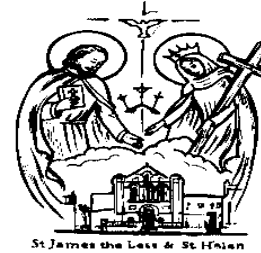


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Paschal Uche

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
Week commencing 27th November 2022

Dear friends, Happy New Year! The Church year begins today with the first Sunday of Advent, a four-week period of penance, prayer and joyful preparation for the coming of Christ. The sanctuary is adorned with purple, the Sunday Gloria is omitted, the beautiful candles are lit one by one and a sense of anticipation fills the atmosphere and our hearts, Christ who was, who is, is still to come, yes and where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in. Since the 5th Century, the church has been receiving this time as a gift to be embraced for more intense spiritual groundwork and preparation to plant the seeds of faith, hope and love in our hearts and homes. Whilst the world around will be shopping and partying each Sunday we will be offering a Holy Half hour from 5.30 till 6.00pm in the Church finishing with Vespers (Sunday evening prayer) and Benediction. On the 2nd of December, we will be having a day of Mercy from 9.30am mass until 9.30pm for adoration and confession. Christmas is primarily a spiritual feast and we work up our spiritual appetite for Christ's coming primarily through prayer. We look forward to welcoming many of you to these grace filled opportunities.

Fr. Paschal

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Saturday 26th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Douglas + David Finch RIP
Sunday 27th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Richard + Betty O'Connell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Lea Kernot + Kathleen Gillooly
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.30 pm	Exposition; 6.00pm Evening Prayer +Benediction
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Fr. Kieran Dodd RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Parishioners

Monday 28th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas

Tuesday 29th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Holy Souls

Wednesday 30th			ST ANDREW, Ap, Patron of Scotland
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Fr Pat Sammon

Thursday 1st December			Blessed John Beche, Ab, M
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Winifred McGlaun RIP

Friday 2nd			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP
	<i>Church</i>	ALL DAY	Adoration + Confession (9.30am until 9.30pm)

Saturday 3rd			St Francis Xavier, Pr (Migrants Day)
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: The Barnes Family

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Saturday 3rd	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Eugene Horgan RIP
Sunday 4th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Maureen O'Connell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.30 pm	Exposition; 6.00pm Evening Prayer +Benediction
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Martyn Tawn RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	William Healy RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Colchester General Hospital: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital, please contact the presbytery direct on (01206 866317).



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

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

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for peace and the laying down of weapons.



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.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER: Each Sunday Evening of Advent (27/11/22 + 04/12/22 + 11/12/22 + 18/12/22) at St James the Less & St Helen we will be holding Exposition at 5.30pm, Evening Prayer at 6.00pm followed by Benediction. This is a chance to spend a short while each week in stillness, contemplation, and community.

ADORATION + CONFESSION ON FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER: All Day (9.30am until 9.30pm).

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14: Matthew 24:37-44) *Walk in the light of the Lord.* God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also St Paul tells us, "the time has come: you must wake up now", because now is all we have.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of George Farrell, Pamela Elizabeth Ann Roulston and Delma Campbell who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. George's funeral mass will take place here on Monday 12th December at 10.45am. Pamela's Reception into Church is on Tuesday 13th December at 4pm and funeral mass here on Wednesday 14th December at 11.00pm. Delma's funeral mass will take place at St Cedds, on Monday 12th December at 10.15am.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN RE CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS: We always do the nativity at the 6.00pm mass on Christmas eve and it's done by the children who made or are making their first holy communion this year. It would be lovely to have as many of you as possible, to act and to read. The first meeting will be held after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 4th December in Cardinal Bourne Hall. If your child is interested, could you drop me an email to stressedclaire45@gmail.com, so I have some idea of numbers. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – SPRING 2023 : The next First Holy Communion classes will start in the spring term 2023. Please send the following information to fncstjamescolchester@gmail.com to register your interest.

• Child's Name	• Name of School Attended
• Parents' Name(s)	• School Year Group

You will be contacted via email with further information. Thank you.

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

SAVE THE DATE! CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022

IN CARDINAL BOURNE HALL from 11am to 3.30pm. There will be lots to see and do; Christmas Card making for children, Fr Christmas, Hot Chestnut Stall, Baked good stalls, Bar & Gift Tombolas, Tabletop sale (£10 per table – book early to reserve your table!) Raffle, Refreshments will be served (*Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks, and Mulled Wine*), assorted live and recorded music, All Day Breakfast & Baked potatoes in Crypt. From 4-5.30pm Children's film –from 6-8pm Carol Service in Church. **We would be grateful for any donations which will be collected on the following dates: -**

13/11/22: (Drinks Tombola/Raffle) Bottles of wine, spirits, beer, soft drinks, cans etc.,
20/11/22: Unwanted gifts, new toiletries, Scarves, Perfume, Trinkets
27/11/22: Non perishable goods suitable for hamper, cakes, biscuits, chocolates, Sweets
04/12/22: Gifts for Raffle

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/Presbytery on the following dates: -

Saturday 03/12/23 at 2.30pm-3.30pm (Crypt)	Friday 16/12/22 at 10.30am-11.30am (Pres)
Thursday 12/01/23 at 4.30pm-5.30pm (Crypt)	

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.

REPOSITORY: Christmas Cards, Diaries & Calendars are now available for sale in the Church Porch. All monies to go in Repository Box.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on the following dates at 8pm: Friday 16th Dec (Mile End), Monday 19th Dec and Friday 23rd Dec at Priory Street.

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): These will take place on Thursdays at 6.30pm on the following dates: - 1st December, 15th December and 22nd December.

LOST & FOUND PROPERTY BOX: Are you missing anything?? Please check if it has been left in the *lost & found* property box in church porch. In addition, we have some prescription glasses & cases in the presbytery – to collect these, please phone and describe your missing item and we will check to see if we have received these, any items not collected before Christmas will be donated to those in need. Thank you.

FREE JESSE TREE BOOKLET FOR FAMILIES: The Jesse Tree is a wonderful resource for families to prepare for Christmas during Advent, telling the story of God's unfolding plan of salvation through the ancestors of Jesus Christ. A free, printable Jesse Tree booklet containing daily short scripture passages, simple reflections and prayers, as well as tree ornaments are available for all families in the Diocese of Brentwood by following this link: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/family-life/

BCYS (Child and Family Counselling Service): We can offer support to children, young people, families/parents directly. Please see poster in Church Porch or on our facebook page.

LITTLE SAINTS TOTS: Our parish Tots group is **every Wednesday 8:50am-11am** in hall

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORGE: St Teresa of Lisieux, Lexden have organised a Pilgrimage to Medjugorge 4th May 2023 (7 Nights). There are several places still available for details, please see poster in church porch or on our Facebook page.

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

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 01/12/22: **Team 1** / Monday 12/12/22: **Team 2**
CBH COFFEE MORNING: 27/11/22: **Matthew + Mariamma**/04/12/22: **African Community**