

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

Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

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Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Week Commencing 23rd February 2025

Jesus commands us to love our enemies. Loving our enemies is one of the hardest commands Jesus gives us. When someone wrongs us, our natural reaction is to feel angry, to hold a grudge, or to seek justice. But Jesus calls us to something greater—to love, to bless, and to pray for those who hate us. This is not easy. It feels unfair. How can we love those who hurt us? Yet, Jesus Himself showed us the way. On the cross, He prayed for His enemies, saying, “Father, forgive them.” Love does not mean ignoring pain or pretending wrongs don’t exist. It means choosing mercy over bitterness, peace over resentment. We cannot do this on our own. But when we ask God for grace, He softens our hearts. He helps us see even our enemies as His children, in need of love and forgiveness—just as we are. May He give us strength to love as He loves.

Fr Philip

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Saturday 22nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 23rd	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: D. R.
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	A Months Mind: Luke Brennan RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Manuel

Monday 24th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Michael, Neil + Peter Rush RIP

Tuesday 25th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Paul Richard B Brusola RIP

Wednesday 26th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Joe + Ray Canty + Family

Thursday 27th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	C. T. Joseph RIP

Friday 28th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Tony Bairstow RIP

Saturday 1st March			ST DAVID, Bp
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway RIP

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Day for the Unemployed

Saturday 1st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Maire Knapp RIP
Sunday 2nd	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	David Langdon RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Tinneveld Family

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.
- ❖ Filipino Mass on the 1st Sunday of each month at 4.00pm with coffee in hall afterwards.

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



- **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
- **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/Clergy + Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like** and **follow** our page!

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
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is 'Pilgrims of Hope', and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (1 Sam 26:2-7,9,12-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38) **An unconditional way of life.** Today's Scripture sets out a blueprint for life: love enemies, bless those who curse you, turn the other cheek, give without expecting anything in return, don't judge or condemn. When marrying and promising 'to have and to hold', 'for better for worse', we said yes to this way of life: an unconditional acceptance of one another without counting the cost!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Monica Howley who has recently passed away. The Parish community offers Monica's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Monica's Funeral service will be here at 1.00pm on Thursday 6th March. May she rest in peace. **Amen.**

PALM CROSSES: We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us so that we can make ash for our Ash Wednesday services (5th March). A basket is situated in the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.



ASH WEDNESDAY (5th March): This marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting that has been kept almost since the time of the Apostles. We will have 3 Masses at Priory Street at 9.30am; 12.15pm & 7.30pm with "ashing" (optional). There will also be a 9.00am Mass at Mersea.

ASH WEDNESDAY (POLISH MASS): The Polish Mass will be 6.00pm at Monkwick

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: Will be for CAFOD Lent Fast Day on 16th March and a special collection for Church Easter Flowers (*Mile End + Priory Street*) on 30th March

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT): This will take place every Friday afternoon at 12.30pm commencing on Friday 7th March in Priory Street.

POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT): This will take place every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in Priory Street, commencing on Tuesday 11th March only exception will be on Thursday 27th March at 6.30pm.

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (LENT EDITION): These are available for sale in the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We are sending out emails with details of the First Holy Communion course. If you haven't received these, could you please reply to Claire at stressedclaire45@gmail.com as we may have your wrong email address. Also, we are really short of parent helpers for the course. This is a truly rewarding way to help your children. If you are interested in helping out, please email Claire on the address above. If we don't get enough helpers, we may not be able to go on with the course. It's not difficult and you will be provided with all the materials needed. **The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting on Saturday 1st March at 11.15am in Cardinal Bourne Hall. ALL PARENTS** will be required to attend to complete the registration process for your child.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next film showing is on **Wednesday 5th March** and will continue on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA QUIZ NIGHT: In aid of Beacon House (*Colchester homeless support charity*) and the KSC Charities. There will be a table quiz on the **1st March at 7pm for a 7.30pm start** in Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street. £5 entry per person. Teams of 6-8. Light refreshments will be provided, so please bring food and drink. Raffle prizes and Grand National Draw Tickets will be on sale. Please support this worthy cause. For more information, or to book a space, call George on 07476781885.

THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET: The Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025 is published in a collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion Booklet will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. And a whole lot more - numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. **THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY**

SAVE THE DATE: DAY OF MERCY on **Friday 11th April 2025:** The Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 8.30pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION: The social committee at St Teresa's parish would like to invite you all to join us for our St Patrick's celebration 2025. To be held at St Teresa's school, **Saturday 22nd March 7-10.30pm.** 2-course meal, music, singing, dancing and shenanigans. Adults £15, child £5, family ticket £35. For more information speak to Paula Light 07718088834. Please ask if you require any assistance with regard to travel, costs or anything at all.

CARITAS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. This new role within the Diocese will help develop and strengthen our charitable action and ministry. Working alongside the Director of Caritas, the successful applicant will have excellent digital media, organisation and presentation skills, and a heart for Catholic Social Teaching, helping to share this valuable work in schools and parishes, supporting existing volunteers. £24,000 - £27,000pa depending on experience. Full time, including some evenings and weekends. Closing date 31st March at noon. More information and application details: caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

HOLY WEEK ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO, 13th APRIL 2025. £849.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Live outdoor Passion Play at Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 24/02/25: **Team 3** / Monday 03/03/25: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 23/02/25: Peggy & Anne / 02/03/25: Yolande + 1