

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)			
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Sally KC RIP
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Frances + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Ann Herbert RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Manuel
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Monday of the Third Week of Lent</b>
	Church	9.30 am	Maria Latacz RIP
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b>
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Samuel
	Church	6.30 pm	<b>Polish Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent</b>
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Marisa
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Thursday of the Third Week of Lent</b>
	Church	9.30 am	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary: John Hugh Regan RIP
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Friday of the Third Week of Lent</b>
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Theresa RIP
	Church	12.30 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
	Mile End	7.00 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Saturday of the Third Week of Lent</b>
	Church	9.30 am	C.T. Joseph RIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) 'Laetare' Sunday			
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Anne McCarthy
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Beena De Silva RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Kathleen Payne RIP

- ❖ 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; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.



- **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.

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



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# 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:**

Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

### Week Commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

In this week's second reading St. Paul reminds us of the frequent grumbling of the Israelites in the desert. I think it is true to say that in all their wanderings they never seemed to thank God for liberating them from the Egyptians, they just grumbled about what they had supposedly lost. Their grumbling was based on a false view of their time in Egypt, Thus, they remembered the apparently rich and varied diet they enjoyed (did they really have so much food?) while ignoring the reality of slavery and the killing of the male children. When they reached the promised land their grumbling reached a climax we could say in their refusal to enter it, their attitude seemed to be it was too much trouble. I would suggest that all of us have met a grumbler, someone who just can't seem to have a balanced view of life, balanced in the sense of reasonably accurate. They attend to what they believe is wrong or inconvenient while ignoring the good. Pope Francis warns us often about the dangers of gossiping, I think grumbling isn't far behind.

Fr Chris

## 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>LEGION OF MARY</b>	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 7.30 pm</b>



**2025 Year of Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope:** Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. A Jubilee happens every 25 years and is a special opportunity for coming closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church grants special graces called Plenary Indulgences during the Jubilee Year. These graces can be for your own soul or the Holy Souls in purgatory. **Our Lady of Light Church, Clacton on Sea**, has been designated as a Sacred Place of Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. You can obtain the Plenary Indulgence by visiting the church and participating in the Holy Mass, Rosary, Stations of the Cross or Expositions. You need to say a personal prayer for the Pope. You also need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days of the visit. You can receive one Plenary Indulgence each day. Full details of all services are available at: <https://ourladyoflight.uk/>

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: *For families in crisis.*** Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9) ***What's in a name?*** *Yahweh* means 'I am who I am'. Names bring to mind the person, and what they mean to you. Our God – Three Persons, created me, loves me, redeemed me, makes me holy, and is compassionate, merciful and forgiving. Just as MY Jack, MY Jill has shown me the same love, we have tried to show it to our children.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, J Brian Critchley, 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 Frances Conlon who has recently passed away. The Parish community offers Frances's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Frances's Funeral service will be here at 12.00pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. May she rest in peace. **Amen.**

**NATIONAL COLLECTION: *For the Jubilee 2025.*** After all Masses this weekend a collection will be taken which is dedicated to supporting the Jubilee initiatives and projects at the Catholic Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** A special collection for Church Easter Flowers (*Mile End + Priory Street*) on **30<sup>th</sup> March.**

**PLEASE BE VIGILANT** – we have noticed that cash from the candle and wall boxes is being stolen on a regular basis, if you see any suspicious activity, please advise the clergy or Linda in the office. Thank you.

**DAY OF MERCY** on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



**OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE:** If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week, please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email [olwstatue2024@gmail.com](mailto:olwstatue2024@gmail.com)

**THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET:** This 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. **THE LAST FEW COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY**

**WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP:** The next film showing will be on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Film will start at 12.00pm. (Future screenings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month). All welcome.

**CTS BOOKLETS:** There are a good selection of booklets available for sale in the church porch. Please leave money in the Repository box. Thank you.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025:** Last 3 copies available at £3.20 per copy. Please leave money in the Repository box. Thank you.

**REPOSITORY:** There is a selection of Easter Cards for sale in Church porch.



**LENTEN TALKS 2025** A series of Lenten talks on the power and significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives of faith, entitled, *"Those who believe, don't leave."* Canon John J Harvey (Cathedral Dean). which will take place in the Cathedral

- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Bishop Alan Williams, our own Bishop of the Diocese, a Marist, former Director of the Shrine in Walsingham, and Bishop of the Diocese for over ten years. A Doctor of Psychology, and the Conference of Bishops' delegate on many commissions. Theme: The Eucharist & Our Blessed Lady.
- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Fr Stephen Morrison (O. Praem), Norbertine Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham. After studying French at Oxford entered the Norbertine Order. Latin Scholar and speaks several other languages. Gifted preacher. Theme: "Eucharistic Doctrine of Song: The 'Lauda Sion' of St Thomas Aquinas."

**CALLING ALL KENYANS, TANZANIANS** (*and other Swahili speaking Catholics in Colchester*). The Swahili Mass is coming to St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Colchester on **Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025**. Please join us in the planning - all Swahili Speaking Catholics are invited to join. Please contact Samuel Irungu (07831 006122) for more details.

**THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE** invite applications for the post of Bookkeeper. (*Relevant skills & experience required*). 20hrs per week. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details [www.canonesses.co.uk](http://www.canonesses.co.uk) Closing date: May 9<sup>th</sup>, with interviews on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD:** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> talk in the series '*Proclaim the Word*', entitled '*A richer table of God's word*', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7pm on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** via live stream on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). No need to book for this free event.

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:** Bishop Alan is seeking to appoint a Director of Education to promote and implement his vision for Catholic education within the Diocese. This is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position as the Diocese serves a network of 90 schools, providing for the formation and educational needs of some 40,000 children and young people. The successful candidate will have extensive leadership experience in an education context, a strong grasp of current educational issues (including CMATs' evolving role within the Parish, diocese and local community); excellent leadership and management skills; and a deep knowledge and understanding of Catholic education as structured in this country. Closing date for applications: Monday 7 April at 12 Noon. More info here: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/)

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 24/03/25: **Team 2** / Monday 31/03/25: **Team 3**  
**COFFEE MORNING ROTA:** 23/03/25: African Community / 30/03/25: Diane & Adrian