

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

'Gaudete' Sunday

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Margaret Hicks RIP
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Maureen O'Connell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	3.30 pm	First Holy Communion Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.30 pm	Exposition; 6.00pm Evening Prayer +Benediction
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Holy Souls
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Parishioners

<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>West Mersea</i>	10.15 am	<b>Funeral Service:</b> Delma Campbell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.45 am	<b>Funeral Mass:</b> George Farrell RIP

<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Lucy, V, M</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	George Farrell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	<b>Reception into Church:</b> Pamela Roulston RIP

<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St John of the Cross, Pr, D</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Owen Joseph McEnaney RIP
	<i>Church</i>	11.00 am	<b>Funeral Mass:</b> Pamela Roulston RIP

<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass

<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	<i>Mile End</i>	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	<b>Feria</b> Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon
---------------------------------	---------------	---------	---

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Expectant Mothers

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Harry Josephs + Mary Josephine Josephs
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Ints: Mary Barge
<i>Going Forth Mass</i>	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Monica + Adrian Galvin + Family
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.30 pm	Exposition; 6.00pm Evening Prayer +Benediction
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Paul Richard B. Brusola

- ❖ 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).

**Please Note There Will Be No 9.30am Morning Mass On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.**



**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. Paschal Uche

**Address:** 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

**Tel:** 01206 866317

**E-Mail :** [colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Website:** [www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org](http://www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org)



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

### 'Gaudete' Sunday

**Week Commencing 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Parish Mass Book Page 88**

In just two weeks' time Christmas will be upon us and, for just one week the preparatory purple turns to a joyful rose on this Gaudete Sunday (from the Latin to Rejoice!) Perhaps for some, the external celebrations of Christmas, time off work, partying and feasting offer some respite from the bills, strikes and gloom of a difficult year. The gift giving and family time have become and indeed should remain essential parts to our celebration, but they are only the vertical trimmings of the horizontal pillar. What is the pillar and centre? Namely, that the eternal God living and true is coming to us, a joyful message exceeding all that we could hope for. Both the dark times of ancient Judah as spoken about by Isaiah in the first reading and the imprisonment of John the Baptist in the Gospel speak of the inescapable reality of suffering and the message of hope offered is not imminent escape or temporary release but a sure and certain promise. Friends, Advent offers us the joyful promise of one coming who is infinitely good, supremely powerful and entirely faithful. In Jesus "A noble flow'r of Juda from tender roots has sprung, a rose from stem of Jesse, as prophets long has sung; a blossom fair and bright, that in the midst of winter will change to dawn our night."

Fr. Paschal

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>
<b>ADORATION &amp; PRAYER</b>	Thursdays	<b>at 7.30 pm</b>

**We pray for the people of Ukraine, for peace and the laying down of weapons.**



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations.** We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**ADVENT EVENING PRAYER:** Each Sunday Evening of Advent (11/12/22 + 18/12/22) at St James the Less & St Helen we will be holding Exposition at 5.30pm, Evening Prayer at 6.00pm followed by Benediction. This is a chance to spend a short while each week in stillness, contemplation, and community.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11) *Cherish the gift.* John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself...entrusted yourselves ...to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Ron Griffin, Mike Taylor, Darline + Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We continue to pray for all persons who are ill or are in need and for those who have recently died.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN RE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS:** Calling all children who took their first holy communion in June. Every year the first holy communion group perform the nativity at the 6pm children's Mass on Christmas eve. So far, I have 3 children. I really need some more. It would be lovely to have as many as we can. Please email me as soon as you can, as we need to have a rehearsal on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (after the going forth mass) to get ready for the mass. Email me on [stressedclaire45@gmail.com](mailto:stressedclaire45@gmail.com). Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS (Advent) CELEBRATION NEXT SATURDAY (17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022) IN CARDINAL BOURNE HALL** from 11am to 3.30pm. There will be lots to see and do; Christmas Card making for children, Fr Christmas, Hot Chestnut Stall, Baked good stalls, Bar & Gift Tombolas, Tabletop sale. Refreshments will be served (Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks, and Mulled Wine), assorted live and recorded music, All Day Breakfast & Baked potatoes in Crypt. From 4-5.30pm Children's film -from 6-8pm Carol Service in Church. **We would be grateful for any donations for hamper & Tombolas. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday.**

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE:** On the last Sunday of Advent, 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

**FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES:** These will take place on the following dates at 8pm: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (Mile End), Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec at Priory Street.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** We congratulate all the children who have made their First Holy Communion this weekend. We ask God's blessing on those children and their families that they may grow in love for Jesus as they receive Him at Mass now and for the rest of their lives. **We would like to convey our gratitude to all the Leaders and Catechists for their hard work, they have provided a first-class preparation course. Thank you.**

<b>Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>			
Monkwick	5.00 pm	Vigil Mass	
Priory Street	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass (families)	
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass	
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass	
<b>Christmas Day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>			
Priory Street	8.00 am*	Christmas Dawn Mass	
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass	
Priory Street	12.15 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass	
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass	
Mile End	9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass	
<b>St Stephens Day, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>			
Priory Street	10.00 am	Mass	
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	

**REPOSITORY:** Christmas Cards, Diaries & Calendars are now available for sale in the Church Porch. All monies to go in Repository Box.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2023:** available at £2.95 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

**(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** During the remaining days of Advent, all children, young and old, are asked to save their loose change and wrap this as a present, which will then be brought forward during Mass. A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass, which will be added to the Crib Collection. Thank you.

**SVP CUPPA CLUB:** This takes place every Thursday. The SVP will be having a **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 12.30pm**. Please bring a dish if you like. Mulled drinks, snacks, music etc.

**ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2023/2024]:** (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/23). The signing of the **"Certificate of Catholic Practice"** forms will take place in the Church Crypt/Presbytery on the following dates: - **Friday 16/12/22 at 10.30am-11.30am (Pres) & Thursday 12/01/23 at 4.30pm-5.30pm (Crypt).**

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 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis.

**POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate):** These will take place on Thursdays at 6.30pm on the following dates: - 15<sup>th</sup> December and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

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

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 12/12/22: **Team 2** / Monday 19/12/22: **Team 3**  
**CBH COFFEE MORNING:** 11/12/22: **Diane + Adrian** / 18/12/22: **The O'Sullivan's**