

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]

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|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday February 18th | 6:15 pm | Oksana Zakhleniuk RIP |
| Sunday February 19th | 8:00 am | Ronald Jay RIP |
| | 10:30 am | Intentions: Refugees Worldwide |
| | 4:00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | 6:30 pm | Parishioners |
| <i>West Mersea</i> | 8:30 am | Ronnie Hammond RIP |
| <i>Mile End</i> | 9:15 am | Kay Knight RIP |
| <i>Monkwick</i> | 10:15 am | Celestine Tighe RIP |

Monday 20th *Feria*
Church **9:15 am** Elizabeth Riley RIP

Tuesday 21st *St Peter Damian, Bp D*
Church **9:15 am** Dr Halley Mathew RIP

Wednesday, 22nd *THE CHAIR OF ST PETER* *Feast*
Church **12:15 pm** Kay Knight RIP

Thursday 23rd *St Polycarp, Bp M*
Church **9:15 am** Raj Duggal RIP

Friday 24th *Feria*
Church **9:15 am** Kitty Foley RIP
C.G.H. Chapel **12:00 pm** Intentions: Hospital Patients & Staff

Saturday 25th *Feria*
Church **9:15 am** Intentions: Agnelo Fernandes

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]

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| Saturday February 25th | 6:15 pm | Intentions: Patricia Urquhart |
| Sunday February 26th | 8:00 am | Mick and Teresa Hanley RIP |
| | 10:30 am | Patrick Murphy RIP |
| | 2:00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | 6:30 pm | In Thanksgiving |
| <i>West Mersea</i> | 8:30 am | Parishioners |
| <i>Mile End</i> | 9:15 am | Roy Foley RIP |
| <i>Monkwick</i> | 10:15 am | Ronald Jay RIP |

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

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



Canon Anthony McKentey
Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ
Fr Philip Willenbrock

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Brothers and sisters we have heard about the "Lex Taliones" of the olden times which is equivalent to say "law of such". This means that the damage done requires only an equivalent damage as payment. It also tells us that one can inflict unlimited vengeance to someone whom he thinks has done him or the others wrong and he is justified for so doing! I wonder if the law goes beyond Christian mercy!

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus is telling his disciples to go beyond this law because this is not according to his teachings. He reiterates that instead of telling them that in order to counteract one's enemy, he must do him GOOD. He is actually setting a new way of life to follow. In fact, Jesus himself was offering his very own life for his enemy to gain them back to the Father. He forgave all those who persecuted him and even prayed to his Father to forgive them, his killers, for "they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34).

In the society in which we live today, Jesus' words are not easy to apply, especially if we know that we are at the side of truth. Our usual tendency is really to retaliate with all our might just to win and get vindicated. Yet, Jesus' philosophy on this matter is totally different. For him LOVE is the answer! The best move is to conquer the heart of the enemy so that they will cease to be our enemy. If you want to, eliminate your enemies before you befriend them!

To apply the "eye for an eye" or the "tooth for a tooth", i.e., the "rex taliones" we will become soon a society of blind or toothless people. To end this simple reflection of mine allow me to remind ourselves that Jesus is telling as now to break out from this vicious circle and live a life according to his example. To LOVE always beyond violence and destruction is our way, the Christian way, by becoming the image and likeness of the Father in him and not of our enemies. In this way we can live in peace with everybody and everyone all the days of our lives. Amen.

FR TONY WRITES: *Lourdes Day:* Many thanks to all of those who supported our Day of Prayer on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Special thanks to Fr Alex for organizing the different groups to keep praying and singing. It was a lovely day when Lourdes came to Colchester.

You will be able to collect from the back of the church your own copy of the *Diocesan Centenary Prayer* which you can place in your prayer book or wallet or on the mantelpiece!

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY change

Hospital Mass – Friday at 12 noon

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
 CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm
 DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am
 FILMS FOR FAITH: Please see below

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Lorraine Atkin, Pat Banks, Antoinetta Caldeira, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Maureen Sheeran, Christine Staines, Fiona Stephenson, Patricia Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a Diocesan Second Collection this weekend for the Lourdes Sick and Helpers Pilgrimage Fund.

BAPTISM TODAY: We welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism **Charlotte Kirkby-Taylor**. God bless this child and congratulations to her family.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Annie McSweeney and Ivy Hayes who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. Annie's funeral will take place on 1st March at Colchester Crematorium at 2pm. Ivy's funeral takes place here on 8th March at 10a.m.

FILMS FOR FAITH: Films For Faith for Wednesday, 22nd February, will be showing "12 Ordinary" Men followed by "Grace" and "St. Catherine Labouré". Total showing will be two hours. Refreshments will be provided and all are most welcome.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: One or more of our Stewards will be available in Cardinal Bourne Hall after the 10:30am Mass today and next Sunday to talk with

MEXICAN MEAL: 4th March in the Cardinal Bourne Hall at 7:30 pm. Cost - £10 adult; £5 child. In aid of Bishop's Lourdes Fund. This fund helps send pilgrims to the annual Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage. Contact Theresa Higgins 523501.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: On the Fridays in Lent there will be Stations of the Cross here at St James the Less at 12noon followed by soup and a roll lunch in the Crypt and also at 7:30pm on Friday evenings. Due to the retirement of Canon Peter Walker we will be hosting all the dates for this year.

MEETING THE "LIVING GOD" SEMINAR 2: *The three marks of Easter Faith.* Speaker: Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon on Saturday 4th March, 10:30am – 12 noon at Cathedral House.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 3HS. Starting date: 1st September 2017. Please see full advert in the Catholic Teachers Gazette www.e-ctg.com or email recruitment@ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk for an application pack. Closing date: 10th March 2017

TRUSTEE VACANCY: *Brentwood Catholic Children's Society* (based in Rayleigh) is looking for a new Trustee to join the Board. If you have accounting or finance skills and would like to join the talented Board of this wonderful Diocesan charity please contact Steven Webb on 01268 784544 or swebb@bccs.org.uk “

ST PATRICK'S DANCE: Saturday 18th March in the Cardinal Bourne Hall at 7:30pm. Good food, Irish Dancing and live Irish singing and music. Raffle. Adults £12; children 6-12yrs £6. Contacts: Frances on 369568; Nora on 503410.

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VACANCIES: Volunteers are required for the Soup Run. Ideally, this would suit a couple, so if you would like further information please contact Armando or the Parish Office.

PALMS WANTED: Would parishioners please bring their palms into the church of office to be burnt for the creation of this year's ashes.

SAINSBURY'S SCHOOL VOUCHERS: We are collecting these vouchers for St Thomas More's School. Please donate your vouchers by bringing them to the Parish Office.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, 23rd February, Team 1. .