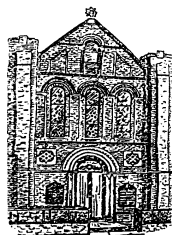


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

With

MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Fr Anthony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

Fr Philip Willenbrock

51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

Tel: 01206 866317; Fax 01206 791213

E-Mail colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

“Gaudete” Sunday December 11th 2011

My dear friends

We come to the Third Advent Sunday, “Gaudete”. The theme of joy in the readings is not merely that Christmas is near but speaks of the lasting joy that the Lord is always with us. He came to us in history as our Saviour and is constantly with us in his Church, and we are confident in his promise to come again.

I was struck by these words from the prophet Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”.

Today we will give you a Christmas card from your priests with the times of our Christmas Masses and our good wishes to you all for the Feast.

We welcome Fr Sean Neylan, the Garrison Chaplain, who having ministered to the troops in Afghanistan, is having a year in Colchester and would like to be part of our parish community. He will celebrate Mass at Monkwick this Sunday and at Mersea next Sunday.

There is an opportunity for quiet time and Advent prayer this afternoon at the Holy Hour at 5pm.

May God bless you all,

Fr Tony McKentey

DAILY Morning Prayer 8.15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8.35am (Wed 11.15am)

PRAYER GROUP

Mondays @ 8pm in the Crypt

MEDITATION GROUP:

Tuesdays @ 8pm in the Crypt

EVENTS THIS WEEK - Please check Mass Schedule for any changes

Friday 16 th December	11am	STM Carol Service	Church
“ “ “	7:30pm	Lectio Divina	Crypt

SICK: Please remember in your prayers June Bickersteth, Joan Boyden, Frank Campbell, Nancy Drummond, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Bridie Murphy, Paula Nash, Leah Patterson, Sabina Rhatigan, Hector Silva, Tony White, Tim Young.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS IN PRIORY ST; Next Sunday, December 18th, there will be a second collection after Masses at Priory Street for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas.

SECOND COLLECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE PARISH TO THE END OF THE NEXT TAX YEAR: It may be helpful to know that these are as follows: Crib Offerings [for Childcare] – January 8th; White Flower Appeal [SPUC] - January 15th; Parish Development Fund – February 5th; Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund – February 19th; CAFOD Lent Fast Day – March 2nd; Parish Development Fund – March 18th.

BAPTISMS TODAY: Lily Mary Duffy. God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

THE NEXT BAPTISM COURSE HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED FOR NEWBORN UP TO AGE 6 YRS: Friday, 27th January 2012 and Friday, 3rd February. 7-30 - 9pm in the Crypt [entry via the Church]. There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up – *but* – both sessions must be attended.

U.C.M.: Christmas Crafts in the Cardinal Bourne Hall today, Sunday, from 2-4pm. £3 per child or £5 per family. Santa will be there too.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Casiano Pasumbal who has recently died. May he rest in peace.

ST. BENEDICT’S COLLEGE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE This will be a service of Christmas Readings and Carols – led by the College Choir. The Service will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th December in the Manning Hall at St. Benedict’s College. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards with a collection for CAFOD and BCCS. **Please do come and support this event which will be a joyful time of spiritual preparation for Christmas and a chance to listen to the choral abilities of the students.**

LECTIO DIVINA: Final session takes place in the Crypt from 7:30pm on Friday 16th December.

“THE JOURNEY”: Music and contemporary Readings at St Botolph’s Church, Saturday 17th December, 7:30pm. Full details on poster in the porch.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Two Priests will be available for Confession on the next two Saturdays – 18th and 24th December from 9:45am to 11am. Priests will also be available on Friday, 23rd December after morning Mass from 9:45 – 11am and after evening Mass at 7:15pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE PARISH

At Priory Street

24TH December 6pm Vigil Mass for Families and at Midnight, preceded by Carols at 11:30pm.

25th December 8am and 10:30am.

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

St Theodore’s Prince Philip Road, MONKWICK:

24TH December 8pm Vigil Mass, preceded by Carols at 7:30pm

There is no 10:15am Mass on Christmas Day

St Cedd & St Gregory, Barfield Road, WEST MERSEA:

25TH December 9am, preceded by Carols at 8:30am

St Joseph’s, Mill Road, MILE END:

25th December 9:15am Mass preceded by Carols at 9am.

BRENTWOOD DIRECTORIES: Are on sale in the porch at £2.50. each.

EVANGELIUM COURSE: Will continue in the New Year on Sunday, January 8th 2012.

CONFIRMATION 2012: The Bishop will be visiting the parish on the **31st October 2012** and there will be the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass on that day. The preparation programme will run from **January 2012 to October 2012**. Information packs are available at the back of church from Sunday 10th December 2011. Andrew and Elspeth Johnson.

CHURCH CLEANING: Thursday 15th December – Team 1.

MOVING?: Please let the Parish office know. **Newly arrived?** Please complete a registration form [in the porch on the left hand side table].

For inclusions to the Parish website: admin@stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

LITURGY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

December 11th 2011 – “Gaudete” Sunday

Saturday December 10th	6:15 pm	Stephen Mooney RIP
Sunday December 11th	8:00 am	Arthur and Beryl Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	D/Rels: O’Grady Family RIP
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	Moira and Dennis Pryke RIP
<i>Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Ken Brookes RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	D/Rels: Knapp & Gibbons Families RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 12th

Feria

Church **7:30 am** Anna Woollatt RIP

Church **9:15 am** Bridget Frawley RIP [A]

Tuesday 13th

St Lucy, V.M

Church **9:15 am** Stephen Hilton RIP

Wednesday 14th

St John of the Cross Pr, D.

Church **7:30 am** Ian Birrane RIP

Church **12 :15 pm** Joe McEneny RIP [A]

Thursday 15th

Feria

Church **9.15 am** D/Rels: Herbert/Richards Families RIP

Friday 16th

Feria

Church **9:15 am** Ernest Jardim RIP

Church **11:00 am** **School Carol Service**

Church **6:30 pm** D/Rels: Pauk Family RIP

Saturday 17th

Feria

Church **9:15 am** V. Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield RIP

LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

December 18th 2011

Saturday December 17th	6:15 pm	Ints: Samantha Hume and Family
Sunday December 18th	8:00 am	Geoffrey and Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30am	Dorothy Burke RIP
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Intentions: E Galea
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Derrick Foley RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	5:00 pm	FILIPINO MASS
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15am	Ted Wilding and Maria Lumsden RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION *Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter*

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE *At least six months notice is required*

SCHOOLS *St Thomas More* Head: Bridget Harris [865722]

St Benedict’s Acting: Head: Peter Johnson [549222]

www.marriagecare.org.uk or 0800 389 3801.

www.brentwoodvocations.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092