

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

WEEK COMMENCING 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

The response for the psalm this week is, 'Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel', actually from Isaiah. In Old Testament times God was present to his people in various ways, initially through visions, dreams and such like, then in the Tent of Meeting. This Tent (literally Tabernacle) was constructed during the Exodus and remained the dwelling place of God in the early days in Jerusalem being eventually replaced by the Temple. The Lord was therefore in the midst of Israel, yet it was a distant presence so to speak. I am referring to access. The Tent and then the Temple had within a Holy of Holies, with very limited access. The Temple especially consisted of a series of courts surrounding the Holy of Holies, with an increasingly restricted number/type of person able to enter the courts as the Holy of Holies was approached. How different for us. God dwells in our church, in the Tabernacle, and can be visited for hours each and every day. We have Exposition each week in Advent, when the Blessed Sacrament is honoured on the altar (and hopefully we'll continue with some form of Exposition in the new year). Finally, there is the Mass when Jesus speaks to us in the Scriptures and comes to those who can receive him in Communion. We might remind ourselves that when a person receives Communion they thereby become living Tabernacles, at which point the acclamation repeated at the beginning of this passage becomes very personal.

Fr. Chris

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

'Gaudete' Sunday



<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	6.15 pm	Hughie Flanagan RIP
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Clarke & McGuinness Families RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour & Vespers
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Tessa Southon RIP
	Mile End	9.15 am	Kathleen + Victor Payne RIP
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Private Intention
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Lucy, V, M</b>		
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Fr Ints: Fr Neil Brett
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St John of the Cross, Pr, D</b>		
	Church	9.30 am	Joe McEnaney + Maura O'Connor RIP
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>		
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>		
	Church	9.30 am	Canon Thomas Clarke
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>		
*	Church	10.00 am	<b>Funeral Mass:</b> Alan Michael Buck RIP
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Feria</b>		
	Church	9.30 am	Des Fuller RIP

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Expectant Mothers



<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	6.15 pm	Ron + Margaret Wheeler RIP
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Private Intentions
	Church	10.30 am	Int: Margaret Hilton
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour & Vespers
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.15 am	Tessa Southon RIP
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Ints: Altar Servers

#### \* PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A 9.30am MASS ON THURS 17<sup>th</sup>.

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, Please contact the Presbytery.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ Colchester General Hospital: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church Entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
DAILY Mon-Fri	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	Temporarily suspended

Please refer to the Website Home Page or External Church Notice Board for details on the **Relaxation of Covid restrictions**.

*As a Reminder: Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.*



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *Catechists*.** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18) ***Rejoice in God's gift***

Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Rosalie Sutcliffe, Annie Neilson, Rose Marie Jackson, Benilda Fusi who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Rosalie's funeral Mass will be held at St Theodore Church on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. Annie's service will be at Wimpole Rd Chapel of Rest on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 9.45am and Rose Marie's at Colchester Crem at 2pm on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2022/2023]:** (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/22). The signing of the "**Certificate of Catholic Practice**" will take place in the church crypt on **Monday 13/12/21 at 5pm-6pm**. 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.

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS:** During the 6pm Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve the First Holy Communion children will be in costume and will recreate the Nativity scene.

**(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.

**MILE END NEWS:** The next coffee morning will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> January after the 9:15am Mass at St Joseph's and will be held at the Dog & Pheasant. All welcome.

**REPOSITORY:** Christmas Cards & Diaries are now available for sale in the Church Porch.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022:** available at £2.80 per book.

Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Church Services over the Christmas season are as follows: -

**CHRISTMAS EVE, FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER**

Priory Street	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass
Monkwick	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass



**CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER**

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.15 am	Christmas Day Mass
Monkwick	10.15 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass

**ST. STEPHEN DAY, SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER**

Priory Street	8.00 am	Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Mass
Mile End	9.15 am	Mass
Monkwick	10.15 am	Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Priory Street	6.30 pm	Mass

**CAFOD:** Thank you to all Parishioners for your generous support for CAFOD this year and your latest donation of £764.65. Thank you on behalf of our global family.

**JOSIE'S KITCHEN:** I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to my weekly kitchen for the local homeless. Your support has been invaluable and is very much appreciated. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! Josie.

**FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES:** These will take place on the following dates at 8pm: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Priory Street. **FILIPINO MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The Mass will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm followed by Christmas party in hall.

**POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate):** These will take place at 6.30pm on the following Thursdays in December: 16<sup>th</sup> + 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: *What does the Incarnation mean in a secular age?*** takes place by Zoom on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 4-5pm. The input and discussion will be led by Fr David Pearce, assistant priest at Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon. To join this meeting go to Events at [www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk](http://www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk)

**FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS:** As Christmas draws closer we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as 'infancy narratives' with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1. The videos are available free of charge on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

**MISSIO CHRISTMAS CALENDAR IN CHURCH PORCH:** Please take a free calendar.

**SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com)

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 13/12/21: **Team 3** (2022 Rotas in Church porch).  
**CBH COFFEE MORNING ROTA:** 12/12/21( SVP) / 19/12/21 TBA (Rotas in Church porch).