

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]**[Migrants Day]**

Saturday December 2 nd	6:15 pm	Mr D and Mrs M Pryke RIP
Sunday December 3 rd	8:00 am	Private Intention [CC]
	10:30 am	Special Intention [Sykes Family]
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	4:00 pm	Filipino Mass
	6:30 pm	Timothy English RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Mary Staunton RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Oreste Meles RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 4th **Feria**
Church 9:30 am Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP

Tuesday 5th **Feria**
Church 9:30 am Anne Sears RIP
Mersea 11:30 am Penitential Service
Church 6:30 pm Polish Mass

Wednesday 6th **St Nicholas, Bp**
Church 12:15 pm November Dead List

Thursday 7th **St Ambrose, Bp, D**
Church 9:30 am Margaret Wheeler RIP [JH]
Church 11:30 am **REQUIEM – Timothy Paul Healy RIP**

Friday 8th **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM**
Church 9:30 am Holy Souls RIP
Church 11:30 am **REQUIEM – Mary Powling RIP**

Saturday 9th **Feria**
Church 9:30 am Margaret Wheeler RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]**[Bible Sunday]**

Saturday December 9 th	6:15 pm	Brenda Ryan RIP
Sunday December 10 th	8:00 am	Rev. Arthur, Beryl & John Oliver RIP
	10:30 am	Julie Bath RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	5:00 pm	Holy Hour
	6:30 pm	Parishioners
West Mersea	8:30 am	Claire Scofield RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Theresa Pearce RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Holy Souls RIP

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

St James the Less & St Helen

Mgr Christopher Brooks

Fr. Alex Poblador, RCJ

Fr Philip Willenbrock

51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB**Tel:** 01206 866317**E-Mail** colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.orgwww.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]**December 3rd 2017

Key points of the Bishop's letter. Advent is always the time when we are called to be vigilant, awake. The Sunday readings throughout Advent focus on two people, St. John the Baptist and Mary. St. John's meeting with Christ changes his life, 'He must increase and I must decrease'. Mary demonstrates total openness to God's will, she is the, 'First Disciple of the Lord'. Isaiah longed to do the will of God and see God's Kingdom on earth. The first Christian disciples began to see fulfilment of that longing. In our Diocese, the Stewards of the Gospel initiative has been helping us all to discern the will of God for us here today. The publication of the First Formal Proposal for the Renewal and Restructuring of Our Diocese is a further step in this discernment. We must be bold followers of Christ, nothing is impossible to God. Bishop Alan (precis by Fr. Chris)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required**

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:30am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:50am
FILMS FOR FAITH: Please see below

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, John Ashdown-Hill, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Vicky Culham, Cosette Devaux, John Disley, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Roger Kemp, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Bernadette McLean, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara **Maude**, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Elizabeth Pace, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Christine Staines, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, **Alice White**, Patricia Wiltshire.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY COLLECTION: The total raised by our parish was £1228. Thank you very much.

SECOND COLLECTION AT PRIORY STREET & MILE END THIS SUNDAY: For Christmas Flowers.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repost of the souls of Timothy Paul Healy and Anthony Richer. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. The funeral of Timothy Healy will take place here on Thursday, 7th December, at 11:30am. The funeral of Anthony Richer has already taken place.

ST THOMAS MORE ADMISSIONS FOR 2018/2019: [Council closing date for admissions is 15/01/18]: the signing of the “Certificates of Practice” by Fr Alex and Fr Chris will take place on the following dates:

- Thursday 07/12/17 – 5:00pm to 6:00pm in the Crypt
- Saturday 09/12/17: 11:00am to 12:00pm in the Crypt
- Monday 11/12/17 – 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the Crypt

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

MERSEA: There will be an Advent Penitential Service at St Cedd & St Gregory, Mersea Island, on Tuesday, 5th December, at 11:30am

LECTIO DIVINA: *Open your heart to the word of the Lord in Advent.* This weekend sees the start of reflective reading of the day scriptures: Saturdays in Advent at 5pm in the Crypt. Further info – Valerie Q: 07941 903227.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION: “In the beginning was the word”. Give yourself the gift of space and time before the busyness of Christmas overtakes you.
SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER – CARDINAL BOURNE HALL: 11am – 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch - and a bible would be useful. Further info – Valerie Q: 07941 903227.

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION FOR ADVENT- Brightlingsea with Wivenhoe parish are holding the Forty Hours devotion over the weekend of the 8th to 10th December. Come and join our Adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. See the poster in your church or visit <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/> for more information.

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL is renewing its commitment to assisting with the work of the parish. The Society seeks to help, within its means and skill base, anyone who is experiencing need or hardship. There is a fuller description of the Society’s work on the notice board at the back of the church and in the Mass Centres. We welcome new members so if you think that you could help with any of our activities – or simply wish to find out more - please ring Ciaran on 07493 439427. Or – just come to our next meeting on Monday, 11th December at 7. pm in the Crypt at Priory Street.

FILMS FOR FAITH: The next showing “**The Bishop’s Wife**” will be on Wednesday, 13th December. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided in the Crypt at 1pm for a 1:15pm start.

CHRISTMAS CURRY NIGHT: On Saturday 16th December in the Cardinal Bourne Hall from 7:30pm. Includes your choice of one curry – lamb, chicken, prawn or vegetable – plus dessert and tea or coffee. [Bring your own drinks]. “60’s” Music and Grand Raffle tickets will be on sale and drawn on the night. Adults - £10; Children [age 5-12] £5. All proceeds to the Church Fund.

CHALICES AT PRIORY STREET are showing signs of age. Many have begun to lose their gilding and/or are badly scratched, and they are of several different designs. I have had a quote for restoring the four gold ones, it is considerably cheaper to buy new ones which is what the company recommended. I rather like the Exeter Chalice, available from Vanpoules at http://www.vanpoules.co.uk/ProductView.ink?Row_ID=2413&pcode=3945&category=17&SubCategory=110&pcategory=Chalices, Patens @ Ciboria&manufacturer=&subcategory=Chalices, Patens & Ciboria It would be good to receive comments about that choice and the need to replace the chalices. If feedback is favourable I would hope to buy four of the chalices. They cost £435 each. Parishioners may wish to pay for all or part of a chalice, in memory of a loved one, an ancient custom (a gift-aided donation of £348 would pay for one chalice).

NEWSLETTER ON LINE: Our weekly Newsletter is available on the Parish website www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org If you would like a copy by email, please email your request to colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org Save paper – save the planet!

100 CLUB – NOVEMBER DRAW WINNERS: 1ST prize – Brendan Burke; 2nd - Jonathan Livesley; 3rd – Piotr Ploskonka. Congratulations to all!

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE: Price £2.75.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263
CHURCH CLEANERS’ ROTA: THURSDAY, December 7th – Team 2.