

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]

Saturday December 16 th	6:15 pm	Miriam Murray RIP
Sunday December 17 th	8:00 am	Geoffrey & Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Ronald Jay RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Eileen Angland RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Maureen Sheeran RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP
Tuesday 19 th	Feria	
Church	9:30 am	Giuseppe Cangemini RIP
Church	6:30 pm	Polish Mass
Church	8:00 pm	Filipino Mass
Wednesday 20 th	Feria	
Church	11:00 am	St Thomas More School Carol Service
Church	12:15 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Thursday 21 st	Feria	
Church	9:30 am	Margaret Wheeler RIP
Church	4:30 pm	Reception of Coffin
Friday 22 nd	Feria	
Church	11:30 am	REQUIEM – Canon Anthony McKentey RIP
Church	8:00 pm	Filipino Mass
Saturday 23 rd	Feria	
Church	9:30 am	Deirdre Kehoe RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

Saturday December 23 rd	6:15 pm	Olive Crawford RIP
Sunday December 24 th	8:00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	10:30 am	Tony Wright RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Derrick Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Intentions: Hawken Family

NATIVITY OF THE LORD Solemnity

Church	6:00 pm	Mary and Joe McGinley RIP
Monkwick	8:00 pm	Celestine Tighe RIP
Church	Midnight	Canon Anthony McKentey RIP

Continued

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

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The principal theme of this Sunday is joy, emphasised by it being called Gaudete Sunday in which, 'Gaudete' is the command to rejoice. The reason for rejoicing is of course the coming of Christ, past, present and future. Jesus is the Light of the world and just as the dawn of each new day brings joy, so too does the coming of Christ There is also the continuing theme of witness, which runs throughout Advent. St. John the Baptist is again presented as a witness, an example of devotion and humility. The comment about sandals is noteworthy; the Rabbis had a saying which stated that a disciple might do for his master anything a servant would do, except for untying his sandals as that was considered something only a servant/slave should do. In effect, therefore, St. John is saying he is not fit even to be a slave. An ancient name for Baptism is Illumination, the newly baptised were illuminated, and so too have we been. Light is a common theme of the celebrations around us at this time of the year, but a light which disappears leaving the relative darkness and emptiness of January. We are to be joyful witnesses to the light, rather like the moon shines by reflecting the light of the sun, not just now but throughout the year.

Fr. Chris

Mass Schedule continued:-

CHRISTMAS DAY – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION Solemnity

Monday December 25th	8:00 am	Chrysopoulos Family
	10:30 am	Intentions: Caldeira Family
	6:30 pm	NO MASS
<i>West Mersea</i>	9:00 am	Maureen Keene-Millar RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Maureen Sheeran RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	NO MASS

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:30am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:50am
FILMS FOR FAITH: Details to follow

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, John Ashdown-Hill, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Vicky Culham, Cosette Devaux, John Disley, Teresa Emoli, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Roger Kemp, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Bernadette McLean, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Elizabeth Pace, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Christine Staines, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Alice White, Patricia Wiltshire.

IT WAS SAD TO HEAR of Canon Tony's death, which occurred late last Saturday evening, may he rest in peace. We have been asked to host his funeral, which we do gladly. Arrangements are as follows – reception of the coffin, Thursday Dec.21st, 4.30 pm in Priory St, Canon Brian O'Shea will lead the service; the church will remain open into the evening to about 7pm; funeral Mass on Friday Dec.22nd at 11.30am, Bishop Alan presiding; reception will follow in the Cardinal Bourne Hall; the family have asked that only family, close friends and clergy attend the cremation. On Friday the parish car-park will be reserved for specified visitors taking a crucial part in the Mass, eg the Bishop. Parking elsewhere will likely be crowded, the last Friday before Christmas.

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism **Imani Waruingi**. God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

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, 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.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass to be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent children, young and old, are asked to save their change and wrap as presents to 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.

FILIPINO CHRISTMAS SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on December, 19th and 22nd December in Priory Street at 8pm.

RECENTLY DECEASED: The funeral of Jean Taylor has been arranged on 11th January 2018 at 11am here at Priory Street.

THANK YOU: The Christmas Fayre raised £1424.47 for parish funds and the collection for flowers at Priory Street and Mile End raised £281.04. Thank you for your generosity.

CHALICES AT PRIORY STREET; Thanks for the response. Several people have offered to pay for chalices. No comments have been received about the design. I hope to order the chalices shortly. People can still donate

YOUTH 2000: "Chosen" is a four-day retreat for young people and young adults (16-35) run by Youth 2000 at St Bonaventure's school, Forest Gate. This takes place over the New Year bank holiday weekend - 29th Dec to 1st Jan. Dynamic talks, creative workshops, friendship, adoration and worship, reconciliation and healing. Visit: www.youth2000.org

LECTIO DIVINA: *Open your heart to the word of the Lord in Advent.* Saturdays in Advent at 5pm in the Crypt. Further info – Valerie Q: 07941 903227.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: THURSDAY 21st – Team 4.