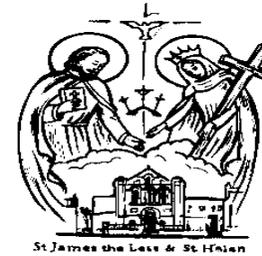


ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Paschal Uche
 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
 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(B)

Saturday 1st	Live Streamed Church	6.15 pm	Rod Hume RIP
Sunday 2nd	Church	8.00 am	Private Intentions
	Church	10.30 am	Like McGloin RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Ints: A. Harley
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Olive Hewitt RIP

Monday 3rd **SS PHILIP and JAMES, App**

Live Streamed Church	10.00 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
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Tuesday 4th **THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**

Church	10.00 am	Canon John Bloomfield
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Wednesday 5th **Feria**

Live Streamed Church	10.00 am	John (Harold) Labonne RIP
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Thursday 6th **St John Payne, Pr, M**

Live Streamed Church	10.00 am	Josef Von Wrede RIP
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Friday 7th **Feria**

Live Streamed Church	10.00 am	Pat, Sean + Tommie Lohan RIP
Private Service Live Streamed Church	12.30 pm	FUNERAL MASS: Salvatore Antonio Morreale RIP

Saturday 8th **Feria**

Live Streamed Church	10.00 am	Ints: Mary Egeolu
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(B)

Saturday 8th	Church	6.15 pm	Michael + Anne O'Reilly RIP
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Sunday 9th	Live Streamed Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention (M.B)
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Charlie Horman RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intentions

	Monkwick	10.15 am	Olive Hewitt RIP
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FACEMASKS. It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10_{am} Mass and 5.30_{pm}-6.00_{pm}
- ❖ Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- ❖ If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

LIVE STREAM: DAILY MASSES AND A SUNDAY MASS
 (Weekdays 10_{am}, please see Schedule for Sunday Live Stream Mass Time)

[St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester](http://www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org)

Please check out our Facebook page for Live Stream Masses and all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy photos/videos. Please remember to [like](#) & [follow](#) our page!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(B)

Week Commencing 2nd May 2021

The so-called Enlightenment arguably began with Descartes declaration, 'Cogito ergo sum' (I think therefore I am); it exalted human reason and ridiculed Catholic teaching. One profound change in European society which resulted and endures to this day, is the cult of the individual. What I mean by that is the conviction, essentially universal nowadays in much of the world, that we exist first as individuals who then decide who and what they will be. Such an attitude would literally have been incomprehensible is Jesus' day, and for centuries afterwards. It can be understood as the culmination of the sin of Adam. In New Testament times, people would only have grasped themselves as members of society, their behaviour followed from who they were in their human setting. Today's Gospel needs to be seen in that light; cut off from the vine, the Body of Christ, the Church, a person becomes meaningless.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 _{am}	All Temporarily suspended
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 _{pm})	

**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *The World of Finance***

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8) **Listening and discerning together.** Jesus says: "*Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.*" Listening to Our Lord is essential for our fruitfulness. This can depend on how well we make the time to listen to each other, to discern together. Often God speaks to us through our spouse; some say 'the closer we are to each other, the closer we are to God'.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Despite all the restrictions, let us be thankful that we can once again gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment :-

- ♦ Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Mass
- ♦ Facemasks must be worn when entering all places of worship (unless medically exempt)
- ♦ Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- ♦ Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- ♦ It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- ♦ The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- ♦ Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- ♦ An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- ♦ No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- ♦ Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- ♦ We are still required to have Church Stewards in attendance at each Mass and the Church will be cleaned after each Service in readiness for the next Mass to be held.
- ♦ No mingling with other people you do not live with after Mass outside the Church.

THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.

Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Valerie Thurston, Jimmy Clarin. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: available for collection from the Church Porch. Thank you.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Dolamore, Salvatore Morreale and Barbara Byrne and Peter Edwards who have all recently passed away, may they rest in peace. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time.

✠ John's funeral mass is on Friday 28th May at 11.00_{am} (Reception into Church 27th at 4.00_{pm})

✠ Salvatore's funeral mass is on Fri 7th May at 12.30_{pm}.

✠ Barbara's funeral mass will be on Fri 11th June at 11.30_{am}.

Please note that we require volunteer Stewards for the above Funeral services as well as Tuesday 18th May at 11.30_{am}. Please contact the Presbytery if you are able to assist. Thank you.

MERSEA NEWS: Please use the following links for reserving seats at Mass (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times:

Sunday 9th May: [Booking Form](#)

Sunday 16th May: [Booking Form](#)

BIBLE STUDY ON GOSPEL OF ST JOHN (Read, Reflect, Respond) There are still places available if you would like to join us online for Bible Study, which will be led by Fr Chris and Fr Paschal every Friday starting at 7_{pm} (duration approx. 1hr). If you are interested in participating, please email Colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org to register your interest.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: Last year's candidates will be making their First Holy Communion at 12.30_{pm} on the following Sundays 8th May & 22nd May. More dates to follow. **Please note that we require volunteer Stewards to assist. Thank you.**

FR. BRIAN MCGILLOWAY: Fr Brian has moved into St Michael's Care Home in Clacton and we are sure he will be a ray of sunshine to the other residents there. As a Parish, we thank him for his ministry to us over the years and wish him every happiness in his new home. Fr Brian has advised that once all Covid restrictions are lifted, he will look forward to seeing some familiar faces. St Michael's Tel: 01255 423688.

POPE FRANCIS has invited Catholics and 30 Marian Shrines around the world, including the Shrine at Walsingham, to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham has been selected to start the month of prayer on Saturday 1st May. The recitation of the rosary will be live streamed from Walsingham to the Vatican Television Centre so that Pope Francis can join live www.walsingham.org.uk or <https://www.youtube.com/c/WalsinghamCatholicTV/featured>

A COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE WEBINAR has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster. It will take place on Sat 15th May 2021 from 10.00- 11.30_{am}. It will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest info on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

RIGHT TO LIFE ORG: The Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill will remove the current grounds in the Northern Ireland abortion regulations that were imposed on Northern Ireland that allow abortion for 'severe fetal impairment'. Under these grounds in the regulations, babies with disabilities incl. Down's syndrome, cleft lip and clubfoot can currently be singled out for abortion in Northern Ireland because of their disability and can be aborted right up to birth. [Respond to the consultation on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion \(Amendment\) Bill – Right To Life UK](#)

PARISH FINANCES: If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:

- By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you