

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Canon Anthony McKentey

Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ

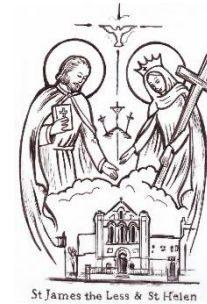
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

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My dear friends,

On the Fourth Advent Sunday it is the example of the Virgin Mary that leads us into the great feast of our Lord's Birth. The Advent liturgy speaks of how the Virgin Mother bore Christ in her womb with love beyond all telling. Today we hear the most joyful of Gospels of her visitation to Elizabeth, who says on behalf of all God's people: "blessed art thou among women". May Our Lady guide us through these final days of Advent.

Last Friday I went to see my doctor about the recurring problem of chest pain. I was admitted to Basildon Hospital for a procedure to unblock an artery in my heart. I am very grateful to God, our merciful Father, and medical science for helping me through this problem. I am under doctor's orders to rest for a few weeks. Thank you for all your prayers and support and understanding. I am especially grateful to the staff and children of St Thomas More's school for the cards and messages they prepared for my arrival home last Monday night. I am grateful, too, to my priest colleagues for holding the fort and taking on extra duties for a while.

Whether you are here in the Parish or away this Christmas may it be a time of great peace and joy for you and your loved ones.

Fr Tony, Fr Alex, Fr Philp and Fr Michal

JESUS IS THE FACE OF THE FATHER'S MERCY

Misericordiae Vultus

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday December 19 th	6:15 pm	Intentions: Florence and Emily
Sunday December 20 th	8:00 am	Geoffrey and Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Intentions: Sykes Family
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Maura Tredgett RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	D/Rels: Healy & Barr Families RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners
Monday 21 st	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Stephen Hilton RIP
Mersea	10:30 am	REQUIEM: OLIVE NEWLAND RIP
Tuesday 22 nd	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Joe McEnavoy
Wednesday 23 rd	Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Tina Barker RIP
Church	12:15 pm	Des Fuller RIP
Church	2:00 pm	REQUIEM: CELESTINE HUGHES RIP
Church	8:00 pm	Filipino Mass
Thursday 24 th	[Morning] Feria	
Church	9:15 am	Cecily Sim RIP & Agnes Chee RIP
	[Evening] THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST THE LORD	
Church	6:00 pm	Sr Mary Therese RIP
Church	Midnight	Parishioners
M'wick	8:00 pm	Intentions: Hawken Family
M'wick	Midnight	Polish Mass
Friday 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY [Holyday of Obligation]	
Church	8:00 am	Intentions: Chrysopoulos Family
Church	10:30 am	Parishioners
Church	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
Mersea	9:00 am	Holy Souls RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Greta and Frederick Knight RIP
Saturday 26 th	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr	
N.B. Church	10:00 am	Canon Thomas Clarke RIP
Church	11:30 am	Filipino Mass & 2pm Polish Mass
Mile End	6:00 pm	Kerala Mass
	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH [C]	
Saturday December 26 th	6:15 pm	Elaine Proudfoot RIP
Sunday December 27 th	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	10:30 am	Timothy & Jimmy Meaney RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Parishoners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Bridget Smith RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Leo Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Czeslaw Wrobel RIP

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy followed by Rosary
3pm DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy
8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays – Crypt 8pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Brian Bagioni, June Bickersteth, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Athene Jones, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Joanne Leon, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Mercus, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White, Dorcy Young.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK: The funeral of Olive Newland will take place at St Cedd's on 21st December at 10:30am. The funeral of Celestine Hughes will take place at Priory Street on the 23rd December at 2pm.

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the church family through the Sacrament of Baptism **Erin Scarlett Freeman**. . God bless this child and congratulations to her family.
Have you collected your child's Baptism Certificate yet? Please collect your child's Baptism Certificate when you come to Mass, or contact the Parish Office on a **Tuesday between 10am and 2pm** to arrange to pick it up.

ADVENT EVENTS AT BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL. Thursday, 24th December 11pm, Live broadcast of Midnight Mass for BBC Radio 4.

"SIMBANG GABI" Filipino Mass here at 8 pm on December 23rd. For more information, please contact Fr Alex or Mr Jimmy Clarin.

POLISH ADVENT PREPARATION: Mass in honour of Our Lady on Tuesday, 22nd December at 6:30pm.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Mgr John Armitage returns to the Diocese to share his adventurous story of the years when he first discerned a call to Priesthood. You are invited to ask him questions and then enjoy a free fish and chips supper. Hosted by Brentwood Vocations, they invite all women and men aged 17-45, especially discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life to this "*In conversation with*" event on Monday, 21st December, 7:30pm at the Parish Hall of St Edward the Confessor, Romford, RM14AT. For more details eamonn@brentwoodvocations.org

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 Alex are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income. Thank you.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December

Priory Street 18:00 Vigil Mass especially for families

Monkwick 20:00 Vigil Mass preceded by
Carols at 19:30

Priory Street 24:00 Midnight Mass preceded by
Carols at 23:30

Christmas Day, Friday 25th December

Priory Street 08:00 Christmas Dawn Mass

10:30 Christmas Day Mass

Mersea 09:00 Christmas Dawn Mass preceded

by Carols at 08:30

Mile End 09:15 Christmas Day Mass preceded

by Carols at 09:00



For all other Masses, please see Schedule overleaf

MERSEA AT CHRISTMAS: Fr Dermot Tredgett who is staying in Mersea at Christmas, will be celebrating the morning Mass there and also on Holy Family Sunday, December 27th.

NO ROOM AT THE INN?: There are now 7,500 refugees in Calais, living in very basic and squalid conditions. They are being helped only by volunteer goodwill, and in January a group from Our Lady and All Saints Parish, Basildon, will be taking insulation for the wood and tarpaulin shelters which are gradually being built. For more information, go to www.basildoncatholics.org If you would like to donate, the details are in the December report. Please pray for all those sleeping far from home this Christmas.

FILMS FOR FAITH: Will be back in January.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A MONTH TO CLEAN YOUR CHURCH: Reliable and committed volunteers URGENTLY REQUIRED to help with cleaning the Church. Please contact Helena on 01206 794636 [mornings before mid-day].

CLEANERS' ROTA: Wednesday December 23rd – Team 3.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL: To book: 07758 805263; cb.hall@btinternet.com