

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

175 YEARS ~ 1837 - 2012

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

Sunday – 23rd December 2012

On these last days of Advent, we contemplate the example of our Blessed Lady and her preparations for the birth of Jesus. Today we hear the joyful passage from St Luke about her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. We echo the words of Elizabeth: *“Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb”* Luke 1:40.

We your priests, look forward to celebrating the feast of Christmas with you all. Whether you are here in the parish or elsewhere, we hope you have a joyful celebration of the great feast. Within the newsletter are the times of the Christmas Masses.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Fr Tony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

Fr Philip Willenbrock

Prayer before the Crib

“Heavenly Father, as we wonder and hesitate like the Shepherds of Bethlehem, fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in this helpless Babe the revelation of your love, and the radiant vision of your glory. Filled with wonder at the nearness of our God in Mary’s newborn Child, may we now offer Him our praise, worship and thanksgiving, and give Him the love and

loyalty of our hearts.”

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy followed by Rosary	3pm
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
PRAYER GROUP:	See below	
MEDITATION GROUP:	See below	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, June Bickersteth, Grace Blanchette, Frank Campbell, Rosaleen Campbell, Ian Cole, Richard Cox, Stanley Crane, Fr. Ian Dickie, Nancy Drummond, Gianni Emoli, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Maria Mahy, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Paula Nash, Dennis O’Neill, Leah Patterson, Elaine Proudfoot, Sabina Rhatigan, Patricia Roche, Catherine Spicer, Jacqueline Sykes, Filomena Velasquez, Ron Wheeler, Tony White.

BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND: **Erin Mkondani.** God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

NEWLY ARRIVED? If you are new in our Parish, the Parish community welcomes you. Kindly introduce yourself to the Priest after Mass and also complete the Parish registration form, a copy of which is available in the Church lobby.

POLISH MASSES: Midnight Mass at St Theodore’s Monkwick and at 1pm on Christmas Day at Priory St.

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. Thank you.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CHILD BAPTISED? The next Baptism course will be Thursday 31st January and Thursday 7th February in the Crypt from 7:30pm – 9pm. There is no need to make an appointment but both sessions must be attended. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church. [This course is for new-borns up to age 6].

MEDITATION GROUP: The next meeting will be Tuesday 8th January at 8pm.

PRAYER GROUP: The next meeting will be Monday 7th January at 8pm

SCRIPTURE GROUP: The next meeting will be Wednesday 16th January at 6:45pm

SVP: The next meeting will be Wednesday 9th January at 7:00pm

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Thank you from the Flower Team at Priory St for the generous donation of £434.

2nd COLLECTION: BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY: There will be a second collection on the 5th / 6th January for the Children’s Society and a special collection will also be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. 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 the Vigil Mass. **CHRISTMAS CRIB:** Donations made at our Christmas Crib will also go to the Children’s Society. Donations should be placed in the wall safe in the Lady Chapel. These funds support a vital service to children and their families in difficulty in our Diocese. They work in

all parishes, not least our own. Please give generously.

by Carols at 09:00

PARISH HISTORY: 175th Anniversary by Fr Stewart Foster. Priced at £5. There's still time to get this lovely Christmas gift for any budding historian.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS: There's still time - a range of good-quality children's books for sale in the crypt bookcase. Answer your present needs with a visit below.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS: From St John Payne Greenstead - A professional CD recording of 28 Favourite Hymns of Praise. Make a really nice gift for Christmas. price £12 for set of 2 CD's. Tel: Jean Henley 865038/email mjh38@sky.com.

DIARIES FOR 2013: Reduced to £2.50. Available from the repository.

A SPECIAL KIND OF RETREAT FOR THE NEW YEAR: A Foyer de Charité retreat will be held at the Sion Community, Brentwood from Sunday 10th March (6pm) – Saturday 16th March (2pm). Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day. For more information or to book a place, contact Mgr Barltrop: 07879 953 953; St Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London. W2 5DJ. keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMODATION PROJECT: Volunteers are needed to help run our shelter at the Cardinal Bourne Hall for homeless people that the Night shelter doesn't have room for. 23rd – 29th January and 6th – 12th February. Please ring Pernille on 01206 549 885 for more information. Thank you and God Bless.

ST THOMAS MORE FORM SIGNING: The school will be sending out the Priest reference forms in January. Fr Tony will be available to sign the forms on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th January from 4pm – 6pm. Please make contact through the church office to book your appointment time. **Please bring completed forms with you - ready to sign**

TEACHING VACANCY: St Mary's Primary in Tilbury are seeking a new Headteacher to start in April or September 2013. The closing date is 7th January, please contact the school for an application pack, we welcome informal visits, please contact Mrs Alison Bishop at the school to arrange to arrange a visit. Tel: 01375843254 admin@tilburystmarys.thurrock.sch.uk

CHURCH CLEANERS: Thursday 27th December – Team 1.

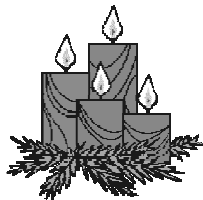
CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Monday 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, Tuesday 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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C] - (Expectant Mothers)

23rd December 2012

Saturday December 22nd 6:15 pm Dennis Slocum RIP
Sunday December 23rd 8:00 am Beatrice and Geoffrey Foley RIP
10:30 am Des Byrne RIP [IJ]
6:30 pm Thomas Kelly RIP
West Mersea 8:30 am Parishioners
Mile End 9:15 am Leo William Foley RIP
Monkwick 10:15 am Nellie Williamson RIP
Monday 24th (Morning) *Feria*

7:30 am Ints: Anna Marchite

9:15 am Cecily Slim RIP

(Evening) **THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST THE LORD**

6:00 pm Ints: Patricia Roche, Derek Harvey RIP

Midnight Parishioners

8:00 pm Ints: Richard Cox

Monkwick
Tuesday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)

8:00 am Des Fuller RIP

10:30 am Special Intention

1:00 pm **POLISH MASS**

8:30 am Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

9:15 am Greta and Frederick Knight RIP

West Mersea
Mile End
Wednesday 26th

ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr

Church 8:00 am Canon John Bloomfield RIP

Church 10:00 am Agnes Chee RIP,

Mrs Chinnama Joseph RIP

Thursday 27th

ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist

Church 7:30 am Private Intention

Church 9:15 am Bridie Murphy RIP

Friday 28th

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm

Church 9:15 am For the sanctity of human life

12:00 pm **HOSPITAL MASS**

Saturday 29th

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M

Church 9:15 am Ken Herbert RIP

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

30th December 2012

Saturday December 29th

6:15 pm Ints: Linzi Ford

Sunday December 30th

8:00 am John Lowe RIP

10:30 am Ints: Brenda

6:30 pm Derek Harvey RIP

West Mersea
Mile End
Monkwick

8:30 am Parishioners

9:15 am Ints: Joseph Ngeh & Family

10:15 am Nellie Williamson RIP

