

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

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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH ^(B)

Saturday 26th	Church	6.15 pm	Dec. Mem. Brennan Family
Sunday 27th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	9.15 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Bryn Phillips + Miriam Quinn RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Tony Dixon RIP Live Streamed
Monday 28th			THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm
	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Monica Galvin + Family
Tuesday 29th			ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M
	Church	10.00 am	Sisenando + Rosario De Jesus RIP
Private Service	Church	11.45 am	FUNERAL MASS: Rosaleen C. L. Smith RIP
Wednesday 30th			Sixth Day within the octave of Christmas
	Church	10.00 am	Ints: The Martin Family
Thursday 31st			Seventh Day within the octave of Christmas
	Church	10.00 am	Patrick John Lyons RIP
Friday 1st January 2021			MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
	Church	10.00 am	Patrick, Miriam + Baby Doris Murray RIP
Saturday 2nd			Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd
	Church	10.00 am	Private Intentions (M.B etc.,)
			SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY ^(B)
Saturday 2nd	Church	6.15 pm	Ints: Michael Andrews
Sunday 3rd	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	9.15 am	Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Una + Fenton Nagle + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Bernie Hegarty RIP

FACE MASKS. It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please 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.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES: Sundays St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news/ Clergy photos/videos, Reflections from Fr Paschal. Please remember to like and follow our page.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH ^(B)

Week Commencing 27th DECEMBER 2020

Earlier this year people were confidently planning for the rest of 2020, until the appearance of a tiny scrap of biological material, mindlessly replicating itself. Months later we are preparing for a much-changed Christmas season. Yet we have still celebrated Advent, a time of joyful waiting; and now Christmas is here when we remember Emmanuel, a name which means, 'God is with us'. The Incarnation changes everything for humanity, and has done for 2,000 years for those with faith. As St. Paul writes in Romans, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus'. We have lost some of the secular trappings of the season but I would encourage you to celebrate Christmas and the associated feasts – St. Stephen, martyred as a witness to Christ; St. John, the evangelist of the Word; The Holy Family, witness to the importance of family; Holy Innocents, martyrs for Christ, etc. – with Catholic faith and joy. A blessed Christmas and new year from me and from Frs. Paschal and Philip.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 ^{am}	All Temporarily suspended
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 ^{pm})	

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: For a Life of Prayer. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Despite all the restrictions, let us be thankful that we can once again gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment :-

- Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Mass
- Facemasks must be worn when entering all places of worship (unless medically exempt)
- Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- We are still required to have Church Stewards in attendance at each Mass and the Church will be cleaned after each Service in readiness for the next Mass to be held.

THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.

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.

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, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ella Teresa Weston who has recently passed away. May she rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of her bereaved family and friends. Ella's funeral details are to be advised.

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2nd] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR PASCHAL: We hope you enjoyed the festive break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the Clergy Christmas Collection and Gifts received. Our thanks to all of you who, in any way, made our Christmas celebrations run so smoothly.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS: Our gratitude to the hard working "Cleaning" and "Floral" Teams who made our church look so resplendent over the festive period and to Hywel and his team who decorated our Christmas Tree. To Bernard for the excellent work he has put into the Outside Crib, which looks stunning! To our Stewards/Cleaners who have been incredible throughout this Pandemic and without whom we would not have been able to open our Church for Services. Our volunteers are vitally important to the running of this parish and they don't necessarily have the time but they have the heart. Thank you all for helping we are truly grateful to you.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2021/2022]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/21). The final date for signing of the "Certificates of Practice" will take place in the church porch on **Saturday 9th January 2021 at 11.15^{am} – 12.15^{pm}.**

There is no need to make an appointment as both parents (or guardians) and the child applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis (Baptism Cert for child to be shown to Clergy). Only 1 family at a time in the Church porch. Please maintain social distance guidelines whilst standing outside church.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are on sale at the back of the church. These are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Priced at £2.80 per copy (money to go in "Repository" Box in church 11porch). **REPOSITORY:** 2021 Diaries still available in Church Porch.

MISSION TODAY: 2021 Calendars are available on the table in church porch – Please take a calendar and/or Mission Today Magazine.

MERSEA NEWS: Mass Bookings will continue at Mersea in order to control numbers attending. Please use the following links for masses over the next 2 weekends (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times: - Sunday 3rd January [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 10th January [Mersea Booking Form](#)

AUSTEN IVEREIGH LIVESTREAM EVENT: On Saturday 30th January from 11^{am} until 12.30^{pm}, Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. 'Let us Dream' presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? To access this livestream event please go to www.sppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PARISH FINANCES: We thank you in advance for the offering that you give today. 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)
- Donation baskets are situated at entrance and exit of church
- Setting up a regular gift by Standing Order, (please contact Presbytery office for form).
- The Donation Station (in Church porch)
- 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. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>
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

SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society): Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com