

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)

Saturday 4th	<i>Church</i>	6.15 pm	John Wilmott RIP
Sunday 5th	<i>Church</i>	8:00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10:30 am	Galvin, Slacke, O'Regan, O'Keefe Families
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm	Parishioners
<i>West Mersea</i>		8:30 am	Holy Souls
<i>Mile End</i>		9:15 am	Thomas Harrison RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>		10:15 am	Private Intention

HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION

Monday 6th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP
Tuesday 7th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide Mrs Mary Sebastian RIP
Wednesday 8th	<i>Church</i>	12.15 pm	Feria of Christmastide Intentions: Kevin Powell
Thursday 9th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide Patrick, Miriam and Doris Murray
Friday 10th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide John Macareary RIP
Saturday 11th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide Holy Souls

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

Saturday 11th	<i>Church</i>	6.15 pm	Peter Ledgley RIP
Sunday 12th	<i>Church</i>	8:00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10:30 am	Betty Sands RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Hour
	<i>Church</i>	6:30 pm	Private Intention
<i>West Mersea</i>		8:30 am	Dec. Members: Murray Family
<i>Mile End</i>		9:15 am	Alan Dunn RIP
<i>Monkwick</i>		10:15 am	Celestine Tighe 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 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 5TH JANUARY 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 114

According to the Book of Numbers, while Israel was in the desert, a man called Balaam was engaged to curse them. However, God constrained Balaam to bless the people, and he also uttered several oracles, one of which promised the coming of a star – in its immediate context, a leader (probably King David) but for us, the star which leads the Wise Men to Jesus. In some depictions of the crib at Bethlehem, Balaam is shown pointing to the star. Also, the appearance of a star was widely believed to proclaim the presence of a god, for us, the true God made flesh. Finally, we can note that the star is at the service of Jesus, the heavens proclaim his glory.

Fr. Chris

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 JANUARY: *Promotion of World Peace.* We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Give Every Fibre of our being.* The gift we can give to Jesus and to one another is ourselves. No matter how long we have been married, let us still enjoy unwrapping the gift of self. Just as, through the grace of God, the 'wise men' went another way, not the world's way, so can we, by giving our whole selves, every fibre of our being.

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

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS: White Flower Appeal on 12th January- the Society for the protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. On 21st October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2nd] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

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].*

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2020/2021]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/20). The final dates for signing of the "**Certificates of Practice**" will take place in the church crypt on the following dates: -

➤ Today: Sunday 5th January 2020 at 4.00_{pm} – 5.00_{pm}

➤ Monday 6th January 2020 at 4.00_{pm} – 5.00_{pm}

➤ Saturday 11th January 2020 at 3.00_{pm} – 4.00_{pm}

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting, including Registration on **Friday 10th January 7:30_{pm}-9:00_{pm}** in the Crypt in Priory Street. The first children's session follows on **Saturday 11th January 10:00_{am}-12:00_{pm}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. There are still some Information packs available in the church porch.

REPOSITORY SHOP: New Year * New Ideas * New Person(s) required for the Repository – working alongside Frances (as Pauline is stepping down). If interested in this voluntary role, please contact the presbytery 01206 866317.

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!

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE OF MARIAN FATHERS is organising a Divine Mercy Retreat on Saturday 18th January: 11:00_{am} - 4:30_{pm} at St Joseph RC Church, 68 Grange Park Road, Leyton, London E10 5ES. Also, Saturday 25 January: 11:00_{am} - 4:30_{pm} at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London SE1 6HR.

All welcome - No advance booking or registration is required

BCYS - LAST CHANCE TO APPLY! Applications for the BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage CLOSE at midnight on Friday 10th January. The pilgrimage is a wonderful way to experience Lourdes in the company of other young people, serving the ill and elderly, and with tremendous experiences of prayer, reflection and social time. The cost is £600, with bursary funds available. To apply go online to www.bcys.net, create a free account, then register for Summer Lourdes. Places allocated on 15th January. Any queries - email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Matthew, the lectionary gospel for Sundays in 2020, from 7 pm until 8.30 pm on Wednesday 15th (changed from 22nd) January, and Wednesday 29th January at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Admission is free, but please book your place by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the recently published 'Revised New Jerusalem Bible' will be on sale for £30 (reduced from the normal price of £39.99). Full details and video of earlier talks available on www.whatgoodnews.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Children and families from Essex and East London have direct therapeutic support to our highly experienced counselling team. We provide support directly to children, adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various reasons including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268 947061.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are on sale at the back of the church. 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).

100 CLUB WINNERS: *Christmas Draw:* 1st Iris Mahoney/2nd: Mike Jones 3rd/Benedict Turnbull. ***December Draw:*** 1stNicola Livesley/2nd: Grace McCartney/3rd: Benedict Turnbull. **Congratulations to you all!**

SVP: If you know of someone who is lonely, housebound or simply in need of a friend, please contact us, using the details below. If you would like to join us the details of our next meeting are at the back of the church, along with a collection box.

❖ **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 6th January 2020: **Team 2** (2020 Rota available in porch)
