

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



St James the Less & St Helen

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

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On the Cross, the sinless Christ bears the weight of our sin and shame in full view of the world. In one way the Baptism of Our Lord, which we celebrate this Sunday, is a preparation for that. Christ is announced at His birth as the Saviour of the world. He has committed no sin Himself and He has come to us without the mark of that sin of Adam, the original disobedience. Yet He requires of John the same baptism as those in the queue by the Jordan, weighed down as they (and we) are by our wrongdoing. And it is a moment of "showing" when the Trinity is revealed for all to see. Just as we take deep joy from the Sacrifice of Calvary, so we should be overwhelmed that the Divine Master has opened the way, set the example, by being baptised. Let's thank Him for the gift of this sacrament in our lives, the means by which we became Christian. Let's remember to support in prayer and in other practical ways those who are our godchildren. Let's pray for those who will be baptised in this parish this year that they may remain faithful to the practice of the Faith into which they enter at the font. Let's encourage parents to bring their children to the water of baptism with all speed, and to accept their responsibilities gladly. It is all part of the "Evangelii Gaudium", the joy of the Gospel, which the Holy Father urges us to share with others.

The feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** falls on Sunday 2nd of February, 40 days after His birth. It remains closely linked to Our Blessed Lady, not least because of Simeon's prophecy in the temple. At **5:45pm** in St James we will meet to mark this occasion. **Totus Tuus: Veneration of Our Blessed Lady with John Paul II** is a rare opportunity to hear the voice of Bl John Paul II in English expressing his love for her, interspersed with prayers and hymns.

Krakow for the anonisations: The pilgrimage will take place from early **Thursday 24th to Tuesday 29th of April**. The high point will, of course, be the Canonisation on Sunday which will be broadcast from Rome. God willing we will be at Łagiewniki with the crowds. There will be Mass in various shrines associated with Bl John Paul II and we will visit some of the special exhibitions which are being mounted for this great occasion. Wawel Castle and the Collegiate church of St Florian are on the itinerary. We hope to stay in the centre of the city in clean but economical accommodation. Total cost is estimated at £450. Time is short, and flights go quickly, so on Thursday of this week, January 16th, at 7:00 pm those interested in going will meet in the Railway Carriage for further information and booking. Bring your passports, other contact details as required by Ryanair and the wherewithal to book the flights.

WITNESS TO HOPE: After viewing *Witness to Hope*, the film of the life of Blessed John Paul II, some of you were so impressed that you asked for copies to share with others. I have a source at reasonable price, so please don't hesitate to ask.

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy followed by Rosary	3pm
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
EVENING PRAYER:	Fridays at 6pm	Church
PRAYER GROUP:	Mondays at 8pm	Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays at 8pm	Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK (new entries are in bold type): Please remember in your prayers, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Karl Collins, Emma Cooper, Val Crane, Olive Crawford, Amy Daggitt, **Jeanette Dagwell**, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Christine Farrell, Gianni Emoli, Charlie George, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Venetia Hetherington, Maurice Highfield, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Pat Keene, Patrick King, Declan Knight, Mirella Leonardi, Val Ling, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Margaret Norman, Ijeoma Ozor, Leah Patterson, Piotr Płoskonka, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Sabina Rhatigan, Douglas Rogers, Carley Saunders, Catherine Spicer, Bernard Stevens, Roger Thurlow, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

SICK LIST: If you know of anyone who has recovered – please let one of the priests know. Many thanks.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Cawley, Bernard Stevens and Valerie Winnard. John's Funeral will be on Wednesday 15th January at 11:45am at St Cedd and St Gregory – West Mersea. Bernard's Funeral will be on Monday 20th January at 12:30pm. May they rest in peace.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: White Flower Appeal this weekend - Sunday 12th January. In addition to making a donation to this important work of defending life from conception, you can support Connie Wood and Mary Doogan by signing the declaration which the SPUC have set up. These two brave midwives won in court last April the right to refuse involvement in abortion but an appeal against this

decision has been made by their employers to the Supreme Court.

LOST PROPERTY: Will be available to collect this weekend and the 19th January. Any items not collected will be given to charity.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: There are some Christmas cards remaining in the porch. Please collect by Sunday 19th January. Remaining cards will be recycled!

SINGERS AND MUSICIANS REQUIRED FOR MASS: We urgently need singers and musicians for the music group for 10.30am Mass. This means a commitment to rehearse every 2 weeks on a Thursday evening 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the church. The music is an important part of the Mass. There is no age restriction just a love of singing. For more information please contact Lesley/Tim 01206 512310.

SOCIAL GROUP: Christmas Market – meeting after 12:15pm Mass on Wednesday 15th January in the crypt.

SCRIPTURE GROUP: Bible Study Sessions starting again in the Crypt on Wednesday 15th January 18:45 - 20:45.

SVP: Next meeting is Wednesday 22nd January 10:30am.

FILIPINO MASS: The next Filipino Mass will be on Sunday 26th January at 4pm – Priory St.

KERALA MASS: The next Kerala Mass St Joseph's – Mile End will be Saturday 25th January at 6pm preceded by Rosary at 5:30pm.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be on Friday February 21st and 28th in the Crypt from 7:30pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry into the Crypt is via the Church [This course is for new-borns up to age 6]

100 CLUB: Have you renewed your subscription for 2014 yet? If not, you will have the opportunity to do so at Priory Street after all weekend masses between now and Sun. Jan 26th. A similar facility will be available at the Mersea and Monkwick Mass centres this weekend and next, and at Mile End on the 26th itself.

PARISH INCOME: We all know that we have a responsibility in ensuring that our Parish can pay for itself. During the month of December the money received each week on average in the collection bags has reached our budget target. We are grateful for all that you give, please continue to do so generously as costs are rising, not going down. Thank you.

PRIORY STREET THEATRE GROUP: present their annual pantomime "Wish upon a star; A Knights fairy tale" Friday 24th January 7.30 pm and Saturday 25th January. 3.00pm matinee and 7.30pm evening performance in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Tickets: £5.00 adults, £2.50 children and concessions. For more information please contact Lesley 01206 512310.

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMODATION PROJECT: Volunteers are needed to help run shelters for homeless people that the Night shelter doesn't have room for. Please ring Andy on 01206 761960 for more information. Thank you and God Bless.

ST THOMAS MORE FORM SIGNING: Fr Tony will be available to sign the application forms in connection with the above Intake on Thursday 23rd January and Friday 24th January from 4pm-6pm. Please contact the Parish Office to book your appointment time. *Bring the completed forms with you, ready to sign, and it*

your child was not baptised here, please bring a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 16th January – Teams 2 and 4

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - 12th January

Saturday January 11th	6:15 pm	Michael McInerney RIP
Sunday January 12th	8:00 am	June O'Dwyer RIP
	10:30 am	Fiorenzo Matiz RIP
	2:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	James Connolly RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Mavis St George RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP
Monday 13th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Helen & Martin Lydon RIP
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Russell Crook RIP
Tuesday 14th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Ints: Frank Maguire
Wednesday 15th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	11:45 am REQUIEM MASS – John Cawley RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm Ints: Anna Norfolk
Thursday 16th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Ints: Joe Rodrigues
Friday 17th	<i>St Anthony, Ab</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Ints: Mrs Joe Smith
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm Special Intention [JH]
Saturday 18th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Ints: Mr Hayes

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) - 19th January
(Peace Day)**

Saturday January 18th	6:15 pm	Michael O'Dwyer RIP [PG]
Sunday January 19th	8:00 am	Ian Cole RIP
	10:30 am	Simon, Peter & Teresa Monk RIP
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Mr & Mrs F Milford RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Rosanna Foley RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Ints: Catherine Spicer

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 *Head: Mrs J Santinelli* [549222]
Cardinal Bourne Hall cb.hall@btinternet.com
New Hall Number: 07758 805 263
The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

