

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

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HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH [C]

December 27th 2015 - Parish Mass Book Page 105

Fr Alex writes:

Our dear parishioners, maybe you have already noticed and wondered about the three additional letters after my name: "RCJ". This is actually the abbreviation of the Latin words **Rogationistarum Cordis Jesu** (Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus), the name of the religious Congregation where I belong.

This is in the same way that our Lord, Bishop Alan Williams, adds "SM" after his name, which indicates his belongingness to the Order of the Society of Mary. Other examples are the Jesuits who have "SJ", the Dominicans "OP", the Franciscans "OFM" and so on and so forth. By the way, every religious institution/congregation that exists in the church has its own distinctive mark so that one can be differentiated from others. But, beyond the mere purpose of distinction, each represents a particular "charism", a gift to be shared for the common good of the entire Church. As one spiritual author rightly said: The different religious congregations in the Church are like different varieties of flowers that make up a beautiful garden.

So, "RCJ" represents our name *Rogationists* that takes its root from the Latin verb *rogate*, which means "pray". Let me further explain: This does not simply refer to any prayer whatsoever, but it is a special prayer commanded by Jesus himself as narrated in the Gospels: *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had*

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH [C]

Saturday December 26 th	6:15 pm	Elaine Proudfoot RIP
Sunday December 27 th	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	10:30 am	Timothy and Jimmy Meaney RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Bridget Smith RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Leo Foley RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Czeslaw Wrobel RIP

Monday 28th

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

N.B. Church 10:00 am Matthew O'Toole RIP

Tuesday 29th

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp. M

Church 9:15 am Phil O'Donoghue RIP

Wednesday 30th

Feria

Church 9:15 am Intentions: Mary O'Toole
Church 12:15 pm Dec. Rels. Fuller/Farrell Families RIP

Thursday 31st

Church 9:15 am Cecily Sim RIP & Agnes Chee RIP

2016

Friday 1 January

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Solemnity

N.B. Church 10:00 am Alberto and Luisa D'Souza RIP
Church 2:00 pm Polish Mass

Saturday 2nd

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd

Church 9:15 am Intentions: Bill de Smith

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Saturday January 2nd

6:15 pm Patsy Thurlow RIP

Sunday January 3rd

8:00 am Kitty Degegrio RIP

10:30 am Holy Souls RIP

2:00 pm Polish Mass

6:30 pm Holy Souls RIP

West Mersea

8:30 am John Cawley RIP

Mile End

9:15 am Gelsomina, Carmine and Alfredo RIP

Monkwick

10:15 am Parishioners

compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore, PRAY (**rogate**) the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt 9:35-39; Lk 10:2)

For us Rogationists, the **ROGATE** is our unique identity and particular commitment in the Church and in the world. In imitation of Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd, we strive to be *men of prayer and compassion* to the "harassed and helpless crowds" of today. In order to obey this specific command of Jesus, we dedicate ourselves to pray and invite others to do the same so that the Lord will send holy vocations in the Church, to the priesthood, to consecrated life and to the lay state. Yet, our prayer must be accompanied by compassion, i.e., concrete acts of charity, especially to the little ones and the poor. Meanwhile, we are fully aware that while we pray for holy workers, we should strive, first of all, to be holy ourselves, to be good workers in the vast vineyard of the Church.

However, the ROGATE or PRAY is a command of Jesus that is addressed not only to us Rogationists but, to everybody. As our holy Father Founder, St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, used to say: "vocations come from above!" So, we all need to pray.....otherwise vocations will not come! We must pray so that the Lord of the harvest will send us holy priests, holy consecrated men and women, holy parents, holy leaders...

Lastly therefore, allow me to share to you our simple prayer: **SEND, O LORD, HOLY APOSTLES INTO YOUR CHURCH!** I invite you to repeat this prayer at the conclusion of your group prayer, every mystery of the rosary – after the Fatima prayer, as well as during grace before and after meals.

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy followed by Rosary
3pm DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy
8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP: Tuesdays – Crypt 8pm

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Pat Banks, Brian Bagioni, June Bickersteth, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Bert Hewitt, Maurice Highfield, David Hill, Jan Holden, Ronald Jay, Julie Jefferies, Athene Jones, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Joanne Leon, Mirella Leonardi, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merces, 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, Dorcey Young.

Have you collected your child's Baptism Certificate yet? Please collect your child's Baptism Certificate when you come to Mass, or contact the Parish Office on a **Tuesday between 10am and 2pm** to arrange to pick it up.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016: For children in years 3 and above, an information pack will be available in the church and St. Thomas More's school from the New Year. For further information please contact Hywel or Pam Edwards on 01206 867325 or by email at prioryst.fhc@btinternet.com

NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: We are delighted to welcome Richard Atkin as our new Parish Administrator. Richard started earlier this month and we wish him well in his new role.

BRENTWOOD DIRECTORY 2016: Copies are still available priced at £2.75 on the Repository table in the church porch. Please put money in the Repository wall box.

NEWSLETTER: Please note that the deadline for items to be included in the Parish Newsletter is 5pm Tuesday of the preceding week.

PARKING: After a recent issue, can parishioners using the church car park please use it with consideration for other users and avoid blocking vehicles in. It should also be noted that this is a private car park for the use of visitors to the church or hall only.

FILMS FOR FAITH: Will be back in January.

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR A MONTH TO CLEAN YOUR CHURCH: Reliable and committed volunteers URGENTLY REQUIRED to help with cleaning the Church. Please contact Helena on 01206 794636 [mornings before mid-day].

CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, December 30th – Team 4.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 9:45 – 10:30am and 5:30 – 6:00 pm.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL: To book: 07758 805263;
cb.hall@btinternet.com