

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Sunday 19th		'Laetare' Sunday	
	Monkwick	5.00 pm	George Farrell RIP
	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Thanksgiving (JJ)
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention (AC)
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention (m)
Monday 20th		ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
	Church	9.30 am	Patrick Joseph R. Cunningham RIP
Tuesday 21st		Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	6.30 pm	POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Wednesday 22nd		Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 23rd		Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Patricia Pearce RIP
Friday 24th		Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Ken Oultram
	Church	12.30 pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
	Church	10.00 pm	PRAYER VIGIL (10pm to Midnight)
Saturday 25th		THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs. Margaret Barker RIP
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)			
Sunday 26th			
	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Mary McGilloway RIP
	Church	8.00 am	Peter Dean RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8.30 am	John Smith RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention (m)

- ❖ 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. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).
- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com



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

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



St James the Less & St Helen

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Assistant Priest:

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Fr. Paschal Uche

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

'Laetare' Sunday

Week Commencing 19th March 2023

Today's second reading ends with the words, 'Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' We might be tempted to imitate the attitude of the Pharisees in the Gospel and say, 'We're not dead, surely?'. It is good to ask what St. Paul means by those words... The man in the Gospel was born blind, both physically and spiritually; his encounter with Jesus resulted in his coming to see in both senses. We were born spiritually dead, something which we may tend to overlook or even try to deny, but we were not in a state of grace at birth. Baptism truly is a coming to birth spiritually, a new creation. Like physical life, our spiritual life needs nourishment, which is essentially to remain in God's grace, his living presence within us, through prayer, Christian living and particularly the Sacraments with the Eucharist our principal food. It is possible to spiritually die through neglect or by choosing to commit a mortal sin (choosing not to go to Mass is both). Please God we can all say, with a good degree of confidence, that we're not dead. Lent is a favourable time to reflect on our spiritual state.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: *For Victims Of Abuse*

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1, 6-9,13-17, 34-38) ***Stop and see, be aware.*** God was aware of David's adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah's wife, and how he arranged Uriah's murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business 'cover ups' in today's world, it's important to 'stop and see' – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don't be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, 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.

MOTHERS DAY BLESSING: Lord God we pray for all mothers/guardians/carergivers everywhere. May those with children feel appreciated. May those grieving empty arms be comforted. May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life be held in the loving grace of God. Amen.

PARISH MEETING: A meeting will take place next Sunday **26th March at 2.30pm** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. This meeting is in reference to the Bishops Pastoral Letter (*please click on link to read*) https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pastoral-Letter-for-6th-Sunday-of-Ordinary-Time-11-12-February-2023_.pdf **All are invited** to attend so we can discuss as a Parish how we can work together in partnership in *Shaping our Future*.


LENT DAY OF MERCY: On **Friday 31st March 2023**, the Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am; Stations of the Cross at 12.30pm & 7.30pm; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession all Day; Benediction at 8.45pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

NEXT 2ND COLLECTIONS: the annual collection for the SVP on Maundy Thursday (6th April), and on Good Friday (7th April) there will be a collection for the upkeep of the places in the Holy Land, Thank you.

MISSIO MAGAZINES FOR SPRING 2023 are available free in the church porch, please take a copy. If you have a full Red Missio Box please drop this into the Presbytery. Emptied Red Boxes can be collected from the Presbytery.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual '**Relay 100**' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

HOLY WEEK: Please see poster in church porch or on our facebook page.

SVP:  **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. This is an opportunity to relax and catch up with others from the local community. Why not Pop in and enjoy a warm space with a cuppa. We are always pleased to see a new face and offer a warm welcome to newcomers!

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite you to join them for a talk by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani (Bishop of Chelmsford) entitled '*Listening to God*' – an in-person event being held at New Hall School on **Tuesday 21 March at 6.30 – 7.30pm**. All welcome. Refreshments from 6pm. For details and to reserve your place please go to: <https://canonesses.co.uk/event/do-you-hear-what-i-hear-listening-to-god/>. Alternatively, you can call 07762-965947 to reserve a place.

THE PRIESTS' CHARITY CONCERT: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society are delighted to announce that the Northern Irish classical singing trio '**The Priests**' have agreed to hold a second charity concert for us on **Friday 30th June 2023** at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. All tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite and are £30 per person plus booking fee: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/528414691567> We expect this to be a sell-out event. Full details are available on our website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/

GIDEA PARK TALK ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST: On **Wednesday 22nd March at 7pm** in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled *Do this in memory of me*, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be followed live stream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

CARITAS Diocese of Brentwood is inviting people from the night of **March 31st 2023 (9pm)** to the morning of April 1st (8:30am), to join this year's **Sponsored Sleepout** in one of our four locations; **Lexden**, Forest Gate, Hornchurch, and Southend. The Sleepout will assist in raising awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All info can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout.

LENT MASS READINGS: All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on: www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESE SCHOOL/ADMIN VACANCIES: details are available from <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

CTS BOOKLETS: There are a good selection of booklets available for sale not loan in the church porch, please leave monies in the CTS box. Thank you.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: Both Caritas and CAFOD (*In partnership with DEC*) are fundraising to support those who have been affected by the devastating earthquakes. To donate to the appeal, please use this link to support your chosen charity <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes/>

UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY WINTER APPEAL: To donate funds **Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund Account Number: 20927317. Sort Code: 20-92-60** Or by cheques made payable to **Ukrainian Catholic Church** referencing *Winter Appeal* in both cases. The address for cheques is Ukrainian Catholic Church in Great Britain, 22 Binney Street, London, W1K 5BQ

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 20/03/23: **Team 4** / Thursday 30/03/23: **Team 1**
CBH COFFEE MORNING: 19/03/23: **Diane & Adrian** / 26/03/23: **The O'Sullivans**