

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

('Gaudete' Sunday)

Saturday 12th	Church	6.15 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Sunday 13th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners Live Streamed
	Church	9.15 am	Teresa O'Shea
	Church	10.30 am	Lynda Andrews RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions
	West Mersea	8.30 am	John Sales
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Robert + Theresa Bradshaw (60 th Anniv 04/12/20)

Monday 14th			St John of the Cross, Pr, D
	Church	10.00 am	Kathleen + Victor Payne RIP

Tuesday 15th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Geoffrey Tuckwell RIP
Private Service	Church	11.30 am	Funeral Mass: Lynda Jane Andrews RIP

Wednesday 16th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Doris O'Driscoll RIP

Thursday 17th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Angie + Gerry D'Cruze + Family

Friday 18th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Michael Steves

Saturday 19th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Private Intention

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) (Expectant Mothers)

Saturday 19th	Church	6.15 pm	Joe McEnaney RIP
Sunday 20th	Church	8.00 am	John Cunningham RIP
	Church	9.15 am	Dudley Cecil Bradshaw RIP Live Streamed
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Tony Dixon RIP

FACEMASKS. It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- ❖ If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES: Sundays [St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester](#)

[Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news/ clergy photos/videos, reflections from Fr Paschal. Please remember to like and 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:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Paschal Uche
Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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

Tel: 01206 866317

E-Mail : colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

'Gaudete' Sunday

Week Commencing 13th DECEMBER 2020



St. Paul gives us this Sunday a series of imperatives, including 'Be happy at all times' and 'pray constantly'. How might we understand these? A worldly approach would likely dismiss them as exaggerations, arguing for example that no-one can pray constantly because, at the very least, a person has to sleep at times. Someone with faith might be tempted to agree. In, 'The way of a pilgrim', a Russian classic from the 19th century, we read how one man on hearing the command strove to fulfil it, and succeeded. In his case it was the Jesus Prayer, repeated frequently, which eventually became so much a part of him that he was offering the prayer even in sleep; not always in words but in attitude. It is a matter of our spirit being filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself promises that the joy of the Spirit will complete our joy ('Be happy at all times'). St. Paul, I would infer, was speaking from experience when he wrote those words. On this Gaudete Sunday may we all ask that the gifts of the Spirit be renewed in each of us. *Fr. Chris*

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 ^{am}	All Temporarily suspended
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 ^{pm})	

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: For a Life of Prayer. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Despite all the restrictions, let us be thankful that we can once again gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment :-

- Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Mass
- Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- We are still required to have Church Stewards in attendance at each Mass and the Church will be cleaned after each Service in readiness for the next Mass to be held.

THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.

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.

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, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please remember in your prayers all those who have recently passed away especially Roy Gibard, Rosaleen Smith and Lidia Scannelli. May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace. Roy's Funeral will take place here on 21st December at 11.15^{am}. Rosaleen's funeral will take place here on 29th December at 11.45^{am}. Lidia's funeral service will on 23rd December be at 10.15^{am} in Colchester Crematorium Chapel. Please note that due to Government restrictions funeral attendance is by family invitation.

Volunteer Stewards needed on 21st, 29th December, please contact the Presbytery office on (01206) 866317 if you are able to assist. Thank You

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!

THE CELEBRATION OF MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

Mass booking forms for Christmas mass attendance will have to be completed (i.e. seats have to be reserved in advance). Booking forms will be monitored and closed when the Church seating capacity has been reached.

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2020

6.00 ^{pm}	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	Booking Form
8.00 ^{pm}	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	Booking Form
12.00 ^{am}	Priory Street	Midnight Mass	Booking Form
12.00 ^{am}	Monkwick	Polish Midnight Mass	

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2020

8.00 ^{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Dawn Mass	Booking Form
8.30 ^{am}	Mersea	Christmas Dawn Mass	Mersea Booking Form
9.15 ^{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	Booking Form
9.45 ^{am}	Mersea	Christmas Day Mass	Mersea Booking Form
10.15 ^{am}	Monkwick	Christmas Day Mass	Monkwick Booking Form
10.30 ^{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	Booking Form
2.00 ^{pm}	Priory Street	Polish Christmas Day Mass	

ST. STEPHEN DAY, SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2020

10.00 ^{am}	Priory Street	Morning Mass
2.00 ^{pm}	Priory Street	Polish Mass
6.15 ^{pm}	Priory Street	Mass

(To avoid disappointment, please book early)



REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER STEWARDS OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD: We need additional volunteer Stewards to cover the extra Masses over the Christmas period. Please contact the Presbytery Office (01206 866317) if you are able to assist on any of the following Masses: -

Christmas Eve: * 6^{pm} Mass * 8^{pm} Mass * Midnight Mass
Christmas Day: * 8^{am} Mass * 9.15^{am} Mass * 10.30^{am} Mass

If you are attending any of these services, please consider volunteering to Steward
Please note that we are unable to hold services without volunteers

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2021/2022]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/21). The signing of the *"Certificates of Practice"* will take place in the church porch on the following date: - Monday 14th December 2020 at 6^{pm} – 7^{pm} & Friday 18th December 3.15^{pm}-4.15^{pm}

There is no need to make an appointment as both parents or guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis. Only 1 family at a time in the Church porch. Please maintain social distance guidelines whilst standing outside church.

MERSEA NEWS: Mass Bookings will continue at Mersea in order to control numbers attending. Please use the following links for masses over the next 2 weekends (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times: - Sunday 20th December (Booking Form Closed). Sunday 27th December [Mersea Booking Form](#)

PARISH FINANCES: If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:

- By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering)
- Donation baskets are situated at entrance and exit of church
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
St. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>
St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you