

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]
[Bible Sunday]

Saturday December 9 th	6:15 pm	Brenda Ryan RIP
Sunday December 10 th	8:00 am	Rev Arthur, Beryl & John Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Julie Bath RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	Holy Hour
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Claire Schofield RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Theresa Pearce RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Holy Souls RIP

Monday 11th *Feria*
 Church 9:30 am Mary and John Kehoe RIP

Tuesday 12th *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
 Church 9:30 am Derek Harvey RIP
 Church 6:30 pm Polish Mass

Wednesday 13th *St Lucy, V, M*
 Church 12:15 pm Canon John Bloomfield RIP

Thursday 14th *St John of the Cross Pr, D*
 Church 9:30 am Joe McEnaney RIP
 Church 4:30 pm Reception of Coffin

Friday 15th *Feria*
 Church 11:00 am **REQUIEM – Margaret Wheeler RIP**
 Church 8:00 pm Filipino Mass

Saturday 16th *Feria*
 Church 9:30 am Deirdre Kehoe RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]
[“Gaudete” Sunday]

Saturday December 16 th	6:15 pm	Miriam Murray RIP
Sunday December 17 th	8:00 am	Geoffrey & Beatrice Foley RIP
	10:30 am	Ronald Jay RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Eileen Angland RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Maureen Sheehan RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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Advent essentially is about presence, as indeed is the whole Christian message. When we hear the Gospel, we hear words of course but they are meaningful only as referring to the living presence of Christ who is real to the person hearing. We can take an everyday example to illustrate this point. Imagine someone is talking to us about a person we know and love, telling us about something that has happened to them recently – we would be interested and attentive, the words being a way of connecting us to the person. On the other hand, if the person being talked about was unknown to us and we were not really interested in getting to know them, then the words would ‘fall on deaf ears’, there would be no connection to the person, we would probably say we were bored. So it is with the Gospel. Those who have a living faith hear the words eagerly as they speak of a beloved friend; those who have no faith merely hear a passing sound and they remain dead in their sins.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:30am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:50am
FILMS FOR FAITH: Please see below

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, John Ashdown-Hill, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Vicky Culham, Cosette Devaux, John Disley, **Teresa Emoli**, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Roger Kemp, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Bernadette McLean, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Elizabeth Pace, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Christine Staines, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Alice White, Patricia Wiltshire.

THANK YOU: For your contributions to the collection for Christmas flowers at both Priory Street and Mile End last Sunday.

DIOCESAN RENEWAL: *After the Masses this weekend at Priory Street a short DVD of Bishop Alan speaking about the renewal of the Diocese will be shown in the Crypt. Please try to attend.*

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marian Botham and Jean Taylor who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. Marian's funeral will take place on December 14th at Colchester Crematorium at 11am. Jean's funeral has yet to be arranged.

ST THOMAS MORE ADMISSIONS FOR 2018/2019: [Council closing date for admissions is 15/01/18]: the signing of the "Certificates of Practice" by Fr Alex and Fr Chris will take place on the remaining date:

- Monday 11/12/17 – 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the Crypt

There is no need to make an appointment as parents will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis – *entrance to the Crypt is via the church.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Do you support catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL is renewing its commitment to assisting with the work of the parish.. We welcome new members so if you think that you could help with any of our activities – or simply wish to find out more - please ring Ciaran on 07493 439427. Or – just come to our next meeting on Monday, 11th December at 7.0pm in the Crypt at Priory Street.

FILMS FOR FAITH: The next showing "The Bishop's Wife" will be on Wednesday, 13th December. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided in the Crypt at 1pm for a 1:15pm start.

CHRISTMAS CURRY NIGHT: On Saturday 16th December in the Cardinal Bourne Hall from 7:30pm. Includes your choice of one curry – lamb, chicken, prawn or vegetable – plus dessert and tea or coffee. [Bring your own drinks]. "60's" Music and Grand Raffle tickets will be on sale and drawn on the night. Adults - £10; Children [age 5-12] £5. All proceeds to the Church Fund.

CHALICES AT PRIORY STREET; Thanks for the response. Several people have offered to pay for chalices. No comments have been received about the design. I hope to order the chalices shortly.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS : During the 6pm Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we would encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costume - we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! We are also looking for musicians and narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30 Mass.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6pm Vigil Mass to be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent children, young and old, are asked to save their change and wrap as presents to be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sundays of Advent please collect a card bauble to decorate for the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on December 15th, 19th and 22nd December in Priory Street at 8pm.

LECTIO DIVINA: *Open your heart to the word of the Lord in Advent.* Saturdays in Advent at 5pm in the Crypt. Further info – Valerie Q: 07941 903227.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263
CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: MONDAY, December 11th – Team 3.