

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Saturday 7<sup>TH</sup> January**      **6:15 pm** Pam Andrews RIP  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**      **8:00 am** Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP  
                                 **10:30 am** Intentions: The Lavelle Family  
                                 **2:00 pm** Polish Mass  
                                 **5:00 pm** HOLY HOUR  
                                 **6:30 pm** The Healy and Barr Families RIP

*West Mersea*                    **8:30 am** Parishioners  
*Mile End*                      **9:15 am** Angela Jardim RIP  
*Monkwick*                      **10:15 am** Ted Wilding RIP & Maria Lumsden RIP

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**                    **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Feast**  
*Church*      **9:15 am** Canon John Bloomfield RIP

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**                **Feria**  
*Church*      **9:15 am** Intentions: Maura & Frank Maguire

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**            **Feria**  
*Church*      **12:15 pm** Intentions: Canon Anthony McKentey

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>**                **St Aelred of Rievaulx, Ab**  
*Church*      **9:15 am** Sylvia di Piazza RIP

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**                    **St Hilary, Bp, D**  
*Church*      **9:15 am** Intentions: Fr T Coffey

**Saturday 14th**                **Feria**  
*Church*      **9:15 am** Intentions: Mary O'Toole

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [A]**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January**      **6:15 pm** Peter Mowbray RIP  
**Sunday January 15th**      **8:00 am** Albert & Louisa D'Souza RIP  
                                 **10:30 am** Michael Hawken RIP  
                                 **4:00 pm** Polish Mass  
                                 **6:30 pm** Norah Hewitt RIP

*West Mersea*                    **8:30 am** Eric Brennan  
*Mile End*                      **9:15 am** Douglas and David Finch RIP  
*Monkwick*                      **10:15 am** George Dimech RIP & Maria Pisani RIP

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

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

**WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK**



Canon Anthony McKentey  
Fr Alex Poblador, RCJ  
Fr Philip Willenbrock

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**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Parish Mass Book page 115

The story of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most interesting scenes to imagine after Christmas Day. This is the day when the three wise men arrived from the East to visit Jesus, the son of God in order to pay homage and give him their offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is when the Lord presented himself to the whole world through the persons of his visitors.

Questions: What, according to you, prompted the Magi to leave their homeland and travel to the faraway Jerusalem? They have surely set aside something important for their lives and invested all their resources for this long journey, haven't they? How were these wise men able to reach their destination following only the movements of celestial bodies? And finally, how sure were they that, the "star" they saw was the right one? While on the other hand, we have King Herod who was just a few miles away from where the new born King was born, but did not see.

Just like us, many believe in the saying that "If there is a will, there is a way". This answers the above enumerated questions. So, if we follow this philosophy, then we also could find Jesus. However, oftentimes, we cannot find him (Jesus) because, at the outset, we do not have always the will and ways to find him. Our many years of searching will just be thrown away into nothing if we don't add faith also to what we do.

LOOK UP! The star is there! The star to give you hope. Let us then stop looking only at ourselves; at what interest me, at what pride and selfishness can satisfy me, but rather LOOK UP for there is your God.

Lastly, find your own star in life so that it will help you become a better person, happy and contented. Pray! That you may find the meaning of your vocation; that will make you become more decisive and stable in your life. May the feast of the Epiphany help you to see once again God working in you. Let God be again the guiding STAR in your life this new year 2017. Amen.

Fr Alex, rcj

**Please see Mass Schedule for ANY changes**

SUNDAYS:	Divine Mercy and Rosary	Following 8am Mass
DAILY:	Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35am
MEDITATION GROUP:	Tuesdays – Crypt	8:00 pm
FILMS FOR FAITH:	Please see below	

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Lorraine Atkin, Pat Banks, Frank Campbell, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Kay Knight, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Margaret Scammell, Maureen Sheeran, Fiona Stephenson, Patricia Urquhart, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** This weekend by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children [SPUC].

**THANK YOU:** To the Filipino Community who have given a very generous donation of £650 to our Parish. SALAMAT PO!

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ronnie Hammond, David Hill, Ronald Jay, Anthony Brookes of West Mersea and Robert Curry who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families and friends. David's funeral has been arranged here at St James the Less on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am with the reception of the coffin on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm. Ronald's funeral will take place here also on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Funeral for Ronnie Hammond – details to follow later when arranged.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Information Packs for the Parish Programme are available at the back of church – please collect a pack for each child. **The Programme is suitable for children in school year 3 and above.** The Programme starts with sessions for parents in the Crypt of St James the Less and St Helen on Fridays 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January – both sessions must be attended. For further information please contact Hywel or Pam Edwards on 01206 867325.

**FILMS FOR FAITH:** This Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm in the Crypt, there

will be a meeting for the filmgoers to discuss future events.

**BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS RECOMMENCE:** on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, in the Crypt, 10am to 12 noon. The topic is the Gospel according to St Matthew [the Evangelist of the current year used on all Sundays until the beginning of Advent].

**MEETING THE “LIVING GOD” SEMINARS 2017:** The first of three Seminars, to held at Cathedral House, Brentwood, is on the theme of “*The Unspoken genocide: Christian persecution in the twenty-first century*”. The Speaker is Fr Martin Boland, Dean of Brentwood Cathedral, and takes place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 10:30 to 12 noon. For info: [jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org) Tel: 01277 265285.

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

**NEXT BAPTISM COURSE FOR NEWBORNS UP TO AGE 6:** Will take place on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in the Crypt from 7:30pm to 9pm. There is no need to make an appointment, **but both sessions** must be attended. Entry to the Crypt is via the Church.,

**MASS FOR THE SICK:** Our Lady of Lourdes is both the patroness of our diocese and the sick. At 3 pm on Sunday 5 February, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass in her honour at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead. This is a diocesan celebration; all are invited. During the Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell.

**DIOCESAN CENTENARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY: Please see above and. Saturday 11 February** – (Feast of Our lady of Lourdes, Principal Patron of the Diocese): Inauguration of Centenary Celebrations with Day of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in every parish church; Inauguration of Schools' Competition

**STUDY DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:** The next Study Day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH, will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The theme is 'The Journey of Faith in the Gospel of John'. The day will be led by Fr Victor Darlington, professor of Scripture at St John's Seminary, Womersley. The day will include exploration of the Lenten Sunday Gospels from the Gospel of John. Admission is free, tea and coffee will be provided, but bring a packed lunch please. Ample free parking is available at the church, which is three minutes' walk from Gidea Park Station. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to [GPstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:GPstudydays@gmail.com)

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES:** There are still some available in the porch, price £2:75.

**CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com) 07758 805263

**CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA:** TBA