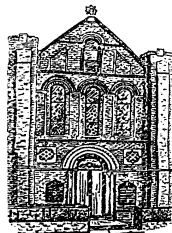


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

With

MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Fr Anthony McKentey

Fr Neil Brett

Fr Philip Willenbrock

51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

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www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th 2011

My dear friends

After our Advent journey of waiting and expectation, we come to celebrate the Birthday of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We come to Bethlehem to give to Our Lord all the love and thanksgiving that is in our hearts. We rejoice to be one with him in Holy Communion on this blessed day.

Many thanks to everyone for all your help and support throughout the year. We thank those who make the Christmas celebration special by assisting in the Liturgy and leading us in song. Thanks to those who cleaned the Church and prepared the Christmas flowers and Crib.

On behalf of Fr Neil, Fr Philip and myself I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Fr Tony McKentey

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.”

Cardinal Basil Hume

DAILY Morning Prayer 8.15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8.35am (Wed 11:15am]

PRAYER GROUP

See below

MEDITATION GROUP:

See below

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Please see Mass Schedule for ALL changes

SICK: Please remember in your prayers June Bickersteth, Joan Boyden, Frank Campbell, Nancy Drummond, Kitty Foley, Charlie George, Maurice Highfield, Pat Maloney, Cara Maude, Bridie Murphy, Paula Nash, Leah Patterson, Sabina Rhatigan, Hector Silva, Tony White, Tim Young.

THANK YOU: From the Flower Team at Priory Street for the generous donation of some £400 which will be used for flowers to decorate the church not only at this Christmas time but well into the New Year.

THANK YOU: For the generous donation of £500 from the Union of Catholic Mothers which they have requested be put towards the cost of our new Parish Missals.

MASS IN SPANISH: Fr Martin Astudillo will be saying Mass in Spanish on Tuesday 27th December at 9am at Priory Street.

MEDITATION GROUP: No meeting on 27th December. The Group will recommence on *Tuesday, 3rd January at 8pm in the Crypt.*

MASS AND LUNCH FOR THOSE CONSIDERING PRIESTLY VOCATION: Thursday 29th December, St Basil the Great, Luncies Road, Basildon SS14 1SD (C2C Pitsea station about a ten minute walk; for those driving the A13 and A127 pass close by). Lunch is then on offer for those considering Priestly vocation, where they will be joined by our current Diocesan seminarians – if you would like to come please email the Vocations Director, Fr Dominic Howarth, frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org

RECENTLY DECEASED: The funeral of the late Patrick McHugh will take place at Priory Street on Tuesday, 3rd January at 12:45pm.

POLISH EVENING: On **Saturday, 7 January 2012 at 5.30 p.m.** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall the Polish Catholic parish community will enjoy an evening of poetry and traditional Polish Christmas carolling. It will be performed by a group of actors from the Silesia Theatre in Katowice, Poland. Although most of the songs and poems we will be listening to are in

Polish there will be some in English too, so everyone is welcome to come.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED: We need to **accommodate the actors**, who are coming as volunteers. If anyone would be able to help and invite one nice girl, and/or one young man to be their guest for 3 nights, please call Irena on 07402 833437. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION: On the weekend of the 8th/9th January there will be a second collection for Childcare [Brentwood Catholic Children's Society]. These funds support a vital service to children and their families in difficulties in our Diocese. They work in all parishes, not least our own. Please give generously.

EVANGELIUM: Will re-commence on Sunday 8th January in the Crypt after evening Mass.

PRAYER GROUP: The next Prayer Group Meeting takes place on Monday, 9th January at 8pm in the Crypt.

SVP: The next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 4th January, at 7pm.

SCRIPTURE COURSE: Will re-commence on Wednesday, January 11th in the Crypt between 6:45pm and 8:45pm.

WINTER RESERVE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT [WRAP]: Volunteers are needed again this winter to be available when the Night Shelter is full. A minimum of 2 volunteers will be sleeping alongside a maximum of 6 homeless people in the Cardinal Bourne Hall for 1 night. From 18-25 January and 1-8 February 2012. Call Pernille Petersen on 549885 for full details.

GREENSTEAD PARISH – PILGRIMAGE TO ROME/FLORENCE JUNE 2012: In the first week of June next year - 2nd to 9th June 2012 [Half Term week] Greenstead parish are organising an eight day Pilgrimage to Rome and Florence. The approximate cost: £1500 "all-in". For **full** details, please contact 870460 or Gene Horgan on 07939 086034.

CONFIRMATION 2012: The Bishop will be visiting the parish on the **31st October 2012** and there will be the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass on that day. The preparation programme will run from **January 2012 to October 2012** Information packs are available at the back of church from Sunday 10th December 2011. Co-ordinators: Andrew and Elspeth, Tel: 861360. [The minimum age for Confirmation is 14years].

CHURCH CLEANING: Thursday 29th December – Team 3C.

MOVING?: Please let the Parish office know – inside *OR* outside the parish.
Newly arrived? Please complete a registration form [in the porch on the left hand side table].

For inclusions to the Parish website: admin@stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY – HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION

December 25th 2011

Saturday December 24th	6:00 pm	Thomas Kelly RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	8:00 pm	Celestine Tighe RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>	MIDNIGHT	POLISH MASS
<i>Church</i>	MIDNIGHT	Cecily Sim RIP
Sunday December 25th	8:00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	10:30am	Agnes Chee RIP
[NO EVENING MASS TODAY]	1:00 pm	POLISH MASS
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Parishioners
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	Greta and Frederick Knight RIP

Monday 26th	ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr Feast	[Bank Holiday]
<i>N.B. Church</i>	8:00 am	D/Rels: Woolcott/Sear Families RIP
<i>N.B. Church</i>	10:00 am	D/Rels: Farrell/Fuller Families RIP Special Intention [JH]

Tuesday 27th	ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist	[Bank Holiday]
<i>N.B. Church</i>	8:00 am	Declan Dunne RIP
<i>N.B. Church</i>	9:00 am	Mass in Spanish
<i>N.B. Church</i>	10:00 am	Phyllis, Cora and Deirdre RIP

Wednesday 28th	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm Feast	
<i>Church</i>	12:15 pm	Mary and Patrick O'Donnell RIP

Thursday 29th	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M	
<i>Church</i>	9.15 am	Ken Herbert RIP

Friday 30th	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
<i>Gen Hosp Chapel</i>	12:00pm	Intention: all hospital patients

Saturday 31st	Feria	
<i>Church</i>	9:15 am	Patrick John Lyons RIP

LITURGY FOR MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st 2012

Saturday DECEMBER 31st	6:15 pm	Intentions: Iris Jay
Sunday JANUARY 1st 2012	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	10:30am	Alison Clarke RIP
	6:30 pm	Phyllis, Cora and Deirdre RIP
<i>West Mersea</i>	8:30 am	Matt, Eddie & Pat Hogan
<i>Mile End</i>	9:15 am	D/Rels: Knapp/Gibbons Families
<i>Monkwick</i>	10:15am	Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION *Saturday 9:45-10:30am and 5:30-6:00pm*
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *Baptismal Courses arranged as per Newsletter*
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE *At least six months notice is required*

SCHOOLS *St Thomas More* Head: Bridget Harris [865722]
St Benedict's Acting: Head: Peter Johnson [549222]
www.marriagecare.org.uk or 0800 389 3801. www.brentwoodvocations.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092