

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Expectant Mothers

Week Commencing 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of the Word of God in the flesh, a quiet coming in humility at Bethlehem. Advent is also a time to consider the second coming which will be in glory and power at the end of time. As we read these words we might be tempted to think that somehow Jesus left us, perhaps at the Ascension, and is no longer with us. He is of course Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us, and has never left. He speaks to us when the scriptures are read at Mass and comes to us in Communion. He is present in the tabernacle, not just here but in every Catholic church throughout the world. Present yet somewhat hidden; the second coming will be a full revelation of the Risen Lord. While we are waiting, we can spend time with Jesus when we visit the church and recognise his presence in the tabernacle.

Fr.Chris

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Expectant Mothers

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Harry Josephs + Mary Josephine Josephs
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Ints: Mary Barge
<i>Going Forth Mass</i>	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Monica + Adrian Galvin + Family
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.30 pm	Exposition; 6.00pm Evening Prayer +Benediction
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Paul Richard B Brusola
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	David Eamonn
	<i>Church</i>	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon Thomas Clarke
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Advent (Rorate) Mass
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mr. Stephen Gordon Lenik RIP
	<i>Church</i>	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Eugene Horgan RIP
			<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Celestine Tighe RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6.00 pm	Margaret (Tess) Geary RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12.00 am	Kay Nock RIP
	<i>Monkwick</i>	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass (Vigil)
			<b>CHRISTMAS DAY (A)</b>
			<b>HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Una Nagle + Family
	<i>Church</i>	12.15 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention



- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like** & **follow** our page

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>
<b>ADORATION &amp; PRAYER</b>	Thursdays	<b>at 7.30 pm</b>

**Prayer For Peace In Ukraine** Give comfort to those who suffer because of the violence. Give comfort to those who mourn their dead, and strength to neighbouring countries to welcome the refugees. Convert the hearts of those who resort to arms and protect those who work to promote peace.



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations.*** We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25) ***Taking courage from love.*** The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said “Yes!” We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph, we can take courage from our love for each other and God’s love for us too.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Ron Griffin, Mike Taylor, Darline + Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We continue to pray for all persons who are ill or are in need and for those who have recently died.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN RE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS:** Calling all children who took their first holy communion in June. Every year the first holy communion group perform the nativity at the 6pm children's Mass on Christmas eve. So far, I have 3 children. I really need some more. It would be lovely to have as many as we can. Please email me as soon as you can, as we need to have a rehearsal on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (after the going forth mass) to get ready for the mass. Email me on [stressedclaire45@gmail.com](mailto:stressedclaire45@gmail.com). Thank you.

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

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE:** On the last Sunday of Advent, please collect a red christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas, the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree. Just as your **tree** lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:** Our gratitude to the members of the Christian Meditation Group for their kind donation of £135.00 towards Church funds, this is very much appreciated. Thank you.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2023:** available at £2.95 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

**REPOSITORY:** Christmas Cards, Diaries & Calendars are now available for sale in the Church Porch. All monies to go in Repository Box.

**Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Monkwick 5.00 pm Vigil Mass  
 Priory Street 6.00 pm Vigil Mass (families)  
 Priory Street 12.00 am Midnight Mass  
 Monkwick 12.00 am Polish Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Priory Street 8.00 am Christmas Dawn Mass  
 Priory Street 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass  
 Priory Street 12.15 pm Polish Christmas Day Mass  
 Mersea 8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass  
 Mile End 9.30 am Christmas Day Mass

**St Stephens Day, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Priory Street 10.00 am Mass  
 Priory Street 2.00 pm Polish Mass

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS CHRISTMAS DAY.** Volunteer Ministers are needed to assist on Christmas Eve at the 6pm Family Mass and at Midnight Mass. One minister required for each Mass. Please add your name to the notice in Church porch. On Christmas Day, the published Rota will stand but if you are unable to minister please arrange a swop with someone else. Thank you

**(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** 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. A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass, which will be added to the Crib Collection. Thank you.

**ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2023/2024]:** (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/23). The signing of the “**Certificate of Catholic Practice**” forms will take place in the Church Crypt on **Thursday 12/01/23 at 4.30pm-5.30pm**. There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis.

**CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:** In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2<sup>nd</sup>] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

**VACANCY FOR PART-TIME NURSE:** The Trustees of the Charity of The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre ([www.canonesses.co.uk](http://www.canonesses.co.uk)) are looking for a part-time Nurse who will work either a full day every Tuesday or on Tuesday mornings only. The post will be based at Howe Close in Colchester and their role will be to offer health advice and support to a community of 11 older Religious Sisters. For more info and to request an application form email [crssuk@canonesses.co.uk](mailto:crssuk@canonesses.co.uk). The closing date is 20<sup>th</sup> December.

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

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 19/12/22: **Team 3** / Monday 26/12/22: **Team 4**  
**CBH COFFEE MORNING:** 18/12/22: **The O'Sullivans** / 25/12/22: **No Coffee Morning**