

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (c)			World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Saturday 10th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention (S.F)
Sunday 11th	Church	8.00 am	Athene Jones RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Harry Calvert RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
Monday 12th			St John Houghton, Pr, M
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Tuesday 13th			St Erconwald, Bp
	Church	9.30 am	Rida Masoom + Family
Wednesday 14th			ST MATTHIAS, Ap
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (FJ)
Thursday 15th			Thursday after Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	John English RIP
Friday 16th			Friday after Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Bridget Lloyd
Saturday 17th			Saturday after Fourth Sunday of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (c)			
Saturday 17th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Vicky Wilson
Sunday 18th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Amanda Harris RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Maria Nila Tavera + Anna Liza B. Cagadas RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Michael + Bridget Brady RIP

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Baptism Godparents: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment.
- ❖ 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; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.

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

REPOSITORY: There is a good selection of assorted items available for sale in church.



CUPPA CLUB: We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/Clergy + Church photos/videos. 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



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
 Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (c)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Week Commencing 11th May 2025

As I am writing this piece the conclave has just begun, so by the time you are reading this we may have a new Pope. This Sunday is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday, for obvious reasons. There is a good connection between the two. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, guiding the Church through the Holy Spirit and especially the conclave, tasked with discerning who is chosen by God to be the next Pope, the visible shepherd. A modern phenomenon in the world about us is an increasing polarisation between people. In the US, Democrats and Republicans for example can hardly talk to each other it seems but even worse is the accompanying distrust, the 'other' is considered bad, evil even. This polarisation is sadly seen increasingly in the Church such that some who claim to be Catholic will be rejoicing at the death of Pope Francis and hoping for a 'proper' Pope to succeed him (while others will be hoping for a different kind of 'proper' Pope, a super-Francis). If we truly believe that the Church and conclave are guided by the Spirit I cannot see how these polarised views can be defended. Surely we are called to accept with charity whoever is elected?

Fr Chris

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
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



Almighty God, we thank you for raising a new pontiff for us, Pope Leo XIV. May you bless him with all he needs to lead the church. Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ. May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God's people, to embody your love for the world

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *For working conditions.* Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

POPE FRANCIS RIP: We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis.

ONLINE BOOK OF CONDOLENCE: The Bishops Conference has set up an online book of condolence for Pope Francis <https://popefrancistributes.com/>

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Revelation 7: 9, 14-17; John 10: 27-30) ***We are a light to the world:*** Most people, when they get married, think their married life is a private affair but Jesus calls us to be a light to the world as a couple. Through our gentleness and tenderness, our readiness to forgive each other, people we meet can experience some qualities of God's love for them. Living in this way is the vocation of marriage.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin J Brian Critchley, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

† **RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anthony George (Tony) Weekes and Michael Christopher (Mick) Lavelle who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers Tony's and Mick's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Tony's funeral service will be at St Cedds, Mersea on Monday 2nd June at 12.30pm. Mick's funeral service will be at St James the Less & St Helen on Friday 6th June at 1.45pm.

SECOND COLLECTION: After all masses this weekend a 2nd collection will be taken for Good Shepherd Sunday also known as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood. The second collection supports the education and formation of our seminarians.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week. please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email olwstatue2024@gmail.com



MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

GIFT- AID SUBSCRIBERS: Please collect your new box sets from the church porch.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SATURDAY 24th MAY 2025: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come and wish to reserve a seat on the coach – please add your name to the Coach Seat Reservation list, which can be found on a clipboard in the Church Porch. A 53-seat coach will be picking up passengers from East Hill near the corner of Priory Street at 8.15am for prompt 8:30am departure, Coach seats are £17.50 per person payable in advance. Please bring a packed lunch, as the cafeteria at Walsingham will be very busy. **Please put payment in an Envelope through Presbytery door with the names of the passengers written on the front of the envelope.**

BISHOP ALAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT: Fr Patrick is inviting all parishioners to attend a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan on **Saturday 31st May at 11.00am**. Fr Patrick requests that all attendees to the Mass bring at least one flower with them to place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Light at the beginning of the Service when you will be invited to bring forward your flowers. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the parish hall and all are welcome to attend this. The Plenary Indulgence of the Jubilee Year 2025 will be available to those attending, who complete a prayer for the future Pope's intentions, and receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days of the Feast Day.



ROSARY CRUSADE: The Knights of St Columba will be praying the Rosary at St Joseph's church on Sunday 11th May after 9.30am Mass and on Sunday 18th May at St James the Less & St Helen after 10.30am. All are welcome to join them.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CHURCH FLOWER GROUP: We have a gifted group of flower arrangers here who work hard to ensure that there are always flowers on display in the church, and in particular for the major events during the year like Christmas & Easter. We are a small friendly team working on a rota, with 3 teams and each team taking a fortnight at a time, usually on a Friday morning. No experience is necessary simply enthusiasm and the physical ability to assist as we all teach and help each other. Flower arranging is an enjoyable ministry, if you are interested in getting involved please contact Jane Hopgood 07761557375 or email: janehopgood735@gmail.com We look forward to welcoming new members to our group.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The next Procession is on **Tuesday 13th May at 6.30pm** followed by mass in Polish + Rosary.

FORMER STUDENTS AT ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL (1979 - 1984) OR SIXTH FORM (1984 - 1986) Students attending St. Benedict's School in Colchester from 1979 to 1984 or the Sixth Form from 1984 to 1986 are seeking friends who attended at the same time. You can join the Facebook group or contact Julia Groves juliagroves06@yahoo.co.uk

CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY: This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on Saturday 7th June 2025 from 11am until 2pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 12/05/25: **Team 4** / Friday 23/05/25: **Team 5**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 11/05/25: African Community / 18/05/25: Diane & Adrian