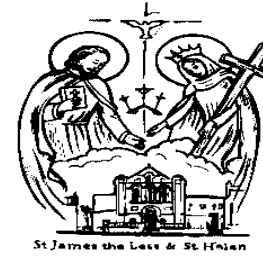


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

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
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
 Tel: 01206 866317
 E-Mail : colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
 Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org
 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Week commencing 26th September 2021

What a great joy it was to welcome to our Parish Bishop Alan. On all accounts he thoroughly enjoyed being with us to conduct a visitation and confirm 17 candidates. People often comment on how fortunate we are to have such a kind and gentle Bishop, I could not agree more. However, it is through his office as Bishop that Christ continues His ministry as prophet; teaching us in His name, governing and sanctifying us by His power. For that reason, the Bishop has a unique and irreplaceable role as prophet in the Church. Today's readings invite us to reflect on how we too by virtue of our Baptism share in Christ prophetic office. Yes, we too are priests, prophets and kings. Set apart to proclaim in season and out of season the living and life giving word of God. To achieve this more effectively we would do well to heed the words of the psalmist and find joy in reading God's word. That may begin by owning a Bible and preparing for each Sunday by reading the Gospel in advance. We can ask; what is God saying to me? How is he calling me to respond to him? We are to love God's word so much, that we willingly prioritise His truth above everything, even above the value of our right arm. Why? Because freed from the sorrow of sin we are set free for the sweet joys of salvation. As Jesus tells us himself in the Gospel, it literally would be better to enter heaven maimed than to go to hell with both arms.

Fr. Paschal

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Saturday 25th	Church	6.15 pm	Thanksgiving
Sunday 26th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Kathleen Gillooly RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Daniel Millgate RIP
	Mile End	9.15 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Private Intention

Monday 27th St Vincent de Paul, Pr

Church	9.30 am	Patrick, Miriam + Doris Murray RIP
--------	---------	------------------------------------

Tuesday 28th Feria

Church	9.30 am	Jim McGinley RIP
--------	---------	------------------

Wednesday 29th SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

Church	9.30 am	Patrick, Miriam + Baby Doris Murray RIP
--------	---------	---

Thursday 30th St Jerome, Pr, D

Church	9.30 am	Donal Daly RIP
--------	---------	----------------

Friday 1st October St Therese of the Child Jesus (Lisieux) V,D

Church	9.30 am	Ints: Francis + Teresa Lee
--------	---------	----------------------------

Saturday 2nd The Holy Guardian Angels

Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
--------	---------	-------------------------------------

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Saturday 2nd	Church	6.15 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Sunday 3rd	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Patrick Kehoe RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Teresa Sales RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Mile End	9.15 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Private Intention

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- ❖ If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

NEW TO THE PARISH? Then please complete one of our Parish Registration forms, which can be found in the porch at the back of the church.

Please check out our Facebook page for Live Stream Masses and all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to [like](#) & [follow](#) our page!

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	All Temporarily suspended
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: *An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle.* We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Please refer to the Website Home Page or External Church Notice Board for details on the **Relaxation of Covid restrictions.**

As a Reminder: Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Numbers 11:25-29 James 5:1-6 Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48) **Attitudes stemming from jealousy.** We read today how Moses and Jesus ignored criticism, seeing it as rooted in jealousy. So many evils have been perpetrated because of jealousy. A problem today for husbands and wives is the temptation to judge their spouse on their ability to match up to what the media shows, becoming so deep-seated it can cause serious harm. Stand firm together

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: On 3rd October there will be a collection for **CAFOD Re Family Fast Day – Crisis Appeal.** Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Envelopes will be available in the Church from this weekend.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CERTIFICATES: Collection from Presbytery.

REFLECTION ON THE JOYS OF ORDINARY TIME: Join us for a reflection, discussion and prayer on the extraordinary time we have experienced. How has it affected our day to day, and our spiritual, lives – can these be one and the same? What can be the joy of ordinary time? What does the Church give us? **Saturday October 2nd, 11am (coffee) – 1pm. Cardinal Bourne Hall.** For further information Valerie Quinlivan 07941196227.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE COMMENCING 9th OCTOBER 2021 at 11.00am in Cardinal Bourne Hall: This course is now fully subscribed and no more children can be added. One or both parents/carers must attend each week and remain throughout session. A Meeting will be held in the hall for the Catechists assisting on 2nd October at 11.15am. **We are still looking for volunteer Catechists to assist us run the courses, if you are able to help, please advise us by email. Thank you.**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: The Christian Meditation group started again on Wednesday at 8pm in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Please note the new venue and day. Arrivals from 7.30pm (the Hall doors will be closed from 7.55pm). **All Welcome.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE: A further course will commence early in 2022.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, PRIORY STREET MASSES: A provisional Rota has been prepared to help us return slowly to our full ministry. Please take a copy from the back of church. Holy Communion will continue to be under one form only at present, so one minister to assist at each mass, as numbers increase we will return to our normal quota. Will all ministers please confirm they wish to continue with their ministry if you haven't already done so. Either contact Cathy (cathy_oconnor83@hotmail.com, or the parish office). Thank you for your continuing good work.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTIONS are a series of talks for adults who want to grow in understanding & confidence when questioned or speaking about their Catholic Faith. The talks and discussion will take place on Zoom from 4-5pm on a Sunday. The 1st talk is on the 26th September and will consider the question: *"What is the relationship between faith and reason?"* It will be given by Fr Mark Swires, chaplain at the University of Essex. To join this discussion please email adultformationvicariate@dioceseofbrentwood.org For more info www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk.

OCTOBER YOUTH MASS WITH ONE HOPE PROJECT: On Thursday 7th October from 6pm, Brentwood Cathedral. The BCYS invites all young people from around the Diocese to join us, where we will provide a meal, before we begin a FREE music workshop and performance followed by monthly Youth Mass at 7.30pm, celebrated in the Cathedral where we will have invited Fr Paschal Uche to preach. More info on our website www.bcys.net, no need to book.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE: Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this FREE OF CHARGE, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Lannicelli.. Starts Wed 29th September 2021. X8 Wednesday sessions (7pm-8:40pm). Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

CATHOLIC SINGLES SUPPER CLUB: Calling all Single Catholics for a relaxed evening out, with great company at restaurant suppers with Benel Supper Club for Catholic Singles. Please contact for more details ~ benesupperclub@yahoo.com

THE CRY OF THE POOR - STUDY DAY FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION: A study day on Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* on 'fraternity and social friendship' will be live-streamed from 11 - 12.30pm on Saturday 2nd October. The study day, entitled *'The Cry of the Poor'*, is organised from Gidea Park parish, and the speaker is Fr Ashley Beck, expert on Catholic Social Teaching. The event is free of charge and no registration is necessary. To access the livestream go to www.whatgoodnews.org where the previous study day 'The Cry of Creation' (exploring *Laudato si'*) is also available.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE: The Catholic Universe newspaper had appeared weekly since 1860 but when the pandemic closed the churches it removed the main outlet for sales. Now under changed management the new Universe Catholic Weekly will be topical, controversial, stimulating and packed with news opinion and features. The weekly edition paper is just £20 a quarter paid subscription (13 copies) paid simply and directly to the publisher. Further news to follow in due course.

PARISH FINANCES: If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:

- By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: There are still uncollected Gift Aid box sets in porch. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: 27/9/21: **Team 3** (Rotas in Church porch).