

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

**WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK**



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### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

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My dear friends,

The Jubilee Year of Mercy got off to a good start on Tuesday when many people came to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. We were very much in union with the Holy Father who opened the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica.

This Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St John Lateran in Rome which is the Cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome and simultaneously there will be a special door opened in all the cathedrals of the world. Our Cathedral at Brentwood is no exception and, as you will read in Brentwood News, there is a special invitation to come on pilgrimage to our own mother church to pass through the special door that has been prepared and decorated accordingly.

Today's Advent liturgy invites us to rejoice in the loving kindness of God our Father who has sent his Son into the world to reveal "the face of the Father's mercy". Today you will be given a parish Christmas Card with the times of Christmas services and the good wishes of your Parish clergy for the coming Feast.

On Thursday of this week, the 17<sup>th</sup> December, we enter into the final week of Advent, when we call on the Saviour to come and save us, using those ancient titles for the Saviour from the Old Testament. These "O Antiphons" are immortalised in the beautiful hymn "O come, Emmanuel".

May the Lord fill your hearts with love and anticipation during these final Advent days.  
May God bless you all.

Fr Tony

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] – Gaudete Sunday

Saturday December 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Moira and Dennis Pryke RIP
Sunday December 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Arthur, Beryl & John Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Doris Murphy RIP
	4:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	Matthew Keane RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Joan Donnelly RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Bernard Lawler RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Peggy, Ted & Maria Wilding RIP

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

#### St John of the Cross, D

Church	9:15 am	Joe McEnaney RIP
Church	4:30 pm	Reception of Coffin

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Feria

Church	9:15 am	Mary and John McGinley RIP
Church	11:00 am	REQUIEM – SR MARY THERESE RIP

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Feria

Church	9:15 am	Chinnamma Joseph RIP
Church	12:15 pm	Holy Souls RIP
Church	8:00 pm	Filipino Mass

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Feria

Church	9:15 am	Christine Ross RIP
Church	12:30 pm	REQUIEM – ELAINE PROUDFOOT RIP

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Feria

Church	9:15 am	Michael & Ellen Kate Condon RIP
Church	11:00 am	School Carol Service
Church	8:00 pm	Filipino Mass

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Feria

Church	9:15 am	Intentions of Esther Crowe
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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – [ C ]

Saturday December 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Intentions: Florence and Family
Sunday December 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Geoffrey & Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Intentions: Sykes Family
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Maura Tredgett RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	D/Rels: Healy & Barr Families RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm  
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE At least six months notice is required

**Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes**

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy followed by Rosary  
3pm DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy  
8:35am  
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays – Crypt 8pm

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**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Brian Bagioni, June Bickersteth, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Athene Jones, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Joanne Leon, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercas, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Celestine Hughes who has recently died. Her funeral will take place here on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 2pm. May she rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of her bereaved family. The funeral of Olive Newland will take place at St Cedd's on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10:30am.

**SR MARY THERESE RIP:** The coffin of Sr Mary Therese will be received into the church tomorrow afternoon at 4:30pm, with the Requiem at 11am on Tuesday. Cremation will then take place at 2:45pm at Colchester Crematorium.

**BAPTISMS TODAY:** We welcome into the church family through the Sacrament of Baptism **Jonah James Whiteside** and **Leo Finley Harris Bawden**. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

**Have you collected your child's Baptism Certificate yet?** Please collect your child's Baptism Certificate when you come to Mass, or contact the Parish Office on a **Tuesday between 10am and 2pm** to arrange to pick it up.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT PRIORY STREET:** A second collection at *Priory Street* will be taken this weekend for Christmas flowers.

**HOLY HOUR FOR ADVENT:** This Sunday afternoon 5-6pm. There is silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction at 5:45pm. During Holy Hour, a priest will be available for Confession.

**LECTIO DIVINA:** The final one takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 5-6pm in the Crypt.

**CHRISTMAS CURRY EVENING:** December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30-10:30pm. An evening of various home cooked curries. Light refreshments will be served, but bring your own drink. The "Grand Raffle" will also be drawn on the night. Adults £10; children 5-12 years £5. Tickets available as from December 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact Frances 369568. Norah 503410.

**ADVENT EVENTS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL.** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December Nine Lessons & Carols 4pm. Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm, Live broadcast of Midnight Mass

for BBC Radio 4.

**"SIMBANG GABI"** Filipino Mass here at 8 pm on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, please contact Fr Alex or Mr Jimmy Clarin.

**POLISH ADVENT PREPARATION:** Masses in honour of Our Lady on the Tuesdays in Advent at 6:30pm, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD:** Mgr John Armitage returns to the Diocese to share his adventurous story of the years when he first discerned a call to Priesthood. You are invited to ask him questions and then enjoy a free fish and chips supper. Hosted by Brentwood Vocations, they invite all women and men aged 17-45, especially discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life to this "*In conversation with*" event on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7:30pm at the Parish Hall of St Edward the Confessor, Romford, RM1 4AT. For more details [eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org](mailto:eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org)

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS :** During the 6pm Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we would encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costume - we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! Thank you.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass to be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent children, young and old, are asked to save their change and wrap as presents to be brought forward during Mass.

**THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016:** Not all can go to Rome for this special year, but you might like to join Bishop Alan, Fr Tony and the Diocese of Brentwood on the special Jubilee Year of Mercy pilgrimage to Lourdes. This is a special year as we will also take part in the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. This will be a unique opportunity to respond to Pope Francis to search for God's mercy and rediscover the joy of our faith. Brochures and application forms are in the porch or can be obtained from Cathy O'Connor, Tel: 01206 501146; [cathy@brentwoodlourdes.org](mailto:cathy@brentwoodlourdes.org)  
Cost: from £639 by air with full board for 6 days, 5 nights, or from £419 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs.

**BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY 2016:** Now available - price £2:75. Please put money in the Repository Wall box. Also Brentwood News – free of charge!

**FILMS FOR FAITH:** Will be back in January.

**CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A MONTH TO CLEAN YHOUR CHURCH:** Reliable and committed volunteers URGENTLY REQUIRED to help with cleaning the Church. Please contact Helena on 01206 794636 [mornings before mid-day].

**CLEANERS' ROTA:** December 17<sup>th</sup> – Team 2.

**CARDINAL BOURNE HALL:** To book: 07758 805263; [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com)