YOUR CHURCH: **Reliable and committed** volunteers URGENTLY REQUIRED to help with cleaning the Church. Please contact Helena on 01206 794636 [mornings before mid-day].

CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, January 14th – **Team 2.**

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