

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday 24th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Celestine Tighe RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6.00 pm	Margaret (Tess) Geary RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12.00 am	Kay Nock RIP
	<i>Monkwick</i>	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass (Vigil)

CHRISTMAS DAY (A)

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Sunday 25th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Una Nagle + Family
	<i>Church</i>	12.15 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention
Monday 26th			ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
	<i>Church</i>	10.00 am	Mary McGinley RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Tuesday 27th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist Ints: Raju John + Family
Wednesday 28th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm Carmel Teresa Finch RIP
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M Private Intention (SF)
Friday 30th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Ints: Andy Nock
Saturday 31st	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas Thanksgiving (RJ)

2023

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (A)

Sunday 1st January	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	George Farrell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	James O'Brien
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Michael John Hugh Murphy RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Parishioners

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).



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



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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

CHRISTMAS DAY (A)

Week Commencing 25th December 2022

Merry Christmas everyone! This is truly a most wonderful time in the year. A time with family, friends, great food and the foundation of it all, our faith in the love of God who gave us his only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls. How are we to best embrace this celebration spiritually? How are we to get to the heart of the joy of this great feast? Look no further than our Lady, our Mother and Model. Firstly, she said Amen, Fiat, Yes to the word becoming flesh in her womb. By keeping our eyes on, and our hearts open to the will of God, Mary shows us that even in the mystery we can trust God. When things happen differently to our plans we remember that God is in control, if the unexpected hits us even then can we trust. Secondly, St Luke tells us that as the gift of the Christ child was being unwrapped, worshipped and adored, Mary treasured all these things in her heart. Nothing escapes her. My memories of Christmas day as a child include, lingering in the warmth and wonder of the day, fascinated with my new toy and grateful for my family. Through prayer, the fire of love is kept kindled in our hearts and the memory of what is truly important is kept vivid in our minds. Merry Christmas everyone.

Fr. Paschal

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
ADORATION & PRAYER	Thursdays	at 7.30 pm

Prayer For Peace In Ukraine Give comfort to those who suffer because of the violence. Give comfort to those who mourn their dead, and strength to neighbouring countries to welcome the refugees. Convert the hearts of those who resort to arms and protect those who work to promote peace.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25) **Taking courage from love.** The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said “Yes!” We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph, we can take courage from our love for each other and God’s love for us too.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Ron Griffin, Mike Taylor, Darline + Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We continue to pray for all persons who are ill or are in need and for those who have recently died.

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

CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas, the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree. Just as your **tree** lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: 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. A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass, which will be added to the Crib Collection. Thank you.

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.

SVP CUPPA CLUB: will meet every **Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.

REPOSITORY: Last few remaining Christmas Cards available for sale in the Church Porch. All monies to go in Repository Box.

CHRISTMAS TREE: Our thanks to the talented donor of the beautiful hand crocheted Angels & snowflakes which adorn our Christmas Tree - Thank you.

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December 2022

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	12.15 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass

St Stephens Day, Monday 26th December 2022

Priory Street	10.00 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2023: available at £2.95 per book. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

PARISH CHRISTMAS/ADVENT EVENT: Thank you to everyone who made this day so special, from those who staffed the event to those who attended it. Everyone had a great time and £591 was raised which will go to Church Funds. Thank you all!

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2023/2024]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/23). The signing of the “**Certificate of Catholic Practice**” forms will take place in the Church Crypt on **Thursday 12/01/23 at 4.30pm-5.30pm**. There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis.

CHRISTMAS READINGS FROM THE LECTIONARY: The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 8th January. Text and commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy on all the readings for Mass is now available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Go to ‘Scripture Readings’.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: From 17th December we read the stories of Christmas from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke at Mass. Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared a three-part video recording on these ‘Christmas Gospels’. Simply visit www.whatgoodnews.org and go to ‘Faith Talks’.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: WALSHINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK SITE MANAGER. Walsingham House are looking for someone who has a passion for caring for and supporting others to care for their beautiful site in the heart of the Brentwood countryside. The role involves helping to maintain the House and grounds throughout the year. Hours are 9 per week, 4 of which being worked on a Tuesday. For more information and how to apply, please see <https://bcys.net/job-vacancy-site-manager-for-walsingham-house-at-abbotswick/> Closing date is 12th January 2023.

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

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 26/12/22: **Team 4** / Thursday 05/01/22: **Team 1**
CBH COFFEE MORNING: 25/12/22: **No Coffee Morning** / 01/01/23: **Yolanda + 1**