

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

(Expectant Mothers)

Saturday 22nd

Sunday 23rd

6.15 pm Colin Whittle RIP
8:00 am Dermot & Margaret Moriarty RIP
10:30 am Parishioners
2:00 pm Polish Mass
6:30 pm Anniv: Darren Ledger
8:30 am Eric Brennan
9:15 am Jade Basshier RIP
10:15 am Victoria Conti RIP

West Mersea
 Mile End
 Monkwick

Monday 24th

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Church 9.30 am Holy Souls
Church 6.00 pm Ints: A. Roche
Monkwick 8.00 pm Ints: Hawken Family
Church 12.00 am Private Intention
Monkwick 12.00 am Polish Mass

Tuesday 25th

HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church 8.00 am Ints: Chrysopoulos Family
Church 10.30 am Parishioners
Monkwick 2.00 pm Polish Mass
West Mersea 9.00 am Holy Souls
Mile End 9.15 am Dan Coakley RIP

Wednesday 26th

ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr

Church 10.00 am Des Fuller RIP
Monkwick 2.00 pm Polish Mass

Thursday 27th

ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist

Church 9.30 am Mary & John McGinley RIP

Friday 28th

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Church 9.30 am
Hospital Chapel 12.00 pm Hospital Mass

Saturday 29th

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Church 9.30 am

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday 29th

6.15 pm Olive Crawford RIP

Sunday 30th

8:00 am Charles Taylor RIP
10:30 am Jadwiga Pauk RIP
2:00 pm Polish Mass
6:30 pm John Lowe RIP
8:30 am Parishioners
9:15 am Bridget Satelle RIP
10:15 am Garmen Bonnei RIP

West Mersea
 Mile End
 Monkwick

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK
1 PARISH , 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
 Assistant Priest: Fr. John Victor Drabeesan
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock
 Deacon: Gary Dench

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

WEEK COMMENCING: 23RD DECEMBER 2018 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 90

The Gospel reading today is so familiar that many of us would be able to quote it from memory (or thereabouts), and as a consequence it is easy to skim over it and not reflect deeply on it. One suggestion this year, spend some time thinking about Elizabeth's statement, 'Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'. The Lord has promised much to each of us, beginning with our baptism when we each became a child of God, co-heirs with Christ. How seriously do we take the Lord's promises? Mary had said to the angel, at the Annunciation, 'Let what you have said be done to me'. She believed in what the Lord promised and therefore accepted the consequences. We would do well to imitate her.

Fr Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15am
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	following 8.00am Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00pm-6.00pm
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00pm

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *The welcome sound of the return of our loved one* Today we hear of Mary's time away visiting Elizabeth. This might remind us of times we face spending extended periods on our own. At first it may seem liberating, but loneliness can soon kick in. How loving then our return home is! Maybe the challenge here is ensuring that demonstrating our love and affection is not restricted to such occasions

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Pat Keene, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Vicky Culham, Peter Ledgley, Hilda Morah

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anita Belcher and Jacqueline Flint who have both recently passed away. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. Anita's funeral has taken place. Jacquelines's funeral details to be advised.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The Offertory Collection at all the Christmas Masses is, by tradition, the parishioners' personal gift to the Clergy. In this parish, Fr Chris and Fr John 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 costumes, we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings 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! We are also looking for musicians and narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30 Mass this Sunday. Thank you.

(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass which will be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent all children, young and old, are asked to save their loose change and wrap this as a present which will then be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On this the last Sunday of Advent please collect a card bauble to decorate for the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas.

RETREAT: A Lecto Divina Retreat (*Reflecting on the Divine Word*) is being offered at Dowry House, Walsingham on **22nd to 24th February 2019**. There will be 12-15 places available, if interested in taking part in this retreat. Reservation forms are available in the porch & for further info please contact Pauline on (01206) 768418. Travel to Walsingham will be in cars. There will be a meeting in the Crypt on 5th January at 5.00pm to discuss the retreat and to take bookings.

MILE END NEWS: An additional Festive Coffee Morning with mince pies will be held today **23rd December** after the 9:15am Mass at St Joseph's - at the Dog & Pheasant – All are most welcome

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: will be back in January 2019 – Please see film schedule in porch

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL: NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE today **Sunday 23rd December** at 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral. Main celebrant, Bishop Alan Williams. A service of readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASSES		
Christmas Eve, Monday 24th December		
Priory Street	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass especially for families
Monkwick	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass preceded by Carols at 7.30 pm
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30 pm
Christmas Day, Tuesday 25th December		
Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Mersea	9.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass preceded by Carols at 08.30 am
Mile End	9.15 am	Christmas Day Mass preceded by Carols at 09.00 am



ST STEPHENS DAY: Please note that the morning Mass will be at 10.00am.

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 the Presbytery on (01206) 866317 if you would like to volunteer.

UK POWER NETWORKS & THE PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER: How would you cope if you had no electricity for a short while? In the rare event of a power cut, you can get help from UK Power Networks. This company looks after the electricity network in your parish (no matter who you pay your energy bill to) and also runs a free Priority Services Register for people with medical needs, families with babies and the elderly. Being on the Register gives you free access during a power cut to services including a welcome pack with useful advice about preparing for a power cut, a home visit by our staff or the British Red Cross and a 24-hour priority phone number. To join the Priority Services Register for extra help during a power cut call: 0800 169 9970, email: psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk, visit: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317, we can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the patient so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

MESSAGE FROM SVP: If you know of someone who is lonely, housebound or simply in need of a friend, please contact us, using the details below. If you would like to join us the details of our next meeting are at the back of the church, along with a collection box.

❖ SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society): Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
❖ CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com or Tel: 07758 805263 [answerphone only – please leave a message]

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday 27th December 2018: Team 1.