

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

('Gaudete' Sunday)

Saturday 15th**Sunday 16th**

6.15 pm Thanksgiving
8.00 am Rev Arthur Oliver/Beryl Oliver + John Oliver RIP
10.30 am Parishioners
2.00 pm Polish Mass
6.30 pm
8.00 pm Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass
8.30 am Colin Whittle RIP
9.15 am Derrick Foley RIP
10.15 am Mrs. Celestine Tighe RIP

West Mersea
Mile End
Monkwick

Monday 17th

Church **9.30 am** *Feria* M. Harding RIP + Nusara RIP
Church **8.00 pm** Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Tuesday 18th

Church **9.30 am** *Feria* Ints: Mary Crowe

Wednesday 19th

Church **12.15 pm** *Feria* Richard Berry RIP
Church **8.00 pm** Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Thursday 20th

Church **9.30 am** *Feria* Donor's Int (Mulcahy)
Church **11.00 am** St Thomas More School Carol Service

Friday 21st

Church **9.30 am** *Feria* Dorothy Burke RIP

Saturday 22nd

Church **9.30 am** *Feria* Canon Thomas Clarke

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
(Expectant Mothers)****Saturday 22nd**

6.15 pm Colin Whittle RIP
8.00 am Dermot & Margaret Moriarty RIP

Sunday 23rd

10.30 am Parishioners
2.00 pm Polish Mass
6.30 pm Anniv: Darren Ledger

West Mersea
Mile End
Monkwick

8.30 am Eric Brennan
9.15 am Jade Basshier RIP
10.15 am Victoria Conti RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (confession): Saturday 9:45am - 10:30am; 5:30pm - 6.00pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months' notice is required
BAPTISM COURSE: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org under events where a list of course dates are available

**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:
 Deacon:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
 Fr. John Victor Drabeesan
 Fr. Philip Willenbrock
 Gary Dench

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]****WEEK COMMENCING: 16TH DECEMBER 2018 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 87**

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, for obvious reasons when one looks at the readings of the day. Joy is a central characteristic of a Christian; it springs from our relationship with God. As the psalm says, 'Truly God is my salvation. I trust, I shall not fear.' When a person can say those words and know they are true, they have faith; and for such a person, the joy would remain even in the midst of sorrow. That sounds strange, perhaps. It is true that we can't usually be happy and sad at the same time, but we can be joyful and sad. The joy of the Lord is our strength, it flows from a person's living faith in God, a faith which is real if it is central to the person's existence. Jesus elsewhere uses the image of a house and its foundations, built on rock the house will survive the storms of life.

Fr Chris

COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317, we can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the patient so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15am
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<i>following</i> 8.00am Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00pm-6.00pm
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00pm

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Rejoice in God's gift.* Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Pat Keene, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Vicky Culham, Peter Ledgley, Hilda Morah

BRENTWOOD DIOCESE: Bearing in mind all the information and opinions collected over the last two years Brentwood Diocese has now published its response "*Vision Document: Shaping our Future*". Please read it or listen to it on the Diocesan Website; www.dioceseofbrentwood/. There are some paper copies available for those unable to access the internet. On the website you can also see a video from Bishop Alan discussing the plan.

ST. THOMAS MORE ADMISSIONS FOR 2019/2020: [Council closing date for admissions is 15/01/19]: Final Date arranged for the signing of the "*Certificates of Practice*" will take place in the Crypt on Thursday 20th December from 5.00pm until 6.00pm (* Entrance to the Crypt is via the Church). **Please note that there will be no further dates booked for signing Certificates.**

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS: During the 6pm Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we would encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costumes, we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings 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! We are also looking for musicians and narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30 Mass. Thank you.

(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass which will be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent all children, young and old, are asked to save their loose change and wrap this as a present which will then be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sundays of Advent please collect a card bauble to decorate for the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas.

RETREAT: A Lecto Divinia Retreat (*Reflecting on the Divine Word*) is being offered at Dowry House, Walsingham on **22nd to 24th February 2019**. There will be 12-15 places available, if interested in taking part in this retreat. Reservation forms are available in the porch & for further info please contact Pauline on (01206) 768418. Travel to Walsingham will be in cars. There will be a meeting in the Crypt on 5th January at 5.00pm to discuss the retreat and to take bookings.

MILE END NEWS: An additional Festive Coffee Morning with mince pies will be held on **23rd December** after the 9:15am Mass at St Joseph's - at the Dog & Pheasant – All are most welcome

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The Final Film showing for 2018 is on **19th December** with a **start time of 1.15pm** screening "*Scrooge –A Christmas Carol*". Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard for future films and dates

THE JESSE TREE: The Jesse tree is a family advent devotional, which helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. Each day through advent, we decorate a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Each ornament tells the story of God and his relationship with the ancestors of Christ in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. You can request a copy of the free digital book, printable tree and ornaments from anna.mccormick@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PROCEEDS OF RECENT SECOND COLLECTIONS: (APF) World Mission Sunday - £666.83, PACT Prisoners Sunday - £552.87, National Youth Sunday - £692.40, CAFOD Harvest Day - £1,020.33. Thank you for your kind support and generosity.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE on **Sunday 23rd December** at 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral. Main celebrant, Bishop Alan Williams. A service of readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2018

Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December

Priory Street	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass especially for families
Monkwick	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass preceded by Carols at 7.30 pm
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30 pm



Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Mersea	9.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass preceded by Carols at 08.30 am
Mile End	9.15 am	Christmas Day Mass preceded by Carols at 09.00 am

FILIPINO CHRISTMAS SIMBANG GABI MASSES: The last Mass will be at 2pm on Saturday 22nd December and will be held in the Bunting Rooms, Essex Street, Colchester, CO2 7AD.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTMAS CAROLS: will be held at the following venues, all are welcome, just turn up: -on 16th December @ 4pm: Tall Trees Care Home, Colchester CO4 5XL & 18th December @ 3.30pm: Woodland View Care Home, Colchester CO4 5JR

MESSAGE FROM SVP: If you know of someone who is lonely, housebound or simply in need of a friend, please contact us, using the details below. If you would like to join us the details of our next meeting are at the back of the church, along with a collection box.

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427
or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** cb.hall@btinternet.com
or Tel: 07758 805263 [**answerphone only** – please leave a message]

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday 20th December 2018: Team 4.