

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 6th	Church	6.15 pm	Rose Donovan RIP
Sunday 7th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Patrick Kehoe RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Holy Souls
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Brendan Burke RIP
Monday 8th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Anniv: Eric Proudfoot
Tuesday 9th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Private Intention (N.M.)
Wednesday 10th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Eric Coudrill and Family
Thursday 11th			Blessed John Larke, M Diocesan Memorial
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Clare Walters RIP
Friday 12th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Frederick, Elizabeth and Angelo Lucas
Live Streamed	Church	3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 13th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Monica Foley RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

'LAETARE' SUNDAY

Saturday 13th	Church	6.15 pm	Alice Reid RIP
Sunday 14th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Baby Liew RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Brendan Burke RIP
Live Streamed	Monkwick	10.15 am	Tony Dixon RIP

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 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ 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 10am (Except Tues), please see Schedule for Sunday Live Stream Mass Time)

[St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesthelessandsthelen)

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!

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Week Commencing 7th March 2021



Most of the Ten Commandments are in the negative form, the well-known, 'Thou shalt not'. These kind of commands contrast with the positive ones which focus on, 'Do'. There is a big difference. In theory the negative commands can be perfectly fulfilled. So, for example, most people (we hope) would truthfully be able to say that they had never broken the fifth commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill'. When it comes to the positive commands the situation is not so clear cut, eg. can a person ever say that they have perfectly and completely honoured their father and mother; or that they have loved God, neighbour and self totally? I would suggest that we see the difference even more clearly when we consider grace. A person with a strong enough sense of duty, self-control, will, could by their own efforts and without the aid of grace, obey the fifth commandment for example. The same is not true of the positive commands, grace is necessary to do more than the basics. We could make a similar distinction between a Lenten 'giving up something' and a Lenten 'doing something'. Something to ponder, perhaps?

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: Intention for Evangelization: – Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Exodus 20:1-17 1Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25) **God's love is our strength.** Let us remind each other constantly that our marriage is as unique and as special to God today as it was when we first married. We are blessed with a love that transforms ordinary everyday events into something quite different and special. Our faults and weaknesses become our strengths if we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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 John Dolamore, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin, Rosie Burnside-Fitch. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: still available £2.80 per copy.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Sales who has recently passed away. May she rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of her bereaved family and friends. Teresa's Funeral details are to be advised.

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 14th March [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 21st March [Mersea Booking Form](#)

LENTEN TALKS: Please join us for our mini-series of Lenten talks which will take place at 7^{pm} on Thursday the 11th, 18th & 25th of March. These talks will be held over the internet with the 1st talk being led by Deacon Richard on the theme 'Fasting'. If you would like to participate, please email colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org for further information & password. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This will take place in the church every Friday of Lent at 3^{pm} (This will also be live streamed for those physically unable to attend). For the Polish Community this will be here every Tuesday at 6.30^{pm}. Come join us virtually or in person – all welcome.

CALAIS LIGHT 'Will we survive or drown?': Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in our Guided Meditation: "A minute on the Aegean Sea". Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on our website: www.calaislight.com & please donate. Thank you.

FREE VIRTUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR HOLY WEEK (AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE): Are you seeking to grow in your love and knowledge of God's Word? Join some of the nation's most dynamic Scripture scholars on 27th March for a one-day virtual event that will be streamed via Zoom. This virtual event is free for all registrants! [Prepare for Holy Week | Catholic Bible Conference 2021 | Augustine Institute](#)

STAY SILENT WITH MILLION MINUTES: 'Million Minutes of Silence' is a simple idea, each minute is sponsored to raise money for social action projects supporting young people. We want this year to be the biggest year yet, to show our collective support for young people, and to raise at least a million pennies (which is £10,000!) to help young people restore our world. For more info [SILENT - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service \(bcys.net\)](http://www.bcys.net)

BCYS: I hear about refugees and I ask, "what can I do"? Inspired by his Grandparents, themselves refugees, Rob Green, a young BCYS leader, travelled to a refugee camp in Greece: what he saw inspired and challenged him. Interspersed with reflective questions, and information from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) hear Rob tell his story in the latest BCYS voices video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqt0mvRrDH0>.

BCYS SPONSORED SLEEPOUT 2021: Join us in "giving" rather than "giving up" this Lent, by taking part in a diocesan wide Sponsored Sleepout on 26th March, led (virtually) from Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Join us from your garden, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes to sleep on or under! No tents allowed, whatever the weather! Challenge yourself with a sponsorship goal - from £10 - £100, or perhaps even more! Sponsorship forms, online donations and further info can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sleepout2021.

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. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>
 - 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