

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

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| Saturday 6th | Monkwick | 5.00 pm | Mrs Pauline Okoli RIP |
| Sunday 7th | Church | 8.00 am | Private Intention |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Parishioners |
| | Church | *12.15 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 4.00 pm | Filipino Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Fr Neville McClement RIP |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Michael Rush RIP |
| | Mile End | 9.30 am | Deceased Members Larkin Family |

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| Monday 8th | | | THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Ints: Marco |

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| Tuesday 9th | | | Tuesday after the Second Sunday of Easter |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Private Intention (SF) |

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| Wednesday 10th | | | Wednesday after the Second Sunday of Easter |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Anniversary: Des Fuller RIP |

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| Thursday 11th | | | St Stanislaus, Bp, M |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Funeral Service: John Belson RIP |
| | Church | 1.00 pm | Funeral Service: Susan Boyle RIP |

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| Friday 12th | | | Friday after the Second Sunday of Easter |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Norma Terroni RIP |

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| Saturday 13th | | | Saturday after the Second Sunday of Easter |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Maddalena Malni RIP |

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

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| Saturday 13th | Monkwick | 5.00 pm | Fr Michael Daly RIP |
| Sunday 14th | Church | 8.00 am | Raymond O'Neill RIP |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Ints: Cathy + John |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Canon A. Dolan RIP |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Private Intention |
| | Mile End | 9.30 am | Parishioners |

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ New To The Parish? Then please complete one of our Parish Registration forms, which can be found in the porch at the back of the church.

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

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

Divine Mercy Sunday

Week commencing 7th April 2024

The Divine Mercy is usually celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter each year. This is a celebration of the boundless compassion and mercy of God towards humanity shown by Christ's death on the cross to save us from sin. Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death. He did not stop at that, before he ascended into heaven, he established the sacrament of reconciliation. This sacrament is there to straighten our relationship with God as often as we stray and come back to God. God is slow to anger and rich in mercy. St Maria Faustina Kowalska said this about mercy of God, "All grace flows from mercy.. Even if a person's sins were as dark as night, God's mercy is stronger than our misery". That is the nature of the mercy of God.

Fr. Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: For the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE. God of hope and mercy, protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Amen.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31) ***Doubt no longer.*** Sometimes we are asked to trust our spouse implicitly despite the doubts that plague us. Can we believe them when something really important depends on it? Thomas needed proof of Jesus' wounds before believing. Jesus said: "*Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe [and]...Doubt no longer but believe.*" It's important to believe and to decide to trust.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Jimmy Clarin, Jason Christopher McLean, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, 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 John Belson, Michael John Rush, Susan Boyle and Anthony William Pybus who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers John's, Michael's, Susan's and Anthony's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. We await details for John's funeral service. John's funeral service will be on 11th April at 9.30am followed by refreshments in the hall. Michael's funeral service will be on Thursday 11th April at 3.15pm in Colchester Crematorium. Susan's funeral Mass is here on Thursday 11th April at 1.00pm. Anthony's memorial service will be here on Friday 19th April at 2.30pm.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER is celebrated throughout the Universal Church as Divine Mercy Sunday. This Feast was instituted by St Pope John Paul II in 2000. The Feast is a recognition of the greatness of God's Mercy as told to the world by Our Lord through a young Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905 –1938)].

MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR PHILIP: We hope you enjoyed the Easter break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the clergy collection and cards, chocolate received. Our gratitude to all of you who, in any way, made our Easter celebrations run so smoothly. Thank you.

'BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT. To see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/results-of-bishop-alan-listens-research-report/>

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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25th MAY 2024: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come, and wish to reserve a seat on the coach – please add your name to the Coach Seat Reservation list, which can be found on a clipboard in the Church Porch. A 53-seat coach will be picking up from East Hill near the corner of Priory Street at 07:45 for 8:00am departure, with tickets at £17.00 per person, payable on the coach for those who have reserved seats. Please bring a packed lunch, as the cafeteria at Walsingham will be very busy

GIFT AID SUBSCRIBERS: Please can you collect your new box sets from the church porch. Box sets are laid out in alphabetical order. Thank you.

VOCATIONS: The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 9th April at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Joseph Rodrigues. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

STOLEN BIKE: Please be vigilant as after the 9.30am Mass - one of our parishioners had his electric bicycle stolen from outside the front of the Church (the bike was secured to the iron fencing with a bicycle lock!).

RIGHT TO LIFE: ACT NOW TO STOP DIY ABORTION UP TO BIRTH: Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment and oppose abortion up to birth Join the Catholic Bishops in supporting an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks, and opposing an amendment that would introduce abortion up to birth. These amendments may be voted on in the next few weeks.

Take action: Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of the 22-week amendment. To oppose the abortion up to birth amendment, email your MP via this link: <http://www.righttolife.org.uk/johnsonabortionamendment>

YOUTH 2000 LONDON RETREAT DAY: Come and See. Youth 2000 are running a retreat day for young adults (16-35) on 11th May at Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. It is jam-packed one day event, where people come together as a community of young adults in prayer and friendship. The retreat is an invitation to come as you are, and to come and see who Jesus is and what He can do in your life. The cost £25 and more information can be found at: <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

HEALING DAY RETREAT: with healing service at Clare Priory, Ashen Rd, Clare CO10 8NX. Sunday 21st April. Led by Fr Gladson Dabre OSA & Fr Luke Goymour. Mass, talks, praise and worship, Reconciliation, Adoration, prayer ministry and healing service. Starts 11.30am / Finish 8.00pm. Bring your own food. Drinks provided. Donations on the day. Please phone Clare Priory to book: 01787 277732. For more information visit: www.transformministries.uk

CARITAS: Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27th April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford (10-minute walk from Romford Station on the Elizabeth line, Bus routes from London are regular, parking is available but limited and a bike rack is also on site). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 11/04/24: **Team 1**/ Monday 15/04/24: **Team 2**
COFFEE MORNING: 07/04/24: Matthew +Mariamma / 14/04/24: African Community