FIRST SUNDAY	OF LENT (A)		
Sunday 26 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Christina Lambe
	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	$10.30 \ \text{am}$	Anniversary: David Eamonn RIP
	Church	$2.00 \; pm$	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	The Delaney Family
	West Mersea	$8.30 \ \text{am}$	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ronny Larkin RIP
Monday 27 th			Feria
	Church	$9.30 \ \text{am}$	Tony Bairstow RIP
	Church	12.00 pm	FUNERAL MASS: Michael John Taylor RIP
Tuesday 28 th			Feria
-	Church	9.30 am	Mrs. Margaret Barker RIP
Wednesday 1st			ST DAVID, Bp, Patron of Wales
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (SF)
Thursday 2 nd			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Joe + Ray Canty + Fam
Friday 3 rd			Feria Lenten Fast Day + Women's World Day of Prayer
	Church	9.30 am	Mr. Sean McArdle RIP
- 446	Church	12.30 pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday 4 th	Ohomah	0.00	Feria
Church 9.30 am Private Intention (M) SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)			
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Sunday 5 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ted Wilding + Maria Lumsden RIP
	Church	8.00 am	Anniversary: Jose Vadakepeepika EIP
	Church	10.30 am	Mr. Elvis C. Amadi RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	$4.00 \; pm$	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Tom Regan RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	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 9.30_{am} Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00_{pm} 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).
- Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings: colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.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: Mgr. Christopher Brooks **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Paschal Uche

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church. Colchester



You are dust and to dust you shall return. With these words your head was marked with ashes and we began the great campaign of Lent. In these short words spoken first to our first parents a twofold truth is captured. Firstly, "You are dust", apart from God all life is vanity. Secondly, "to dust you shall return", apart from God all life returns to nothing. The absolute certainty of death relatives the uncertainty of everything else. Death stops everyone in their tracks literally! But this is not the end and thanks be to God Easter has changed everything! We begin this most intense period of preparation to enter the good news by remembering the inescapable reality of the bad news. Namely, we are not only dust destined for dust, we are so because we freely chose to be so through sin. During this period we are repenting of our sin and turning back towards God, who in his mercy and love took on the dust that is us and became one of us to save all of us. During lent we remember that God made us without us but he will not save us without us. We have a life-changing role to play in the mystery of our own salvation. A mystery we embrace very intentionally through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May the reality of our nothingness and sin move us to new repentance and dependence on God this lent, who invites us in his mercy to eternal life.

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}		



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For parishes We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

PRAYER FOR ALL VICTIMS OF WAR AND NATURAL DISASTERS

God of hope and mercy, protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Amen.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Lev 19:1-2, 17-18 1 Cor 3:16-23 Matt 5:38-48) *Finding the joy in our sacramental relationship.* The joy of courting couples is obvious for all to see. Over the years, excitement can lessen, our independent attitudes strengthen; competition and jealousy creep in. Today Jesus calls us to "...turn the other cheek...". In confidence share, in trust listen, in faith forgive, so that our spouse will grow in self-worth and the sparkle of joy will reignite.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, 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.

PARISH MEETING: A meeting will take place 26th March at 2.30_{pm} in Cardinal Bourne Hall. This meeting is in reference to the Bishops Pastoral Letter (*please click on link to read*) https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pastoral-Letter-for-6th-Sunday-of-Ordinary-Time-11-12-February-2023.pdf All are invited to attend so we can discuss as a Parish how we can work together in partnership in *Shaping our Future*.

NEXT 2nd COLLECTIONS: There will be 2nd collections taken for CAFOD on **5th March** for Lent Fast Day (*Friday 3rd March*). This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. Donation envelopes available in church porch.

EVENING STATIONS OF CROSS + PRAYERS: The church will remain open on **Friday 24**th **February** from 7_{pm} to 8.30_{pm} for Stations of the Cross & 10_{pm} to Midnight for Lenten Prayers.

*ADORATION & PRAYER Thursday 2nd March: to deepen our prayers in Lent, please meet in the Crypt at **7.30**_{pm} and reflect on the three most familiar: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Afterwards in Church.

LENT DAY OF MERCY: On **Friday 31**st **March 2023**, the Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30_{am} ; Stations of the Cross at 12.30_{pm} & 7.30_{pm} ; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession all Day; Benediction at 8.45_{pm} . Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

POLISH STATIONS OF CROSS: This will take place <u>every</u> Tuesday at 6.30_{pm} in Church apart from Tuesday 28th March which will be held at Monkwick.



ST PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATION in Cardinal Bourne Hall on Saturday 18th March 2023 from 7.30_{pm}-10.30_{pm}. This fun evening will provide a buffet with Vegan & Vegetarian options, tea & coffee (BYO alcohol). Live Entertainment

with dancing from the McGann School of Dancing (back by popular demand) and music from Steve Williams. Also Singalongs and don't forget to wear your dancing shoes! There will be a prize raffle (donations accepted). All nationalities welcome to this fun evening, please book early to assist catering. Tickets £15 per person, Children 5-12yrs - £5.00. To reserve your tickets, please contact Frances 369568 or Nora 503410

REPOSITORY: There is a selection of St Patrick Day cards for sale in Church porch.

ST TERESA'S, LEXDEN: Will be screening *'The Letter'* on **Friday 3rd March**, as part of Friday Night Cinema in the Church Hall at **7.00**_{pm}. *'The Letter'*, an 80-minute film inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical. Make a note of the date and think about inviting non-Catholic friends to 'come and see' because his letter was addressed to the whole world.

CARITAS Diocese of Brentwood is inviting people from the night of March 31st 2023 (9_{pm}) to the morning of April 1st (8:30_{am}), to join this year's Sponsored Sleepout in one of our four locations; Lexden, Forest Gate, Hornchurch, and Southend. The Sleepout will assist in raising awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All info can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout and to register please email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite you to join them for a talk by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani (Bishop of Chelmsford) entitled *'Listening to God'*. This is an in-person event being held at New Hall School on **Tuesday 21**st **March at 6.30 –7.30**pm. All welcome. Refreshments from 6pm. For details and to reserve your place please go to: https://canonesses.co.uk/event/do-you-hear-what-i-hear-listening-to-god/

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: Both Caritas and CAFOD (*In partnership with DEC*) are fundraising to support those who have been affected by the devastating earthquakes. To donate to the appeal which aims to get funds to local experts on the ground who are already helping those in need, please use this link to support your chosen charity https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes/

UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY WINTER APPEAL: Ukrainians remain resilient despite the circumstances of the war, but they are in the throes of a harsh winter. For that reason, a new Emergency Winter Appeal was launched to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the frontlines and in recently liberated regions in East and South Ukraine, which is suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis. The cost of one food parcel, providing enough food for two people for a week costs approximately £16. Each package contains the basics (grains, flour, pasta, meat and fish preserves, oil, canned vegetables, sugar, tea coffee, biscuits, etc.) It is hoped that £160,000 can be raised to allow the supply of 10,000 food parcels to those most in need and I ask that you and your parishioners will consider supporting this Emergency Winter Appeal. Funds can be remitted to: Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund Account Number: 20927317. Sort Code: 20-92-60 Or by cheques made payable to Ukrainian Catholic Church referencing Winter Appeal in both cases. The address for cheques is Ukrainian Catholic Church in Great Britain, 22 Binney Street, London, W1K 5BQ

CARITAS Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a container, topped with an Easter Egg, and then donated to your local foodbank before Easter Sunday. All info, incl.calendar itself, can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 02/03/23: Team 1/ Monday 06/03/23: Team 2 CBH COFFEE MORNING: 26/02/23: SVP / 05/03/23: Matthew + Mariamma