

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(Migrants Day)

Saturday 30th	Church	6.15 pm	Douglas + David Finch RIP
Sunday 1st Dec	Church	8:00 am	Michael + Anne O'Reilly RIP
	Church	10:30 am	Selwyn Caldeira RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Ints: Anne Kemp
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Ann Irvine RIP
	Mile End	9:15 am	
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 2nd	STM Sch. Advent Mass Church	9.30 am	Feria Mrs Nancy Drummond
Tuesday 3rd	Church	9.30 am	St Francis Xavier, Pr Dec. Rels of Lavery + O'Dwyer Fam
Wednesday 4th	Church	12.15 pm	Feria Ints: Anne Kemp
Thursday 5th	Church	* 9.00 am	Feria Anne Sears RIP
	Church	6.30 pm	5.30 _{pm} Confession followed by Polish Rorate Mass
Friday 6th	Church	9.30 am	Feria Lilian Southon RIP
	Church	11.00 am	REQUIEM MASS: Arlene Annie Miller RIP
Saturday 7th	Church	9.30 am	St Ambrose, Bp, D Ints: Marco Baby

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(Bible Sunday)

Saturday 7th	Church	6.15 pm	Mary Dean RIP
Sunday 8th	Church	8:00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10:30 am	Anthony Southon RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
		5.00 pm	Holy Hour
	Church	6:30 pm	Holy Souls
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls
	Mile End	9:15 am	Ints: Mary, Tom & John Rutherford
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Holy Souls

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

*** PLEASE NOTE MASS TIME ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER IS AT 9.00_{am}**

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. We can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit patients so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

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
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

WEEK COMMENCING: 1ST DECEMBER 2019 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 82

The Season of Advent is a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. As St. John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. The entire Liturgy of the Advent season spurs us to be vigilant: *'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.*

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 DECEMBER: *The Future of the Very Young*

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Walk in the light of the Lord.* God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also St Paul tells us, "the time has come: you must wake up now", because now is all we have.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Angela Patricia Staines who has recently passed away. May she rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of her bereaved family and friends. Angela's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 11th December at 11.00^{am}.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY on Monday 9th December: Following the 9:30^{am} Mass there will be Rosary and Procession. Please note there will be no clergy at procession.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: It is our tradition to use fresh flowers throughout the year and we are incredibly lucky to have such a talented group of volunteers that create the most wonderful floral displays for us. The next collection to support the church floristry costs especially Christmas arrangements will be on **Sunday 8th December** at Priory Street and Mile End. Thank you for enabling us to continue this tradition. If you are interested in joining the Floral Team please contact the presbytery on 01206 866317 as they always welcome more volunteers.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2020/2021]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/20). The signing of the "**Certificates of Practice**" will take place in the church crypt on the following dates: -

- **Today**, Sunday 1st December 2019 at 12.00^{pm} (Noon) – 1.00^{pm}
- Saturday 7th December 2019 at 3.00^{pm} – 4.00^{pm}

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

LECTIO DIVINA is simply a way of reflecting on scripture in preparation for the Sunday readings. This will take place on **Saturdays of Advent at 5.15^{pm}** in the meeting room in the presbytery. Access will be from the church porch. The Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to celebrate a 'Year of the God who Speaks'. We are invited to listen afresh to the Word of God as Mary did at the Annunciation. We can do this in our parish by scripture study with Sr Angela, at Mass when we engage with the scripture readings, **and by joining the parish group for Lectio. All are welcome.**

REPOSITORY SHOP: New Year * New Ideas * New Person(s) required for the Repository – working alongside Frances (as Pauline is stepping down). If interested in this voluntary role, please contact the presbytery 01206 866317.

THANK YOU: to everyone who attended the PARISH 'GIFT DAY' and for your kind donations, we thank you for your support. Fr Chris + Fr Nixon. If you were unable to attend this event, you can still leave a gift by dropping your envelope into presbytery with PARISH 'GIFT DAY' on front of envelope.

EVANGELISATION IN COLCHESTER: - Advent a new start... We are about to introduce "Landings" in Colchester. What is it? Landings is a series of relaxed, informal, lay-led meetings, based on faith-sharing within a small group. It offers a safe and supported "*landing place*" for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are thinking about coming back. It offers already active Catholics an opportunity to share their faith; to participate in the Church's mission to welcome those who have been away; and a chance to grow and learn from each other's spiritual journeys. More information to be provided in the coming weeks.

"CUPPA CLUB" The SVP would like to invite you to their 'Cuppa Club' coffee morning. **Every Thursday morning from 10^{am} - 12^{noon}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Free coffee and cake!! Newspapers, crosswords, and craft. Come and make new friends.

MERSEA NEWS: Festive Coffee Morning on **Saturday 7th December from 10.30^{am} to 12.00^{pm}** at St Cedd and St Gregory, with music from Coln Endeavour Band, raffle and various stalls + side attractions. All Welcome.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 11th December** with a **start time of 1.15^{pm}** screening "*The Polar Express*". Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard in porch for future films and screening dates.

ABBOT JOHN BECHE: Martyr of England and a friend of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More. John was abbot of Colchester Abbey, a Benedictine; he received a Doctorate from Oxford in 1515. He took the Oath of Supremacy in 1534, he realised that the King wanted more and that all religious houses including his own were in danger of being suppressed and plundered for their land and 'wealth'. When he refuted...and refused to comply he was arrested for treason and hanged, drawn, and quartered at Colchester. Pope Leo XIII decreed the beatification of Abbot John Beche on 13 May 1895. His feast is on 1st December in the diocese of Brentwood. Let us keep him in our thoughts and prayers today.

FILIPINO CHRISTMAS SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on the following dates in December, Wednesday 18th, Friday 20th, Monday 23rd in Priory Street at 8^{pm} and on Saturday 28th December at 12^{pm} (Noon) followed by Christmas party in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

VOCATIONS: The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 3rd December** at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. For further info please contact Fr. Mark Swires - vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

COLCHESTER FOOD BANK: require the following items: tinned/dry goods incl. tinned tomatoes, soups, pasta, rice, jars of sauces, long life fruit juices, milk and squashes, custard, jam, cleaning, hygiene & sanitary products and small packets of washing powder, liquid or capsules. **Thank you to all who donate.**

SVP: turning concern into action - If you know of someone who is lonely, housebound or simply in need of a friend, please contact us, using the details below.

❖ **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 2nd December: **Team 1**