

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Expectant Mothers

Saturday 23rd Monkwick 5.00 pm Roger Kemp RIP

Sunday 24th Church 8.00 am Peter Ashenden RIP

West Mersea 8.30 am Ints: Nancy Budworth + Ken Ridge

Mile End 9.30 am Parishioners

Church 10.30 am Des Fuller RIP

Church 2.00 pm Polish Mass



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Church 6.30 pm Donors Intentions (RM)

Church 12.00 am Ints: Mrs Jean Ellis 11.30pm Carols; Mass Midnight

Monkwick 12.00 am Polish Mass Midnight

Monday 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY** HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION



Church 8.00 am Esmeralda Jo RIP

West Mersea 8.30 am Parishioners

Mile End 9.30 am Juliana McCann RIP

Church 10.30 am Holy Souls (JRR)

Church 2.00 pm Polish Mass

Tuesday 26th **St Stephen, The First Martyr**

Church 10.00 am Deceased Relatives of Farrell Family

Church 2.00 pm Polish Mass

Church 4.00 pm Filipino Mass

Wednesday 27th **ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist**

Church 9.30 am Jacob Thomas Vathalloor RIP

Thursday 28th **THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm**

Church 9.30 am Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP

Friday 29th **ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M**

Church 9.30 am R. Princess + Children

Saturday 30th **Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas**

Church 9.30 am Ints: M. Bulalague

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B)

Saturday 30th Monkwick 5.00 pm George Farrell RIP

Sunday 31st Church 8.00 am Private Intention

Church 10.30 am Ints: Mr Patrick John Lyons

Church 2.00 pm Polish Mass

Church 6.30 pm Private Intention

West Mersea 8.30 am Parishioners

Mile End 9.30 am Ints: Linda McFadden

- ❖ 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).

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



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & follow** our page

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Expectant Mothers

Week commencing 24th December 2023

It's Christmas

This year, we are celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas back to back, and naturally, the air of Christmas overshadows that of the fourth Sunday. Christmas time is perhaps one of the most joyous times around the world. The reason is obvious—it is the birthday of Jesus, the Saviour of the world, the wonderful counsellor, the Prince of Peace, and the Light of the World. His birth brings special joy to the world.

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us reflect on the significance of the celebration—love, joy, generosity, and unity. Christmas is a beautiful reminder that love knows no boundaries. Therefore, let us share this joy with friends and family and show kindness to those in our neighbourhood. Moreover, let us use this time to pray for peace around the world.

Monsignor and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Fr. Philip

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY *For the gift of diversity in the church:* We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian Community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE. We pray for the people of all worn torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1:26-38) *Listening is a way of loving.* David, Paul and Mary listened to God, changed their plans and way of life. Before marrying we listened intently and consequently felt loved and cherished. Today, with the pressures of everyday living, our listening can be impaired. We need constantly to overcome the temptation to just 'hear' what's said, and work on listening with our hearts, eyes and full attention.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Fr Francis Coveney, Grace McCartney, Margaret Brookes, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: There will be a carol service before Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas eve.

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2nd] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

REPOSITORY: The Repository still has 2024 Diaries and Calendars available for sale in the Church Porch – these would make ideal last minute Christmas presents! All monies to go into Repository Box. Thank you.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: available at £2.95 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

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.

MESSAGE FROM JOSIE (Josie's Kitchen): On behalf of all my people, homeless and those in need. I want to thank Fr Chris and all the parishioners & congregation of St James the Less and St Helen for the wonderful donations received towards their Christmas presents, food, toiletries and warm clothes which will see them through Christmas and part of the winter. I am so overwhelmed and full of gratitude to you all for your great generosity. Merry Christmas & a Happy, healthy 2024 to you and your families, God bless Josie

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B)

Saturday 30th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	George Farrell RIP
Sunday 31st	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Mr Patrick John Lyons
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Linda McFadden

Monday 1st January 2024 **Mary, Mother of God**

Church	10.00 am	Ints: P.G. (BR)
Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass

Tuesday 2nd **SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp. Dd**
Ints: John (SF)

Wednesday 3rd **Feria of Christmastide**
Private Intention (AD)

Thursday 4th **Feria of Christmastide**
Chachy Joseph RIP

Friday 5th **Feria of Christmastide**
Thanksgiving (RJ)

Saturday 6th **Feria of Christmastide**
Anne-Marie Quirke RIP

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD **HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

Saturday 6th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Robert Renford RIP
Sunday 7th	Church	8.00 am	Mike Hanley RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Mrs Mary Sebastian RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention (JS)
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention

Please note that there will be no newsletter next week all Mass times are listed above.

G K CHESTERTON: Watch The Surprise, a wonderful play by Catholic author GK Chesterton this Christmas. Sunday 24th December 3.30pm online www.ewtn.co.uk

HEADTEACHER VACANCY-St Helen's Catholic Primary School required for Sept 2024. Due to the current headteacher taking the decision to retire after 20yrs in the post, an exciting opportunity has arisen for an inspiring and creative leader to join the team at St Helen's Catholic Primary School. Further info & application docs can be found on the following websites: www.st-helens.southend.sch.uk & www.assiscatholictrust.com.

EVC (Empowering Vulnerable Children in Uganda) are a Christian charity providing a future through education for some of the poorest children in the world led by Fr Boniface Kaayabula. If you would like to support their work by donating or sponsoring a child please see the link <https://www.evcuganda.org/>

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: 08/01/24: **Team 3** / Monday 15/01/24: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING: 24/12/23: **No Coffee Morning** / 31/12/23: **Frances** / 07/01/24: **Jennifer & friends**