

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 30th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	November Dead List
Sunday 1st December	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Mary Joseph Jomy RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Maciek Borow

Monday 2nd **Monday of the First Week of Advent**

	Church	9.30 am	Elsy Paul RIP
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Tuesday 3rd **St Franis Xavier, Pr** Migrants Day

	Church	9.30 am	Chris Gibson RIP
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Wednesday 4th **Wednesday of the First Week of Advent**

	Church	9.30 am	Ann De Smith RIP
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†	Church	12.30 pm	Funeral Mass: Danny Hugh Higgins RIP
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Thursday 5th **Thursday of the First Week of Advent**

	Church	8.30 am	Evelyn Corless RIP
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Friday 6th **Friday of the First Week of Advent**

	Church	9.30 am	Andrzej Wilczak RIP
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Saturday 7th **St Ambrose, Bp, D**

	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Aleyamma Abraham RIP
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 7th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
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Sunday 8th	Church	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
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	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
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	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
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	Church	6.30 pm	Fr Chris Hogan RIP
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	West Mersea	8.30 am	Margaret Ashmore RIP
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	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
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* PLEASE NOTE THAT MASS ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER WILL BE AT 8.30AM

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Baptism Godparents: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
- **KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA:** George Johnson (BEM, Grand Knight) 07476 781885; George Benedict (Membership Officer) 07834 725890; email: george.johnson@ksc.org.uk



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/Clergy + Church photos/videos. 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



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB

Tel: 01206 866317

E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org

Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Week Commencing 1st December 2024

Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, a very significant time for all Christians. As we enter this sacred season, we are invited to take a moment and reflect on our relationship with God. Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas; it is a period of preparation, a call to renew our hearts and minds in anticipation of Christ's coming. This season of advent invites us to remember the first coming of our Lord in Bethlehem and to prepare for His glorious return at the end of time. It is a time of hope, urging us to wake up from our slumber and engage in more prayer and good works. Let us seize this opportunity to deepen our faith, to listen attentively to God's Word, and to open our hearts to His presence in our lives. May this Advent be a journey of renewal, leading us closer to the love and grace of our Saviour.

Fr. Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *For pilgrims of hope*
 We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE We pray for the people of all war-torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices and for the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28,34-36) ***Keeping the star of our love burning brightly.*** Jeremiah's joy reminds us of the weeks before our wedding, a time when we were deeply aware of our love for one another. Since then, many cares have threatened to divert us from that love and it has sometimes been necessary to make a special effort to share, listen and forgive to keep the star of our love burning brightly.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Jimmy Clarin, Grace McCartney, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION: On the 8th December a special collection will be taken for Church Flowers at St James the Less (*Priory Street*) & St Joseph's (*Mile End*). The money will go towards decorating these churches over the festive Christmas period.

DAY OF MERCY: On **Friday 20th December 2024**, the Church will be open all day with **Mass at 10.30am** followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 9.00pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

ALL READERS: There will be a gathering for all readers on **Friday 6th December at 7.30pm**. This will be mainly to introduce the new lectionary but also a refresher.

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: From January we will need a person to run the **Repository**. This role is suitable for someone with limited time. For more information please call 01206 768418 after 6pm for details.

REPOSITORY: The Repository now has a selection of boxed sets and single Christmas Cards & 2025 Diaries available for sale in the Church Porch along with a new selection of Mass Intention cards. All monies go into Repository Box. Thank you.



➤ **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
 ➤ **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): These will take place at 6.30pm on the following Thursdays in December: 5th, 19th and on Tuesday 10th at 6.30pm at Priory Street.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place at 8.00pm on the following dates in December: Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th at Priory Street. Filipino Children's Christmas party on 21st December 2-8pm; On 28th December Filipino Mass at 12.30pm followed by Christmas Party til 10.00pm.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2025/2026]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/25). The last dates for signing of the "**Certificate of Catholic Practice**" forms will take place in the Church Crypt on the following dates: -

December 2024
Thursday 05/12/24 at 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Sunday 08/12/24 at 3.00pm – 3.45pm

There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis.

PARISH MISSION APPEAL: The sisters of OLOW would like to thank everyone who has attended & supported the mission events and made them welcome. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: There will be a 7 readings and Carol service on **Saturday 14th December at 7.00pm**. All welcome.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration is now open for all children. Please complete an application form which are in the Church porch and drop the completed form through Presbytery door (*Red door*).



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: There is usually an annual celebration of this Sacrament for young people in Year 9 or above. To register your child, please complete an application form which is in the church porch and drop completed form in Presbytery letterbox. The Programme begins in February 2025. Volunteers (Catechists) will be needed to run the course. To volunteer, please speak to Fr Philip.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree when it is being decorated. Just as your tree lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

JOSIE'S KITCHEN: Josie is looking for donations of various items to make her food + care packages for the Homeless at Christmas. If you can spare any of the following items: - General toiletries (shower gels, shampoo, deodorants + body sprays, toothpaste, razors, shaving foam), Cup-a-soups, sachets of coffee drinks, hot chocolate, long life milk. Tins of ready meals e.g. Chili-con-carne, casserole, minced beef, baked beans, tuna, corned beef or ham, tinned potatoes, tinned fruit + puddings, custard powder, mini boxes of cereal, pot noodles, crisps, biscuits, small multipack snacks. Socks, scarves, hats + gloves. These items make a big difference to their lives and show them that they are cared for in our community. Please drop your Donations into the Presbytery before 16th December. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

MISSION TODAY CALENDAR 2024: Please feel free to take a calendar from church porch

MYLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER are singing Christmas Carols outside the Chesterwell Co-op on **Friday 13th December at 6.30pm**, please do come along. A collection bucket would be provided and the proceeds would go to the Children's Society.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS: There are vacancies for Foundation Governors at a number of Catholic schools in the Diocese. Training is provided. If you are interested, please email: governanceappointments@brcdt.org.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 05/12/24: **Team 1** / Monday 09/12/24: **Team 2**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 01/12/24: SVP / 08/12/24: Frances

The 2025/2026 Cleaning + Coffee morning Rota's are now available in Church Porch