

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

### WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

### Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The event described in Acts this Sunday is of huge importance in the history of the Church. If it, or something similar, had not happened then today we would be a sect of Judaism. It is a fulfilment of Jesus' words in the Gospel, but it depended on St. Peter recognising the work of the Holy Spirit in what is a second Pentecost. The Spirit came down on Cornelius and his household in the same way as the first Pentecost, presumably therefore with a loud rushing noise and tongues of fire. The rest of the disciples accepted St. Peter's testimony and understanding, again a sign of the Spirit at work. It was from that acceptance that the Church began to grow among the pagans, the non-Jews, and the prescriptions of Moses were set aside. Why does it fulfil Jesus' words? Because he died for all mankind and the message of the Gospel is for all mankind without exception. One challenge for us is to avoid pigeon-holing people and thereby exclude them from the Gospel (though people may exclude themselves of course); unfortunately human beings are adept at pigeon-holing others and even themselves. Something to watch.

*Fr. Chris*

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	In Thanksgiving (AD)
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Michael Rush RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St John Payne, Pr, M</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Terry Hilton RIP

<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Tuesday after Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Raadhika S

<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Wednesday after Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (WA)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	7.30 pm	Private Intention <span style="float: right;">Vigil</span>

<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Holiday of Obligation</b>	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Alice Drew RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12.15 pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	<i>Church</i>	7.30 pm	Fr John McCollough RIP

<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Friday after Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Athene Jones RIP

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Saturday after Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Sr Mary Britto RIP

#### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) World Communications Day

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Ints: Marco
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Bridie Bennett RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ellen & Derry RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<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).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).

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



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & follow** our page

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *For the formation of religious and seminarians.*** We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

**PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE.** God of hope, mercy and compassion of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the World. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Amen



**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’ let us decide to reflect this ‘sign’ of God’s love to our children, our family, and our friends.

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

**† RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joyce Helen Wrobel, Maria Kelly, Gillian Legonidec, Margaret Ambersley & Derrick Chater who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Joyce’s funeral service will be here on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am. Maria’s funeral service will be St Cedd & St Gregory on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.15am. Derricks funeral service will be here on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm. The funeral details for Gillian, Margaret are to be advised.

**NEXT SECOND COLLECTION:** Each year, the diocese marks ***World Communications Day*** on the Sunday before Pentecost; This year it will fall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This year’s theme is ***Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication.*** To read the message of his holiness Pope Francis for the 58<sup>th</sup> world day of social communications, please click on this link [World Communications Day 2024](https://www.wccn.org/World-Communications-Day-2024) There will be a collection taken after all masses..

**TALK AND VOLUNTARY COLLECTION FOR CAFOD SUDAN APPEAL:** The people of Sudan urgently need our help and CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal. When violence broke out last year, most aid agencies evacuated and Humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help. For further details, visit [cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal](https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal). Gemma (CAFOD rep) will be giving a short talk after masses this weekend 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May and at Mersea on the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:** Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

**REPOSITORY:** First Holy Communion cards are now available for sale in the Church Porch.

**KSC ROSARY CRUSADE 2024:** The Order of the Knights of Saint Columba warmly invite you to participate in this year’s Rosary Crusade. The dates and times are as follows: -

- 12<sup>th</sup> May – Following 9:30am Mass, St Joseph’s, Mile End
- 19<sup>th</sup> May – Following 10:30am Mass, St James the Less & St Helen, Priory Street

Please see poster in Church porch for further details as well as other dates and churches.



**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.

**VACANCY FOR A CLEANER AT ST THOMAS MORE’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** St Thomas More’s Catholic Primary School are looking for a cleaner for 2 hours daily from Monday to Friday (3.30pm -5.30pm during term time). The hourly rate is £11.98, starting asap. If you are interested, please contact the school for more details on 01206 865722.

**VOCATIONS:** The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Patrick Daly. For further info please contact Fr Mark Swires: [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

**THY KINGDOM COME - PENTECOST PRAYER NOVENA 2024:** There will be 24/7 prayer running from 2pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May to 10pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Sion Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us any time from 6am to 12 midnight. It would be very helpful if you could book an hour slot in the prayer room by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm which is taking place each evening. We look forward to welcoming you for this special prayer time. For more information, please contact [admin@sioncommunity.org.uk](mailto:admin@sioncommunity.org.uk) Sion Community, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

**CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE – ST PATRICK’S WAY PILGRIMAGE 2025:** The Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22-27 April 2025. We will be journeying along the newly established St Patrick’s Way in the North of Ireland. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers. If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way-april-2025/>

**THE DIOCESES AND ETHNIC CHAPLAINCIES OF BRENTWOOD, SOUTHWARK & WESTMINSTER** invite you to the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024, at 12pm. The Mass will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Southwark at St George’s Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR, with the Archbishop of Southwark, John Wilson, presiding and Bishop Alan Williams, as concelebrant alongside the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. You are kindly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses.

**‘REVIVE; DISCOVER; EMPOWER’ A YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT:** Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The retreat is open to those who are 19+. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD VACANCIES:** Please see notice in church or Facebook page.

**BAPTISMS:** A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent. It does not matter if they are male or female. If you choose two Godparents, traditionally a male and female that meet the requirements for Godparents. There is no provision for more than two godparents.

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Friday 03/05/24: **Team 5** / 09/05/24: **Team 1**  
**COFFEE MORNING:** 05/05/24: Peggy & Anne / 12/05/24: Yolande + 1