

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)

Saturday 1st	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
Sunday 2nd	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Fr Sean Carroll RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Scoth Flores Dagandara RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: M. Lipski
Monday 3rd			St Anne Line, M
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Dr K.K. Abraham RIP
Tuesday 4th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Anniversary: P. J. Kurian
Wednesday 5th			St Agatha v, M
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mr. Jose Vadakepeedika RIP
Thursday 6th			SS Paul Miki and Comps, Mm
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Deceased Members of Michael Family
Friday 7th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Robin Ragu + Family
Saturday 8th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mr. Thomas RIP
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)			
Saturday 8th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Roger Hobday RIP
Sunday 9th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Betts Family
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Noreen Downes RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com



- **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.



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: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)

Week Commencing 2nd February 2025

Many events from both the Old and New Testaments are connected to today's feast of the Presentation. In itself it refers back to the escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The last of the ten plagues, the one to which Pharaoh finally responded, was the death of the first-born of the Egyptians and certain of their animals. The Israelites themselves were Passed Over by the Angel of Death because of the blood of the sacrificial lambs. In recognition of the suffering of the Egyptians, God ordained that henceforth every first-born son of the Israelites should be redeemed, again by a sacrifice. Also, of course, Jesus is to become the true Lamb of the real Passover, the Eucharist. We see sacrifice everywhere, not uselessly but a reminder that all of human history is within God's providence such that all of history is really sacred history. The death of the Egyptians wasn't pointless. Even the Passover lambs gain a meaning.

Fr Chris

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 Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is *'Pilgrims of Hope'*, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2: 22-40) **Lighting candles.** All religions use candles. In the home, candles can create intimacy, and help us to celebrate. Jesus called himself 'the light of the world'. His words and actions shone the light of truth on the darkness of sin. At our children's baptism we were called to be a 'light' for them. May our couple love be light in the world?

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marion Vickers, Francis Branter and Monica Howley who have all recently passed away. The Parish community offers Marion's, Francis's and Monica's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Marion's funeral service will take place at Colchester Crematorium at 10am on Wednesday 5th February. Francis's funeral service will take place at Colchester Crematorium at 3.15pm on Thursday 20th February and Monica's Funeral service will be here at 1.00pm on Thursday 6th March. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: 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. This marks the end of the Christmas season.

LEGION OF MARY: The Legion of Mary invites parishioners aged 18 and older to join our weekly prayer meetings which are held in Cardinal Bourne Hall **every Friday at 7.30pm.** The mission of the Legion of Mary is to deepen one's faith while serving Christ through devotion to His Blessed Mother. **Recruitment Drive -The Legion of Mary will be attending all Masses on Sunday 9th February if you would like to talk to them.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting on **Saturday 1st March at 11.15am** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. ALL PARENTS will be required to attend to complete the registration process for your child.

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: Lourdes Sick & Helpers Fund on 9th February 2025 & Racial Justice on 16th February 2025.

INTERACTIVE PASSION PLAY: Claire Williamson, musical director, is going to be putting on an interactive short Passion play the week before Easter. There will be a meeting after the 10.30 mass this Sunday to discuss this event – participation encouraged. Please try and attend meeting.

CONFIRMATION COURSE 2025: Parents & Candidates, Please come to the PRE-CONFIRMATION session today (**2nd February 2025**), in the crypt at St. James the Less and St. Helen, Priory Street at 4pm. It will be to talk about the course and get to know each other.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP: We are planning to restart the Children's Liturgy Group at the church. This group is designed for children from Preschool/Reception up to Year 2 and will be held every Sunday during the 10:30am Mass. Activities will include prayer/gospel readings, singing, and arts/crafts related to the Sunday gospel. We urgently need more volunteers! If you're interested, please contact Nicole at lwpsnicole@gmail.com. A DBS check is required, and preparation materials will be provided.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The 1st Film showing is on **Wednesday 5th February** and will continue on the first Wednesday in each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome.



PALM CROSSES: We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us so that we can make ash for our Ash Wednesday service (**5th March**). A basket is situated in the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.

CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY: on **Sunday, 9th February, from 2–6pm** at St. Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford RM1 4AT. This event is an opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost-of-Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. To find out more www.caritasbrentwood.org/network.

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE: This year marks 60yrs since *Nostra Aetate*, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue' at 11am on Saturday 22nd February at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. You are invited to attend free of charge or free live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org.

COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM House Appeal: In honour of the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February - the *World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life* - could you help a new, growing, religious community? The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks donations to establish a mission house in Walsingham where they can expand their work of spiritual accompaniment, hospitality and supporting young people to grow in faith. The community will pray for all benefactors and are grateful for donations of any amount which can be made at www.walsinghamcommunity.org/maryshouseappeal Web: www.walsinghamcommunity.org. Tel 01362 692574

CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: We would like to share a recording of a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes on the findings of recent research by the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics into why people no longer come to church, commissioned by the Brentwood Diocese. See our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/why-do-people-no-longer-come-to-church/>.

CALAIS LIGHT UK - VOLUNTEER TO HELP REFUGEES IN CLACTON: Calais Light is seeking volunteers to attend social events it is planning in and around Clacton and Colchester, to help a group of refugees to feel welcomed, to meet local people, and to be able to experience something of our culture and society outside the confines of their Clacton hotel. If you feel you can help, please contact Lindsay Francis on 07977917554.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Friday 07/02/25: **Team 5** / Thursday 13/02/25: **Team 1**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 02/02/25: African Community / 09/02/25: Diane & Adrian