

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (c) DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Saturday 26th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	John Dolamore RIP
Sunday 27th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Maria Wilczak
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Jerzy Dziadek RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

Monday 28th			ST GEORGE, M
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Diasy Gracias RIP

Tuesday 29th			ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, v,D
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Prince Varghese

Wednesday 30th			Wednesday after Second Sunday of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Dolamore RIP

Thursday 1st May			Thursday after Second Sunday of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Clark RIP

Friday 2nd			St Athanasius, Bp, D
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Belson RIP

Saturday 3rd			SS PHILIP AND JAMES, App
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Carole Conway RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (c)

Saturday 3rd	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	John & Eugenia Dimech RIP
Sunday 4th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Bridie + Mary Markham RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Pope Francis RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Ian Maynard RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Baptism Godparents: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.

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

■ **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/ Clergy + Church photos/videos. Please remember to like and 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



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli
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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (c)

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Week Commencing 27th April 2025

Today is now known as Divine Mercy Sunday, a very appropriate title given the scripture readings. In the Gospel it is easy to focus on Doubting Thomas and miss much else. The greeting of Jesus, repeated, is, 'Peace be with you'. Isn't peace something many people yearn for but do not find? What prevents us? Surely the opening words of Jesus are linked with what comes next, the forgiveness of sins. The two go together, if we wish to have true peace then we need to ask for and receive forgiveness. Many who describe themselves as Catholics have abandoned the practice of going to Confession (Reconciliation is a better word), they also often fail to teach their children about the Sacrament. I should say that the number who regularly go to Confession in this parish is much better than other parishes I have been in, though it could still improve. One final comment. The synoptic Gospels take the approach of showing a man who is also God. St. John instead shows a God who is also man.

Fr Chris

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
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *For working conditions.*
Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Francis, O Lord. *God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst will that Thy servant Francis ... should be numbered among the high priests; grant, we beseech Thee, that he, who on earth held the place of Thine only-begotten Son, may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Thy holy pontiffs. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.*

- Holy Mass for The Repose Of The Soul Of Our Holy Father Which Will Be Celebrated By Bishop Alan In The Cathedral On Sunday 27th April At 11.30^{am}
- Rosary & Prayers for Pope Francis will be held after 10.30^{am} Mass on Sunday 27th April in St James the Less & St Helen Church

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1: 9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31) ***Taking time out for our relationship.*** On Easter Sunday night the risen Jesus greets the Apostles saying, 'Peace be with you'. How can we find peace in such a hectic world? We are called to make time for our relationship with God, and make a diary entry for our personal relationship. Listening and dialogue build intimacy and peace – with each other and with God.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin J Brian Critchley, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Iven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

† **RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anthony (Tony) Weekes and Mick Lavell who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers Tony's and Christopher's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Funeral details to be advised.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL (*Catholic Missionary Union*): Br John from De La Salle Brothers will be giving an appeal after Masses this Sunday and a special collection will be taken to aid their Missionary work.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER is celebrated throughout the Universal Church as Divine Mercy Sunday. This Feast was instituted by St Pope John Paul II in 2000. The Feast is a recognition of the greatness of God's Mercy as told to the world by Our Lord through a young Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905 –1938).

MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR PHILIP: We hope you enjoyed the Easter break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the clergy collection and cards, chocolate received. Our gratitude to all of you who, in any way, made our Easter celebrations run so smoothly. Thank you.

OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week. please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email olwstatue2024@gmail.com



MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

KNIGHTS OF ST JOSEPH: The Knights of St Joseph are a new, modern, and locally based Catholic Fraternal order who will serve as a vital support system within our Parish, undertaking various charitable activities and community services. If you would like to join or find out more information, please see the poster in Church Porch.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next screening will be on **Wednesday 7th May** commencing at 12.00^{pm} in Cardinal Bourne Hall. All are welcome.

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal by donating online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MIGRANTS: The Dioceses & Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark + Westminster invite you to a celebration of the annual Mass for Migrants on **Monday, 5th May 2025, 2pm** at Westminster Cathedral. The Mass will celebrate the contributions made to the faith, life and work in the UK by all those from other countries who make a home here. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, MAfr OBE, will be both celebrant and preacher. For info visit: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/migrants-mass-2025/>.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – MONTHLY YOUTH MASS: Each month, on the first Thursday, the BCYS invite young people, Youth Groups, Confirmation Groups and School Groups to celebrate Mass together with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese. The evening begins at 6^{pm} with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Hall, followed by around an hour of input before celebrating Mass together at 7:30^{pm}. The whole evening finishes around 8:30^{pm}. There is no need to book and no cost for this - please feel very welcome to come along and simply find out more about the BCYS and what they offer!

GIFT- AID SUBSCRIBERS: Please collect your new box sets from the church porch.

BAPTISMS: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent. It does not matter if they are male or female. If you choose two Godparents, traditionally a male and female that meet the requirements for Godparents. There is no provision for more than two godparents.

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN) has recently launched a lived experience survey to better understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap on Catholic families in England and Wales and to explore how parishes are supporting families in need. You can find the survey here: <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey/>

2025 YEAR OF JUBILEE - PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Lady of Light Church, Clacton on Sea, has been designated as a Sacred Place of Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. Full details of all services are available at: <https://ourladyoflight.uk/>

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 28/04/25: **Team 2** / Monday 05/05/25: **Team 3**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 27/04/25: SVP / 04/05/25: Matthew + Mariamma