

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Racial Justice Sunday

Saturday 15th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Robert Bradshaw
Sunday 16th	Church	8.00 am	Pete, Teresa + Simon Monk RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Mrs Oksama Zakhleniuk RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Special Intention for all Parish Volunteers
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
Monday 17th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Tuesday 18th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Mini + Percy Floyd RIP
Wednesday 19th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Monica + Adrian + Family
Thursday 20th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ann O'Connell
Friday 21st			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday 22nd			THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE
	Church	9.30 am	K. N. John RIP

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Saturday 22nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 23rd	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: D. R.
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	A Month's Mind: Luke Brennan RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Manuel

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.
- ❖ Filipino Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month at 4.00pm with coffee in hall afterwards.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com



- **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
- **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/Clergy + Church photos/videos. 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: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Racial Justice Sunday

Week Commencing 16th February 2025

In the first reading from Jeremiah, a beautiful picture is painted of the blessing that comes when we place our trust in the LORD. When our hope is rooted in Him, we become like a tree planted by a life-sustaining river - our faith nourished and continually refreshed by God's loving care. Just as a tree draws water from a nearby stream, our trust in God gives us strength as we face life's challenges. This passage invites us to trust God completely. It reminds us that even when circumstances seem dry and difficult, a life built on His promise will endure and prosper. With our roots deeply set in God, our inner lives can flourish, producing hope, peace, and joy even when we are experiencing tough times. May this reflection encourage us to lean on the Lord each day so that our strength remains ever new.

Fr Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is 'Pilgrims of Hope', and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Jeremiah 17: 5-8; 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20 Luke 6: 17, 20-26) *Our calling is to love one another.* Does 'the world speak well of me'? God wants us to use our talents to fulfil His plan, not for our own glory. His plan for marriage is that we love each other before everything else, which means listening deeply. When I focus on doing any job I need to ask: 'How do you need to be loved just now?'

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvn, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Monica Howley & Barry Oliff who have both recently passed away. The Parish community offers Monica's & Barry's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Monica's Funeral service will be here at 1.00pm on Thursday 6th March. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

DIOCESAN 2ND COLLECTION: After all Masses this weekend a collection will be taken for for **Racial Justice Sunday**. This year's theme is *Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice.*, Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, said: "2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday. This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice - past, present and future - by asking: 'How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?'"

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We are sending out emails with details of the First Holy Communion course. If you haven't received these, could you please reply to Claire at stressedclaire45@gmail.com as we may have your wrong email address. Also, we are really short of parent helpers for the course. This is a truly rewarding way to help your children. If you are interested in helping out, please email Claire on the address above. If we don't get enough helpers, we may not be able to go on with the course. It's not difficult and you will be provided with all the materials needed. **The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting on Saturday 1st March at 11.15am in Cardinal Bourne Hall.** ALL PARENTS will be required to attend to complete the registration process for your child.

NEXT DIOCESAN 2ND COLLECTIONS: Will be for CAFOD Lent Fast Day on 16th March and a special collection for Church Easter Flowers (*Mile End + Priory Street*) on 30th March



PALM CROSSES: We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us so that we can make ash for our Ash Wednesday service (5th March). A basket is situated in the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next film showing is on **Wednesday 5th March** and will continue on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY (5th March): This marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting that has been kept almost since the time of the Apostles. We will have 3 Masses at 9.30am; 12.15pm & 7.30pm with "ashing" (optional).

THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET: The Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025 is published in a collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion Booklet will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. And a whole lot more - numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. **THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY**

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA QUIZ NIGHT: In aid of Beacon House (*Colchester homeless support charity*) and the KSC Charities. There will be a table quiz on the **1st March at 7pm for a 7:30pm start** in Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street. £5 entry per person. Teams of 6-8. Light refreshments will be provided, so please bring food and drink. Raffle prizes and Grand National Draw Tickets will be on sale. Please support this worthy cause. For more information, or to book a space, call George on 07476781885.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM House Appeal: The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks donations to establish a mission house in Walsingham where they can expand their work of spiritual accompaniment, hospitality and supporting young people to grow in faith. The community will pray for all benefactors and are grateful for donations of any amount which can be made at www.walsinghamcommunity.org/maryshouseappeal Web: www.walsinghamcommunity.org

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: The last few remaining copies of the directory available in the Church porch.

SCHOOL VACANCIES: Further details can be found on the diocesan website by clicking the links [Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Witham](#) Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Thursday 27th February 2025 [Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford](#) Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 17th March 2025

VACANCY: Parish Secretary (Billericay): Parish Secretary to work at Billericay (The Most Holy Redeemer). If you would like a job description or to apply for the position, please send your CV and cover letter by email to billericay@brcdt.org

ADORE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd February 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "Pilgrims Of Hope – The Holy Spirit Is Our Guide." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at [/bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025](https://bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025) More information at www.altonrenewal.com

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 17/02/25: Team 2 / Monday 24/02/25: Team 3
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 16/02/25: The O'Sullivan's / 23/02/25: Peggy & Anne