

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

"Gaudete" Sunday

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My dear friends

We come to the halfway point of our Advent journey, Gaudete Sunday. The overriding theme in the liturgy is one of joy that the Lord is coming to save us; the Lord is always near. The rose-coloured vestments and the third candle on the Advent Wreath echo this theme.

This week, on Wednesday 17th December, we enter the final days of Advent – when we call on the Saviour to come among us in the refrain: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

We do not forget the Baptist's call to repentance and you will see in the newsletter the extra opportunities there are for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Today you will receive a Christmas Card with the good wishes of your clergy and the times of the Christmas Masses. These times are on the website and in the local press.

May God bless your final preparations for the coming of the Lord.

Fr Tony McKentey

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

("Gaudete" Sunday)

Saturday December 13 th	6:15 pm	Moira & Dennis Pryke RIP
Sunday December 14 th	8:00 am	Arthur, Beryl and John Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Sykes Family
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	5:00 pm	HOLY HOUR
	6:30 pm	D/Rels: Healy / Barr Families
West Mersea	8:30 am	Matt, Eddie & Pat Hogan RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Ida & Angelina Cestari & Family
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 15th

Feria

Church

7:30 am

Ernest Jardim RIP

Church

9:15 am

Chinnamma Joseph RIP

Tuesday 16th

Feria

Church

9:15 am

Victor Javier RIP

Wednesday 17th

Feria

Church

7:30 am

Mrs Nora Franchetti RIP

West Mersea

9:30 am

Holy Communion Service

Church

12:15 pm

Ints: Ann McKenna

Thursday 18th

Feria

Church

9:15 am

Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

Friday 19th

Feria

Church

9:15 am

Holy Souls RIP

Church

6:30 pm

Ints: Stammers Family

Saturday 20th

Feria

Church

9:15 am

Mr & Mrs Joseph RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

Saturday November 20 th	6:15 pm	Angela Udall RIP
Sunday November 21 st	8:00 am	Geoffrey & Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Jim Kennedy RIP
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS
	6:30 pm	Fr Tim Coffey
West Mersea	8:30 am	Joan Donnelly RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Mr Derrick Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: These are the opportunities for this sacrament before Christmas. Saturday 20th December at 9:45am – 10:30am and 5:30pm – 6:00pm. Monday 22nd December at 5:30pm followed by an extra Mass at 6:30pm. Wednesday 24th December at 10:00am – 11:00am. See notice at the back of church.

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. [Please hold off the King costumes until Sunday 4th January ...]

Thank you.

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 7:45pm Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays at 8pm Crypt
SCRIPTURE GROUP: Wednesdays at 6:45pm [Term time only] Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Władysław Antończak, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Karl Collins, Olive Crawford, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Charlie George, Bill Graves, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Pat Keene, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Pat Maloney, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Stephen and Sabina Rhatigan, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Donnelly of 85 East Road West Mersea, Lydia Nourbakhsh-Rizi and Carol Sandford. Mrs Nourbakhsh-Rizi's Requiem Mass will be on Monday 29th December at 2:30pm. Details of Mrs Donnelly's and Mrs Sandford's funeral to be announced shortly. May they rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: This weekend we welcome into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism: Charlie Sugarman. God bless this child and congratulations to his family.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be Friday February 6th & 13th in the Crypt from 7:30pm – 9pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. [This course is for new-borns up to age 6]

CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW TICKETS: Please return unsold tickets or the counterfoils with your name, contact details, and money to the Presbytery by the 19th December to be entered. Help us raise funds for the church. Excellent prizes on offer. Don't miss out!

PARISH INCOME: We need to raise £1,560 each week from the collection bags. During the month of November, the money received on average was £1,424 – leaving us **short of £136 each week**. We are grateful for all that you give, please continue to do so generously as costs are rising, not going down. Thank you.

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 2015-16 INTAKE: Any parent wishing to apply for a place at St Thomas More's School must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in addition to the Local Authority Application Form. SIFs are available to download on the school's website www.stthomasmores.co.uk or by contacting the office on 01206 865722. **DRAFT ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The draft Admission Criteria for

applicants to St Thomas More's School 2016-17 is available on the school's website www.stthomasmores.essex.sch.uk. If you have any comments to make on this please email the school at the following address office@st-thomasmores.essex.sch.uk by Friday 16 January.

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIEST REFERENCE FORMS: The school will be sending out the Priest reference forms in January. Fr Tony will be available to sign the forms on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January from 4pm – 6pm. Please make contact through the church office to book your appointment time. If your child was not baptised here, please bring a copy of the Baptismal Certificate. **Forms should be completed - ready to sign.**

LECTIO DIVINA FOR ADVENT: Prayerful reading of the Sunday texts, at 5pm on the final Saturday 20th December in the Crypt.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS COLLECTION: This weekend 13 / 14th December. Priory St & St Joseph's Mile End.

RORATE CAELI: Drop down dew, you heavens from above! During Advent there is Mass with Procession of Our Blessed Lady each Tuesday evening starting at 6:30, in conjunction with the Polish people. Bring a candle for the procession.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DANCE: With Indian cuisine will be in the Cardinal Bourne Hall on Friday 19th December 7:30 – 11pm. The Grand Raffle will be drawn on the night. Music and singing by Steve Williams. Tickets – Adults £12, Children 5 – 12 years £6. Tickets are limited to eighty seated. Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Contact Frances 369568 or Norah 503410.

BRENTWOOD 2015 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY: Packed full of useful contacts and information for the diocese and the wider church. Contains an appreciation of Bishop Thomas by Fr Brian O'Shea and obituaries of Revv. Ambrose O'Gorman, Andrew Hurley and John Timmins. It also contains the church's liturgical calendar with many feast days specific to this diocese; useful if you say Morning and Evening prayer at home. Available now for £2.75. There has been a report that some copies are missing a section. If your copy is faulty, please return to the presbytery for an exchange.

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER: The Filipino Choir will lead the singing at the 6:30pm Mass.

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER: at 74 Howe Close, Greenstead. Tea at 4.00 p.m. followed by Evening Prayer at 4.30 p.m.: **QUIET DAY:** Friday 19th November at 74 Howe Close, Greenstead. 10.00 - 3.00 pm. Bring your own lunch. Tea/Coffee provided.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Brochures available from the back of church for this pilgrimage that runs from 26th – 31st July 2015.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN: An evening for young adults aged 17-35, with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. What inspired him to become a priest? Hear his story on Thursday 18 December, Cathedral House Conference Room, 7.30-10.00 pm, including fish & chip supper. Full details at www.brentwoodvocations.org. The evening is free, but registration is required – call Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732 or email frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: on Sunday 21st

December at 4.00 pm led by Bishop Alan. This is a beautiful service of music, readings and prayer to which everyone in the diocese is welcome. If you would like to prepare for Christmas in a really special way this year, then please come along.