

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

RACIAL JUSTICE DAY

Saturday 30th	Church	6.15 pm	Des Fuller Anniversary
Sunday 31st	Church	8.00 am	Brendan Burke RIP
Live Streamed	Church	10.30 am	Mrs. Patricia (k/a Anne) Patterson RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Berni Hegarty RIP

Monday 1st February FERIA

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Edward + Catherine McElroy RIP
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Tuesday 2nd THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Special Intention (B.J.)
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Wednesday 3rd St Anne Line

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Private Service	Church	2.00 pm	Funeral Mass: Michael Norman RIP

Thursday 4th FERIA

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Donors' Intention
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Friday 5th St Agatha, V, M

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Canon John Bloomfield
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Saturday 6th St Paul Miki & Comps, Mm

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Ella Weston RIP
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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE


Saturday 6th	Church	6.15 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 7th	Church	8.00 am	Holy Souls
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Alice Reid RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Beryl Schofield RIP
Live Streamed	Monkwick	10.15 am	Peter McCartney RIP

FACEMASKS. 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 STREAM: DAILY MASSES AND A SUNDAY MASS
(Weekdays 10am, please see Schedule for Sunday Live Stream Mass Time)

 **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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Week Commencing 31st JANUARY 2021

I can't breathe. Words of an unarmed dying black man at the hands of the American Police. More than a hashtag or a slogan, this quickly became the mantra of a movement for Racial Justice. As Ben Okori, beautifully points out this phrase in the middle of the COVID pandemic linked the physical symptoms of the virus with a deep struggle for racial Justice. This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday and the Gospel shows Jesus expelling an unclean spirit from a possessed man. It seems very appropriate that the Bishops Conference have entitled this Racial Justice Sunday 'A Time To Act.' Sadly, even now there will be many reading this who feel that racism is no longer an issue that the days of slavery are far behind us. I write to you as your black British Nigerian assistant priest and say no, racism is still with us. More than insults, slurs or physical abuse, at its core racism is an underlying cultural set of meanings and values that places some in privilege and others isolated as victims. To Act and expel the evil of racism as Christ would have us do, it is not enough merely to acknowledge it but to appreciate that it compresses the airways of its victims and leaves them on the incubator of isolation. God has willed the diversity of races in the human family to manifest more fittingly the brilliance of his beauty. We must strive to be a people and a parish that welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates every race. If we do, it is to our gain and if we do not it is to our loss.

Fr. Paschal

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 FEBRUARY: Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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.

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, Rosie Burnside-Fitch. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

WALK WITH ME (LENT EDITION): Now available in church porch at £1 a copy.

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 7th February [Mersea Booking form](#) Sunday 14th February [Mersea Booking Form](#)

BIBLE STUDY: Please join us for Bible Study; the initial meeting will be on Friday 5th February starting at 7^{pm} (finishing at approx. 8^{pm}). The meeting will be via Zoom and led by Fr Chris. ID: 83316196189, please call the presbytery (01206 866317) to register and for password.

SPECIAL COLLECTION ENVELOPES: Please indicate on envelope the name of the "2nd Collection" your donation is for (e.g. Racial Justice Day or Pax Christi/Peace Sunday).

DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: This weekend there will be a 2nd collection for Racial Justice Day; this year's theme is "A time to Act". In recent years, Pope Francis has repeatedly used four verbs encouraging positive and direct action in relation to migrants and refugees, 'Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate'. These same words are essential to advancing the cause of racial justice. None can be omitted, it is as necessary to have plans to *Promote* and *Integrate* as it is to *Welcome*. Donations received will be used for promoting racial justice in England and Wales. Please give what you can as every penny helps! Thank you.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: Pope Francis has declared a special "Year of Saint Joseph" starting 8th December 2020 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) and concluding on the same feast in to 2021. This is to mark the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph being declared Patron of the Universal Church. The Pope's apostolic letter entitled *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)* http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html "Each of us can discover in Joseph –the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence –an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble." [Pope Francis]

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: These are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and info about all parts of the Diocese incl. Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. £2.80 per copy + **2021 Diaries reduced - 1/2- price!** (Money to go in "Repository" Box in church porch).

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE: Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential info about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25th - 28th February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 – or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: As part of our Reimagine series, we are delighted to welcome Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD to talk to us on the subject of COVID and the wider world. The talk will take place via Zoom on Tuesday 9th March at 6 -7^{pm}. Click link to register <https://canonesses.co.uk/.../reimagine-2021-a-year-of-.../>

SVP: Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

PARISH FINANCES: Many thanks to those who regularly donate and to those who are keeping up with their Gift Aid payments. 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 or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- 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