

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Canon Anthony McKentey
Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ
Fr Philip Willenbrock
51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR [A]

Saturday November 26th 6:15 pm Frank Milford RIP
Sunday November 27th 8:00 am Mr & Mrs MacDonald RIP
10:30 am Ton Southon RIP
2:00 pm Polish Mass
6:30 pm Ann de Smith RIP
West Mersea 8:30 am Sheila Courtney RIP
Mile End 9:15 am Douglas and David Finch RIP
Monkwick 10:15 am D/Rels: Wright & Wrobel Families RIP

Monday 28th *Feria*
Church 9:15 am Mary Atkin RIP

Tuesday 29th *Feria*
Church 9:15 am November Dead List

Wednesday 30th *ST ANDREW, Ap*
STM Advent Mass Church 9:15 pm November Dead List
[N.B. NO 12:15 MASS]

Thursday Dec 1st *Feria [or Bl John Beche, Ab, M]*
Church 9:15 am Intentions: Fr Tom Coffey

Friday 2nd *Feria*
Church 9:15 am Canon John Bloomfield RIP

Saturday 3rd *St Francis Xavier, Pr [Migrants Day]*
Church 9:15 am Alfredo Ramos RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR [A]

Saturday December 3rd 6:15 pm Roger Thurlow RIP
Sunday December 4th 8:00 am Dermot and Margaret Moriarty RIP
10:30 am Olive Newland RIP
2:00 pm Polish Mass
6:30 pm Jack Plumb RIP
West Mersea 8:30 am Parishioners
Mile End 9:15 am Leonard William Foley RIP
Monkwick 10:15 am Herbert [Bert] Hewitt RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR [A]

November 27th 2016 – Parish Mass Book –

My dear friends,

I returned to Colchester last week, not to take up the reigns again, but to continue my recovery. In the near future I will have to undergo a course of chemotherapy locally, so there are a few bridges yet to cross.

I want to express my gratitude to Fr Alex, Fr Philip, Fr Paul, Fr Luke and Fr Mark (Brightlingsea), who have ensured that all the Masses have happened as usual.

My next words of thanks are to you all for your prayers and words of support that have sustained me these past months.

May God bless you all,

Fr Tony

We are in a new LITURGICAL YEAR (A) and our evangelist for this year is St. Matthew.

Sisters and brothers, the message of the first Sunday of Advent is VIGILANCE. The new liturgical season which we are about to start, invites us to stay awake at all times for we don't know when the Lord is coming. It is indeed unpredictable! Thus, all should stay always ready for it. Each in their own proper place and with right disposition of heart.

When Christmas time is coming, many of us will attend so many nice and happy gatherings. Lots of food, drink, dancing, candies, chocolates and gift giving to name a few. This is what the world is telling us to do. Oftentimes, many of us would even tend to forget the essence of this season: the LORD. It is his coming that we are celebrating. But more often than not, we focus our attention more on ourselves (oneSELF) and not paying attention to the Lord Jesus Christ who has come to bring us salvation. We add also to the fact that we get easily distracted with passing things, and tend to miss the spiritual benefit that goes along with it. And in the process, we just let go of the blessings of peace, love and joy. So, the most practical thing which the spirit of this season suggests is the "practice of moderation" so that we may not be distracted from celebrating it in a more meaningful way.

With Fr. Tony, we wish you all a blessed observance of Advent spiritual exercises and may your waiting become a real longing of his birth into your hearts. So, be VIGILANT at all times.

Lastly, we wish you all not a crisis-filled Christmas but rather a Christ-filled Christmas that brings JOY to every heart! Amen.

Fr. Alex

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes
[N.B. NEXT WEDNESDAY – 9:15 Mass ONLY]

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy and Rosary	Following 8am Mass
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays - Crypt	8:00pm
FILMS FOR FAITH	Next showing – See below	1:15pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Kay Knight, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Aimée Stammers, Fiona Stephenson, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism Letitia and Maxim Mougou and Cloe Ireland Smith. God bless these children and congratulations to their families.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Barbara Hollis who has recently died. May she rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of her bereaved family and friends. Her funeral has been arranged for Wednesday, 7th December here at St James the Less at 10:30am. Her coffin will be received into church the previous afternoon, December 6th, at 4pm.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT PRIORY STREET: Today there will be a second collection at **Priory Street only** for Christmas Flowers. Thank you.

FR PAUL McCOURT: As many of you know, we are sadly losing Fr Paul to his new position at Sandhurst. He has been a huge help to the Parish, especially these past few months in Fr Tony's absence. To send him on his way, we will be holding a *second collection for him next weekend*, and also holding a "Farewell Soiree" on Wednesday, 14th December, at 7pm in the Crypt. Would any helpers for food and drinks please contact the Parish Office or Jane Hopgood. Thank you.

FILMS FOR FAITH: The final film in this series, "The Nativity", is to be shown this Wednesday - 1pm for a 1:15pm start.

ADVENT: In preparation for Advent Sunday readings, we shall again have **LECTIO DIVINA** on Saturdays at 5pm. This is not bible study but a prayerful reading of the scriptures in preparation for each of the Sundays leading up to Christmas. Father Tony has always promoted this very enthusiastically, but numbers have been small; joining in Lectio Divina /Holy Reading is a wonderful way to approach Christmas. Please see Poster in porch.

St Thomas More's Primary School 2017-18 Intake Any parent wishing to apply for a place at St Thomas More's School must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in addition to the Local Authority Application Form. SIFs are available to download on the school's website www.stthomasmores.co.uk under the admissions tab or by contacting the office on 01206 865722. You will also need to supply the school with a Certificate of Practice. Dates when Father Alex will be signing these will be: *Monday, December 12th, Tuesday December 13th and Monday, January 9th*. All between 4pm – 6pm. Please contact the Parish Office to book an appointment.

DECEMBER 8TH – FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Following the 9:15am Mass on Thursday, December 8th, there will be Rosary and Procession.

DIOCESAN 2017 DIRECTORIES/BRENTWOOD NEWS: The new 2017 Directories have arrived and are on sale for £2.75. The latest Brentwood News is also available, absolutely free!

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263
CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, December 1st- Team 4.