

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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) – 15th December 2013

“Gaudete Sunday”

Parish Mass Book – Page 88

My dear friends

We come to Gaudete Sunday when the liturgy has the theme of joy because of the Lord's coming. Let us enter into the great joy and expectation of these final days of Advent. Let us try and come closer to Jesus in the sacrament of Reconciliation this Friday evening 20th (5:30pm and 7:00pm) and Saturday 21st (10am – 10:30am, 5:30pm – 6:00pm) and Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th (10:00am – 11:00am) . Today you will receive a Christmas Card from the parish clergy which contains times of Christmas Services and our good wishes to you all for a happy celebration.

May God bless you all

Fr Tony McKentey

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 5th January ...] Thank you.

WANTED: Musicians and singers for the Christmas Vigil Mass ... our usual help

is not available this year, could you help? Global superstar or hidden talent - could you lead a few carols, maybe more? Please contact Hywel & Pam Edwards - 867325 or after 10:30 Mass. 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 8pm	Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays at 8pm	Crypt

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Emma Cooper, Val Crane, Olive Crawford, Amy Daggitt, 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, Leah Patterson, Piotr Ploskonka, Elaine Proudfoot, Ronald Quijano, Sabina Rhatigan, Douglas Rogers, Carley Saunders, Catherine Spicer, Arthur Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcey Young.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Stephen Minaker. Active in the church here until he left Colchester in May 2012 for Bath. Further details available from the parish office.

PRAYER GROUP: On Monday, 16th December, the prayer group would be held at the home of Eva Read. There will be no prayer group on 23rd and 30th December.

The prayer group's first meeting in the new year will be on the 6th January.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK: Beatrice Faherty. God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

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]

PARISH INCOME: We all know that we have a responsibility in ensuring that our Parish can pay for itself. During the month of November 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.

ADVENT SUNDAYS: 15th(not the 22nd) at 74 Howe Close, the community welcomes you to 4:00pm tea following by Evening Prayer at 4:40pm.

FILIPINO MASS: There will be a Filipino Mass at Priory St on Sunday 29th December at 4pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion in 2014, the next parents meetings will be on Thursday January 9th at 7:30pm in the Crypt. This is for children presently in Year 3 and upwards and who belong to this parish.

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