

Feast **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (A)** (World Day for Consecrated Life)

Saturday 1st	Church	6.15 pm	Ints: Christina Lambe
Sunday 2nd	Church	8:00 am	Ints: Moriarty Family
	Church	10:30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Miss Helen Wynter RIP
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Anthony Brookes RIP
	Mile End	9:15 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Wright + Wrobel Fams
Monday 3rd			St Anne Line, M
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Tuesday 4th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Des Fuller RIP
Wednesday 5th			St Agatha, V, M
	Church	12.15 pm	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 6th			St Paul Miki and Comps, Mm
	Church	9.30 am	Mr. Seamus Power
Friday 7th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Catherine Wood
Saturday 8th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Jim McCarthy RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Racial Justice Day)

Saturday 1st	Church	6.15 pm	Noreen Downes RIP
Sunday 2nd	Church	8:00 am	Deceased Relatives of Betts Family
	Church	10:30 am	Unar & Finbarr Nagle + Fam
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	5.00 pm	Holy Hour
	Church	6:30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9:15 am	Anne Hall RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Anniversary: Peter McCartney RIP

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

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 the patient 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

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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 2ND FEBRUARY 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 297

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy. It honours the day that Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus at the Temple. In bringing their child to the Temple and offering a sacrifice, Jesus' parents were following the Mosaic law. On February 2nd a quaint tradition unfolds, known well to schoolchildren and adults alike. The fate of Spring hangs in the balance as a burrowing animal looks for its shadow. Candlemas became linked to weather predictions about the end of winter because of an old English poem:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
 Come winter, have another flight.
 If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
 Go winter, and come not again.*

Incidentally, February 2nd is also halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so the date has always had significance for ancient people.

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 FEBRUARY: *Listen to the Migrants' Cries*

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Avoiding issues to 'keep the peace'?* When Mary and Joseph went to the Temple, Simeon blessed them, saying their child would be rejected. When we take our child for baptism, we are given a candle, a reminder 'to keep the flame of faith alive'. This can be difficult, but let us not avoid the issues 'to keep the peace', but grow in listening and trust together.

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, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: is for Lourdes Sick & Helpers Fund on Sunday 9th February. The proceeds of this collection are used to fund Doctors and Nurses on the pilgrimage, as well as to provide assistance for individuals who are facing financial hardship especially those who have medical needs.

READERS: Pope Francis has 'dedicated' this year to the Word, asking all Catholics to spend more time reading and reflecting on the Scriptures. It seems fitting therefore for us as a parish to be more attentive to the reading of Scripture during Mass, and also renew and refresh those who do proclaim the Word in Mass. In the first instance, I would like to invite parishioners to give me the names (of others or themselves) who would like to be considered as readers in our parish.

WANTED - CATECHISTS: With young people preparing for sacraments of Initiation throughout the parish if you have ever wanted to know more, or are willing to share your faith with our young people please contact Hywel Edwards at Edwards.hywel@btinternet.com or after the 10:30_{am} Mass. The numbers of children we can prepare is dependent on the availability of catechists to prepare them - so please don't be shy!

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE: for new-borns and children up to age 6 yrs. will take place on **Friday 7th February 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].*

SVP: "turning concern into action". Do you have a spare hour or so in the week to visit someone who is lonely and housebound or to visit a care home? As the requests for our support have increased, we need people who are willing to give up their time to help others. What does membership of the SVP involve? Really as much or as little as you can offer – we are a friendly group who meet twice a month on a Monday evening. Some of us distribute food to the homeless while others carry out visits and make new friends.

LANDINGS: Calling all active Catholics, if you would like to be involved with the Landings program that will be coming soon to this Parish. **Please see poster in church porch for details.**

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 5th February** with a **start time of 1.15_{pm}** screening "*Courageous*". Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard in porch for future films and screening dates.

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.

JOSIES KITCHEN: Josie is looking for volunteers to assist her with feeding the homeless on Mondays. If you have the time available and are looking to participate in a worthwhile cause, please speak to Josie either on Monday or Friday mornings in the hall or leave your contact details at the presbytery.

YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: The 3rd study day for the Year of the Word will be held at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Brentwood Road, RM2 6DH on **Saturday 29th February at 10.30_{am}**, Fr Victor Darlington, lecturer on John's Gospel at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, will give two talks entitled 'John Among the Gospels'. The day will conclude at 3_{pm}. Free admission, but please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or by phone to 01708 449914.

THE ANNUAL LOURDES MASS will be celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral on **Sunday 16th February at 3_{pm}**. This is an opportunity to give thanks for graces received in Lourdes and to seek prayers for the sick. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated.

VOCATIONS: The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 4th February** at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires - vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

YOUTH MASS: Wednesday 5th February 8_{pm} at Brentwood Cathedral. Anyone age 14+ is very welcome; the February Mass includes a live interview with Rob Green, a former Champion pupil who. More details www.bcys.net.

LENTEN REFLECTION AND REVISION RETREAT: Walsingham House at Abbotswick, **27th-29th March**. In school year 11-13? Struggling to find a quiet space to study for GCSEs, BTEC or A-levels? The weekend retreat will include reflective prayer, generous time for personal study, and relaxed social time, and will conclude with Mass. 8_{pm} Friday 27th – 3_{pm} Sunday 29th. Meals included. Cost £35.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Bishop Alan, supported by our Youth Service, will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 26 - 31 July, flying from Southend Airport. This is a wonderful opportunity, including for the frail and those with needs, to pray at the Grotto, grow in faith, and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. Some brochures and booking forms are available in the parish or you can contact the tour operator, Tangney Tours, directly: www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood or 01732 886885

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES There are some copies still available in the church porch. These are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Priced at £2.80 per copy (money to go in "*Repository*" Box in church porch).

❖ **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 February: **Team 2**