

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Racial Justice Day

<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Michael Scanlon RIP
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Raymond Alexander RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Norah Hewitt
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Thanksgiving
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Marco
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Conal McGinley + Maura O'Connell RIP
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>			<b>St John Bosco, Pr</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Marisa
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>			<b>Feria</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>			<b>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Patricia Urquhart RIP
	<i>Church</i>	1.45 pm	<b>Funeral Service:</b> Joan Kerrins RIP
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			<b>St Anne Line, M</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Chachy Joseph RIP
			<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)</b>
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Peter Kerrins RIP
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Una Nagle + Family
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30am	Thanksgiving (Delivery)

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ 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 and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.
- ❖ 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).

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

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

# 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:

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Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Racial Justice Day

Week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The first reading promises a true successor to Moses, fulfilled in Jesus. St. Matthew in his Gospel draws attention to similarities in their lives e.g. persecution as a child, with Moses ending up in the Nile and the Holy Family fleeing before the massacre of the Holy Innocents. The Gospel of today continues the revelation of who Jesus is, he speaks with authority. Power is something different (though Jesus has both) but power without authority is tyranny. We notice that the demons recognise Jesus and attempt to control him by naming him, but their recognition is only partial and their attempt would never succeed in any case. The crowds, too, are beginning to wonder who Jesus is but again they only grasp a part of his nature and mission. The Gospel is written so that people might believe, come to recognise who Jesus is, and proclaim his name with honour.

Fr. Chris

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY** For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE.** We pray for the people of all worn torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the laying down of all weapons.



**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28) *Evangelisation through our Sacrament.* St Paul infers a deeper spirituality is found among the unmarried, yet writing to the Ephesians (5:32), he speaks of 'the profound mystery' of marriage and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Lord is at the heart of our love for one another, providing the grace for daily living and evangelisation, through our Sacrament.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Grace McCartney, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

**DIOCESAN 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** After all Masses this weekend a collection will be taken for **Racial Justice Sunday**. Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year's theme is '**Seeing one another in the life of the Church**'. The Next collection will be for Lourdes Sick + Helpers fund on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** When we lose someone we have loved, a relationship where we felt safe, or a job where we felt fulfilled, we are left with grief that affects us emotionally and spiritually. Working together with two neighbouring parishes, we offer opportunities for support at a time of bereavement and loss: **Group support** at St Teresa's, Lexden and St. John Payne's Greenstead and **one to one help** in St James the Less, Priory St. The leaders are trained and experienced and are, or have been part of St Helena's Hospice Counselling and Emotional Support Team. More details on Notice Board, website and Facebook.

**SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING:** Anyone who has half-an-hour to spare after Mass is most welcome to stay for coffee and biscuits after 10.30am Mass on Sundays. This is a chance to catch up in the spirit of friendship and community. Everyone is warmly invited.



**CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**CHURCH CANDLE STANDS:** Please note that only the candles supplied in containers below each Candle stand are to be used – Please do not bring and light your own candles!



**PALM CROSSES:** We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us. A basket is situated on the table at the entrance into the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024:** The last 2 remaining copies of the directory available in the Church porch – 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 £2.95 per copy. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

**VOCATIONS:** The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at Brentwood Cathedral .The speaker will be Deacon Matúš Meleg who is training for the priesthood for our Diocese. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**THE SVP ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO HELP CHILDREN PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION. COULD THIS BE YOU?** The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on [youngvincentians@svp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@svp.org.uk). You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**HCPT EASTER LOURDES VOLUNTEERS WANTED!** Are you, or do you know anyone who is 18 - 30 years old and would like the opportunity to travel with The Brentwood Group on Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter? HCPT Group 709 are an all-adult service group who are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working individuals to join us between 1st-6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Lourdes to help facilitate an unforgettable week for disabled and disadvantaged children from all over the world. If you would like more information or think this is something you may want to get involved in, please contact us at [group709@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group709@hcpt.org.uk) or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**UPCOMING BCYS EVENTS -** For more information, please visit [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) .

**PRO-LIFE NEWS:** MPs in the United Kingdom Parliament: Dame Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy have tabled amendments to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill; New Clause 1 and New Clause 2 respectively. Both amendments would decriminalise abortion, that is, remove it from the criminal law. These amendments are very dangerous for it removes all legal protect for the unborn babies and reduces further the wellbeing of the mother's mental and physical health. How can you make a difference and have your voice heard about this very important issue....write to your MP - It is vital that we all "lobby our MPs" to oppose these extreme and dangerous amendments. We expect that there will be a vote in Parliament next month. Please contact your MP, asking them to oppose these proposals. Click on the link below and following the guidance to send your message to your MP. <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>

**THE UK'S LARGEST PRO-LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE** returns in 2024 to explore the "lies beneath the abortion industry" and inform participants about the dark reality behind the guise of 'choice', whilst equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to talk about pro-life issues with friends and family. The Youth Conference takes place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February at Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre. Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NL. For more details, please visit [www.spuc.org.uk/youthconference](http://www.spuc.org.uk/youthconference)

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Thursday 02/02/25: **Team 1** / Monday 05/02/24: **Team 2**  
**COFFEE MORNING: 28/01/24:** Peggy & Anne / **04/02/24:** Yolande + 1  
 2024 Coffee Morning Rota's in Church Porch – volunteers welcome to take a copy.