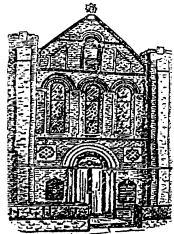


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

With

MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Fr Anthony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

December 18th 2011

My dear friends

We now come to the final Sunday of Advent and the final days before Christmas. The Church observes the 17th - 24th December as a special time of waiting for the birth of Christ, each day we hear about the immediate events leading to his birth. The most moving of these passages is our Gospel today of the Annunciation. The whole Church celebrates Mary's "Yes" to become the mother of the Saviour. In the second Advent Preface that we now use we hear the words; "...the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling".

The priests look forward to celebrating the feast of Christmas with you all. Whether you are here in the parish or elsewhere we hope you have a joyful celebration of the great feast. Within the Newsletter are the times of Christmas Masses and also the opportunity for confession next Friday and Saturday.

This weekend the First Communion programme begins and we formally accept the children in the Mass of Inscription at 10:30am today.

May God bless you all,

Fr Tony McKentey

DAILY Morning Prayer 8.15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8.35am (Wed 11:15am]
PRAYER GROUP Mondays @ 8pm in the Crypt
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays @ 8pm in the Crypt

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Please see Mass Schedule and below for all Masses/extra Confessions

SICK: Please remember in your prayers June Bickersteth, Joan Boyden, Frank Campbell, Nancy Drummond, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Bridie Murphy, Paula Nash, Leah Patterson, Sabina Rhatigan, Hector Silva, Tony White, Tim Young.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The Offertory Collection at all the Christmas Masses is, by tradition, the parishioners' personal gift to the Clergy. In this parish, Fr Tony and Fr Neil are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS IN PRIORY ST; Today at Priory Street there will be a second collection after all Masses.

BAPTISMS TODAY: Niamh McLellan and Deron Morilla. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

POLISH CONFESSIONS TODAY: At 3:15pm before the Mass at 4pm. **Also Polish Midnight Mass at Monkwick on Christmas Eve, preceded by Carols at 11:45pm.**

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patrick McHugh who has recently died. May he rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Two Priests will be available for Confession next Saturday, 24th December, from 9:45am to 11am. Priests will also be available on Friday, 23rd December after morning Mass from 9:45 - 11am and after evening Mass at 7:15pm.

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE PARISH

At Priory Street

24TH December 6pm Vigil Mass for Families and at Midnight, preceded by Carols at 11:30pm.

25th December 8am and 10:30am.

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

St Theodore's Prince Philip Road, MONKWICK:

24TH December 8pm Vigil Mass, preceded by Carols at 7:30pm

There is no 10:15am Mass on Christmas Day

St Cedd & St Gregory, Barfield Road, WEST MERSEA:

25TH December 9am, preceded by Carols at 8:30am

St Joseph's, Mill Road, MILE END:

25th December 9:15am Mass preceded by Carols at 9am.

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. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! Thank you.

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.

MASS AND LUNCH FOR THOSE CONSIDERING PRIESTLY VOCATION: Thursday 29th December, St Basil the Great, Luncies Road, Basildon SS14 1SD (C2C Pitsea station about a ten minute walk; for those driving the A13 and A127 pass close by). Lunch is then on offer for those considering Priestly vocation, where they will be joined by our current Diocesan seminarians – if you would like to come please email the Vocations Director, Fr Dominic Howarth, frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

PARISH FOOTBALL TEAM: Danny Ferdinand reporting – “our poor form continued against Nostalgia on December 3rd. We lost 2-1 - Danny Bolger scoring our goal. However, we gained our first points of the season last Saturday with a 2-1 victory against St. Michaels! We went behind but hotshot Andrew Springford equalised and new recruit David Ganley got the winner. Next match January 7th!!”

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT [WRAP]: Volunteers are needed again this winter to be available when the Night Shelter is full. A minimum of 2 volunteers will be sleeping alongside a maximum of 6 homeless people in the Cardinal Bourne Hall for 1 night. From 18-25 January and 1-8 February 2012. Call Pernille Petersen on 549885 for full details.

CONFIRMATION 2012: The Bishop will be visiting the parish on the **31st October 2012** and there will be the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass on that day. The preparation programme will run from **January 2012 to October 2012** Information packs are available at the back of church from Sunday 10th December 2011. Co-ordinators: Andrew and Elspeth, Tel: 861360. [The minimum age for Confirmation is 14years].

CHURCH CLEANING: Thursday 22ND December – Team 2.

MOVING?: Please let the Parish office know – inside our outside the parish.
Newly arrived? Please complete a registration form [in the porch on the left hand side table].

For inclusions to the Parish website: admin@stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]

December 18th 2011 [Expectant Mothers]

Saturday December 17th	6:15 pm	Ints: Samantha Hume and Family
Sunday December 18th	8:00 am	Geoffrey and Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Dorothy Burke RIP
	4:00 pm	POLISH MASS [Confessions 3:15pm]
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
<i>Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Intentions: E Galea
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Derrick Foley RIP
<i>Mile End</i>	5:00 pm	FILIPINO MASS
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15 am	Ted Wilding RIP & Maria Lumsden RIP
Monday 19th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	7:30 am Liza RIP
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Susan and Joseph Savage RIP
Tuesday 20th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Intentions: Tony White
Wednesday 21st	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	12 :15 pm Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Thursday 22nd	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9.15 am Fr Dick Ashton RIP
Friday 23rd	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Canon Thomas Clarke RIP
Gen. Hospital	<i>Chapel</i>	12:00 pm St Thecla RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm Fr Richard Ashton RIP
Saturday 24th	<i>Feria</i>	
	<i>Church</i>	9:15 am Peter Tierney RIP

LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

December 25th 2011

Saturday December 24th	6:00 pm	Thomas Kelly RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	8:00 pm	Celestine Tighe RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	MIDNIGHT	POLISH MASS
<i>Church</i>	MIDNIGHT	Cecily Sim RIP
Sunday December 25th	8:00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	10:30am	Agnes Chee RIP
[NO EVENING MASS TODAY]	1:00pm	POLISH MASS
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Greta & Frederick Knight RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION *Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm*
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter*
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE *At least six months notice is required*
SCHOOLS *St Thomas More* Head: Bridget Harris [865722]
St Benedict's Acting: Head: Peter Johnson [549222]

www.marriagecare.org.uk or 0800 389 3801.

www.brentwoodvocations.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092