

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [B]**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 - Parish Mass Book Page 127

Recently I was shown the first edition of an underground magazine from the 1970s, published and circulated at great risk to the young people involved. Some of those involved now belong to our parish. I touched the original pages of this magazine with the utmost respect. People had been ready to die for these words. They wanted freedom of expression to bring truth and justice to Poland under the oppression of the Soviet Union. Those brave souls wanted rational debate such as Karol Wojtyla gave them.

We are still digesting the horrible scenes in France where people have died because of what they wrote and sketched. There was something heart-warming about so many people gathered last weekend in Paris to protest against the violence, with politicians linking arms in solidarity with the victims. Defiance against attempts at censorship imposed by brutal means: we can agree with that. Freedom of expression, however, is only a means to the end of justice and truth. To defend the right to blaspheme a religion in the most crude and bestial manner is the wrong cause. "Je ne suis pas Charlie", I am not Charlie, because the magazine is not a responsible criticism of Islam or religion in general. In fact it has made rational analysis more difficult.

Remember the academic paper Benedict XVI gave to his old university of Regensburg in 2006? He quoted the words of a Byzantine emperor in 1391, sparking violence against Christians across the world. (Who gathered then in defence of the pope's freedom of speech?) The emperor condemned Mohammed for the use of the sword in spreading his faith. He went on to say: "Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul. "God", he says, "is not pleased by blood - and not acting reasonably is contrary to God's nature."

Continued overleaf...

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [B]

Saturday January 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Douglas & David Finch RIP
Sunday January 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Margaret & Dermott Moriarty RIP
	10:30 am	Ints: Sykes Family
	4:00 pm	<b>POLISH MASS</b>
	6:30 pm	Frank Maguire
West Mersea	8:30 am	Ints: Teresa Thomas
Mile End	9:15 am	Alfredo Sagnella & Family
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Feria</b>	
	Church 7:30 am	Canon John Bloomfield RIP
	Church 9:15 am	D/Rels: Hayes Family
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Feria</b>	
	Church 9:15 am	John & Julie O'Connor RIP
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>St Agnes, V, M</b>	
	Church 7:30 am	Tony O'Neill RIP
West Mersea	9:30 am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE</b>
	Church 12:15 pm	Theo Tinneveld RIP
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Feria</b>	
	Church 9:15 am	Holy Souls RIP
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Feria</b>	
	Church 9:15 am	Stephen Hilton RIP
	Church 6:30 pm	Patricia Grace Whitney RIP
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St Francis de Sales, Bp, D</b>	
	Church 9:15 am	Ints: Mr & Mrs Mathew

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [B]

Saturday January 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Ints: Roger & Anne Kemp
Sunday January 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Ints: Fr Tom Coffey
	10:30 am	Ints: Joe & Ray Canty
	2:00 pm	<b>POLISH MASS</b>
	4:00 pm	<b>FILIPINO MASS</b>
	6:30 pm	Ints: Ken Lambert
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Leo Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE** At least six months notice is required

**SCHOOLS** St Thomas More Head: Bridget Harris [865722]

St Benedict's Head: Mrs J Santinelli [549222]

Cardinal Bourne Hall [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com)

Faith is born of the soul, not the body. Whoever would lead someone to faith needs the ability to speak well and to reason properly, without violence and threats... To convince a reasonable soul, one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening a person with death." Read the whole lecture on the Vatican website.

Muslim teaching is that God transcends even reason. The Prologue to Saint John's Gospel is our reply: "In the beginning was the Word (Logos)". Logos means reason capable of expressing itself. The young people in 1970s Poland knew that the forces of unreason would fail. They will fail again today, whether secular or religious. Reason, the Word, has taken flesh and dwells among us. He brings harmony, peace and true freedom. May we be witnesses to Him, expressing it in what we say and do!

Fr Neil Brett

*In response to the Holy Father's call for reflection, please find enclosed a contribution from the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy in this country to the Ordinary Synod of the Family to be held later this year. It brings clarity and charity to a debate in danger of descending into fudge and false sentiment.*

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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 10am
Crypt		
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:	Saturdays 9:45am – 10:30am and	5:30pm – 6pm

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK (new entries are in bold type):** Please remember in your prayers; Pat Banks, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Karl Collins, Olive Crawford, **Paul Crocker**, Lynne-Michelle Denton, Nancy Drummond, Fr Paul Dynan, Charlie George, Bill Graves, Bert Hewitt, Norah Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Theresa Hogan, Ronald Jay, Mary Jose, Pat Keene, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, 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 Vincent Galea. Mr Galea's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm St Cedd & St Gregory, Mersea. May he rest in peace.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS:** Last week's collection raised £502.43 for the work of SPUC. Thank you.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTISED?** The next Baptism course will

be Friday February 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 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]

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion in 2015, the initial parent's meetings continue this Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7:30pm in the Crypt. This is for children presently in Year 3 and upwards and who belong to this parish. Packs will be available for parents this week including a full timetable.

**PRIORY ST THEATRE GROUP:** Present their annual pantomime "Happily Ever After" in the Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.30 pm, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Matinee 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00. Concession £2.50. For further information please call Lesley 01206 512310.

**PRIEST, PROPHET, KING:** Have you missed the first session? Don't worry, contact the office to arrange a catch-up and collect a study guide. We are meeting this week on Friday at 7:30 pm in the crypt.

**100 CLUB:** 2015 subscriptions are now due (£12 an entry). There will be an opportunity to renew or join after Mass at Priory St this Sunday.

**FILIPINO MASS:** The next Filipino Mass will be Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm Priory St.

**FRIENDS OF PERU BEETLE DRIVE:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. 7pm for 7:30pm start until 10pm. Adults £3.50, children £2.50. Includes a non-alcoholic fruit punch or soft drink, hot dog and mince pie. Come and enjoy this fun and easy game to play, loved by children. Prizes to be won and raffle. Contact Nora 503410 or in hall after 10:30am Mass on Sunday.

**CHURCH FOOTBALL TEAM:** The Church Football Team management and coaches would like to apologise to anyone who went along Saturday last to support us in our championship game against Frinton. All the games were cancelled due to waterlogged pitches and we had no opportunity to let people know in time. The match has been rearranged for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January at Shrub End playing fields 10am kick off. If we win it will be the first time our church has won the league. Your support is very welcome.

**SCRIPTURE GROUP:** Continues this Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. 10am – 12 noon in the crypt (please note the new morning time). The Group will continue its study of the first five books of the Bible - Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, which introduces us to the foundation of our own Christian Faith.

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

**POOL TABLE REQUIRED:** Fr Paul McCourt – new Chaplain at the Colchester Garrison is asking if anyone has a spare pool table they would like to donate. T: 07770 824 381.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** United service will be held this Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm United Reformed Church, Lion Walk. Everyone welcome. See poster in church.

