

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Saturday 9th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Patricia Blair RIP
Sunday 10th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Roger Kemp RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Bridget Ann Irvine RIP
Monday 11th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Tuesday 12th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	V. Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield
Wednesday 13th			St Lucy, v, m
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Michel + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP
Thursday 14th			St John of the Cross, Pr, D
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
	<i>West Mersea</i>	11.00 am	Funeral Service: Margaret Ashmore RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)
Friday 15th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Bridget Joyce RIP
Saturday 16th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 'Gaudete' Sunday			
Saturday 16th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Bob Barr RIP
Sunday 17th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Joe McEnaney 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	Mary Hazel RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Juliana McCann RIP

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ For Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please see poster in Church porch for details.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass

SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING: Anyone who has half-an-hour to spare after Mass is most welcome to stay for coffee and biscuits after 10.30_{am} Mass on Sundays. All welcome.

- Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings: colchester@brodt.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:

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Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Week commencing 10th December 2023

Today's Gospel reading is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist who preaches repentance as way of preparing for the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist came for the sole purpose of preparing the people for the coming of the Lord and that underscores the importance of the "preparation". And the Gospel said, *"all Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and confessed their sins"*. Repentance and sacramental confession are key elements for our Advent journey. We are called to repentance and a new beginning as we encounter the transformative power of Christ this Advent.

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 DECEMBER: *For persons with disabilities.* We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-42 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8) **Let us be a sign for all.** A voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord". Sometimes life can seem to be a wilderness as we look ahead. If we try to live today to the best of our abilities, removing those attitudes and behaviours that prevent us from being better husbands and wives, then we can become a clearer 'signpost' for everyone.

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 Irvén, 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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: available at £2.95 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

REPOSITORY: The Repository now has a selection of boxed sets and single Christmas Cards & 2024 Diaries and Calendars available for sale in the Church Porch along with a new selection of Mass Intention cards. All monies to go into Repository Box. Thank you.

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.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING: Volunteers are needed to help clean the church for Christmas. Please join us on Friday 22nd December after 9.30am Mass to make our church resplendent for the Celebration of the birth of our Savior!

CAROL CONCERT on Saturday 16th December at 7.00pm. Its seven readings and seven carols and if anybody would like to volunteer to read please see Claire after Sunday 10.30am mass or email her on stressedclaire45@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree. Just as your **tree** lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2024/2025]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/24). The final signing of the "Certificate of Catholic Practice" forms will take place in the Church Crypt on **Monday 11th December 2023 at 3.15pm - 4.15pm**. 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.



CUPPA CLUB: This takes place every Thursday. The SVP will be having a **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION on Thursday 21st December from 10.00-11.30am**, everyone invited. Party snacks, mulled wine, games, Christmas music. Newcomers welcome. Free or bring a snack if wished.

MESSAGE FROM SVP & JOSIE'S KITCHEN TO PARISHIONERS: Thank you for your kind contribution from the collection taken for the World Day of the Poor.

VOCATIONS: Interested in a Vocation to the Priesthood? - Vocations Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Saturday 23rd December, Contact Fr Mark Swires - VocProm@brcdt.org – for more information.

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): These will take place at 6.30pm on the following Thursdays in December: 14th, 21st.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place at 8.00pm on the following dates: Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Friday 22nd December at Priory Street.

FILIPINO MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Mass will take place on Tuesday 26th December at 4pm followed by Christmas party in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December 2023

Priory Street	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass (families)
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December 2023

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass

St Stephens Day, Tuesday 26th December 2023

Priory Street	10.00 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Priory Street	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass

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

VOLUNTEER AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE for the academic year 2024/2025 – applications are now open for anyone currently in year 13 or above and we are happy to answer any questions that young people or parents might have. All information for the above can be found on our website – www.bcys.net



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.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 14/12/23: **Team 1** / Monday 18/12/23: **Team 2**
COFFEE MORNING: 10/12/23: Yolande + 1 / 17/12/23: SVP / 24/12/23: No Coffee Morning