

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 29th	Church	6.15 pm	Mrs. Jolanta Betkowski RIP
Sunday 1st	Church	8:00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10:30 am	Maureen & Peter Ahern + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls
	Mile End	9:15 am	Holy Souls
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners
Monday 2nd			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ursula Bayani RIP
Tuesday 3rd			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross (Polish)
Wednesday 4th			Feria
STM School Mass	Church	9.30 am	Tadeusz Czerkawski+Damita Czerkawska RIP
	Church	12.15 pm	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 5th			Feria
	Church	* 9.00 am	Florence Farrell RIP
Friday 6th			Feria (Lent Fast Day)
	Church	9.30 am	Patricia Urquhart RIP
	West Mersea	9:30 am	Stations of the Cross
	Church	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 7th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Tommie Lohan RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 7th	Church	6.15 pm	William Grahane RIP
Sunday 8th	Church	8:00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10:30 am	Thanksgiving
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour
	Church	6:30 pm	Dec. Fam. Thomas + Bridget Lohan
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Paddy Doyle RIP
	Mile End	9:15 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10:15 am	

***Please note on Thursday 5th March, Mass time is 9.00am NOT 9.30am.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (confession):	Saturday 9:45am -10:30am; 5:30pm -6.00pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:	At least six months' notice is required
BAPTISM COURSE:	www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org under events: where a list of course dates are available

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. Nixon Gomes
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail: colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 1ST MARCH 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 151

Life changing Lent (Forty days). The season for spiritual growth is here. Lent is therefore a focussed time to bring us to a new life in Christ. So the Church encourages us to partake in a transformation through the three pillars of Lent (Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving) which come straight out of the Bible, in verses such as: "Give alms. ... Pray to your Father. ... Fast without a gloomy face. ..." (Matt 6:1-18)

There is a reason why the people of God focus intently on the Psalms during this time. The Psalms are the constant recital of humanity in dialogue with our Creator. The whole of Sacred Scripture is a part of that dialogue.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have accordingly designated 2020 a special year to focus on the Bible. The Bishops have given this initiative a wonderful title: "*The God Who Speaks*". Let us now listen, more than ever with attentive hearts.

Fr. Nixon

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15 _{am}
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35 _{am}
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<i>following</i> 8.00 _{am} Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00 _{pm} - 6.00 _{pm}
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00 _{pm}

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: *Catholics in China*. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Transformed by our love*. Sometimes life is hard and we can get lost in the daily grind of making ends meet, of getting things done. Then, suddenly, a change occurs through a simple show of affection: a kiss, a touch, a loving glance from my beloved! In little gestures like these, we reveal again our love for each other and our relationship is transformed!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of William (Bill) Wynne and Mary (Moir) Knapp who have recently passed away. May they rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of their respective bereaved family and friends. William's Requiem Mass will be held in St Cedds, Mersea on Thursday 26th March at 11.00_{am} and Mary's Requiem Mass will be held here on Friday 13th March at 11.00_{am}.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This will take place here every Friday of Lent at 12_{pm} (Noon) and at 9.30_{am} in Mersea. Also here every Tuesday at 6.30_{pm} for our Polish Community.

LENT TALKS. Come and join us in the hall on Friday at 7.30_{pm} for our 1st Lenten Talk with guest speaker Sr. Camilla Oberding who will be giving a talk on "*The Joyful Message of Walsingham*". Further Lent talks will take place every Friday evening from 6th March to 3rd April. Please see posters at the back of the church. All are welcome.

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE: for new-borns and children up to age 6 yrs. will take place on **Friday 24th April 2020** here in the Crypt from 7:30_{pm}-9.00_{pm} (entrance to Crypt is via Church). No appointment is necessary and all baptism dates will be arranged during the 2nd session of course. [If you would like to present a child for Baptism aged 7 or older, please email the Parish Office].

DONATION STATION: We have recently installed a 'donation station' in the porch. If you wish to make a donation, please touch the screen in the appropriate place and follow the instructions. Many people like to make their offertory donation this way, either before or after Mass. There is the option of Gift Aid, if you take that option (and submit the details on the machine) then the machine will remember the card and automatically claim Gift Aid on any subsequent donations with that card. Feedback to Fr. Chris would be welcome.

CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY is on Friday 6th March. Will you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help highly trained, highly skilled local experts around the world to save and support the health of the world's poorest families? Envelopes in porch, please give what you can to help those less fortunate.

REPOSITORY (CHURCH PORCH): now selling a selection of St Patrick's Day cards.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: Last few remaining copies. Please put monies in the Repository box

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM takes place on **Saturday 23rd May 2020**. For transport details contact Theresa Higgins on 07881370626.

ST. PATRICK'S DANCE: On **Saturday, 21st March from 7.30_{pm} to 10.30_{pm}**. Great atmosphere with good food, tea + coffee served. Enjoy the Irish dancing (ceilidh) performed by McGann school of Dancing. DJ music & dancing, Raffle. Bring your own drinks. Book early to assist catering; Tickets Adult £12, Children 5-12_{yrs} £5.00 – Contact Nora 503410 or Frances 369568. Please join us for the Craic!

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 4th March** with a **start time of 1.15_{pm}** screening "*The Path of the Messiah*". Everyone is most welcome.

THE **SVP CUPPA CLUB** is running **every Thursday morning from 10_{am} to 12_{noon}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Come and enjoy a free tea/coffee and cake with friends. Newspapers, puzzles, games and craft. If you know anyone who would like to come but needs a lift, please get in touch, using the contact details below.

BEFRIENDING AND SUPPORT GROUP: At St John Payne Church, Greenstead we have a friendly group which aims to help those suffering grief for any kind of loss. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd of March, between 10_{am} and 12_{noon}**, then on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to come and join us for coffee, biscuits and a chat. Details from Judy on 01206 869601.

POUSTINIA PROJECT: As we prepare to celebrate the Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry, the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham hopes to find benefactors who can support their 'Poustinia' project. With there being an ever-greater need for silence in today's world, many people are searching for space to enter into the silence of their hearts and listen to 'the still small voice of God' I Kings 19:12. As a community of men and women in different states of life, we accompany people so they can live in the joy and freedom of Mary's 'Fiat' or 'Yes'. We are hoping that a parish, a group of parishioners or individuals may contribute to this project. We need to raise £100,000 to build two shepherd's huts and develop prayer gardens around them at our convent, House of the Divine Will. If you know of anyone who can help please give them our contact details and ask to speak with Sr. Camilla COLW (info@walsinghamcommunity.org or 01328 801018).

THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY takes place throughout the country on Sunday 29th March. To prepare for this renewal of the relationship of England with the Mother of God,, St John Vianney, Clayhall, is hosting two lectures: "*Walsingham, Mary and Ecumenism*", speaker Fr Tim Bugby, **Thursday 5th March** at 7.30_{pm} & "*Mary's Dowry and the Rededication of England*", speaker Fr Neil Brett, **Thursday 26th March** at 7.30_{pm}. Both take place at St John Vianney, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Ilford, IG5 0JB. The lectures will last about 40 minutes, followed by time for questions and refreshments.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL "God Who Speaks" Lenten Lectures Wednesday 4th March at 7.30_{pm} in Cathedral parish hall. *The Bible: alive and active or dead and irrelevant?* To be given by Professor Anthony Towey. Free Entry. All welcome. For more info go to www.cathedral-brentwood.org.

PLANTING TREES FOR THE FUTURE – COME AND LEND A HAND! The Woodland Trust have granted 105 trees to Walsingham House at Abbotswick (Navestock Side, CM14 5SH), and we need a helping hand to plant them, please, on **Saturday 28th March, 9.30_{am}-5_{pm}**. Come with a spade, and some sandwiches – we'll provide drinks and snacks. So we know who to expect, please email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org. or call 01277373959. As the area where we are planting includes bee hives and a ditch, we suggest no very young children, please.

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** email: cb.hall@btinternet.com
or Tel: 07758 805263 [**answerphone only** – please leave a message with name + contact number]

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Monday 3rd March: **Team 2**