

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday [B])

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| Sunday, 8 th | 8:00 am | Parishioners |
| | 10:30 am | Intentions: Josephine & Ray Canty & Family |
| | 2:00 pm | Polish/English Mass |
| | 5.00 pm | Holy Hour |
| | 6:30 pm | Holy Souls |
| West Mersea | 8:30 am | Private Intention |
| Mile End | 9:15 am | Private Intention |
| Monkwick | 10:15 am | Michael Hawken RIP |

Monday, April 9th

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| N.B. | Church | 9.30 am | MONDAY - The Annunciation Canon Anthony McKenty RIP procession of "Our Lady" after mass |
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Tuesday, 10th

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| | Church | 9:30 am | TUESDAY - Feria Delia Connolly RIP |
| | West Mersea | 11.00 am | REQUIEM MASS for Elizabeth Plater |

Wednesday, 11th

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| | Church | 9.30 am | WEDNESDAY – St Stanislaus Holy Souls |
| | Church | 11.00 am | REQUIEM MASS for Stuart Johnston |

Thursday, 12th

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| | Church | 9:30 am | THURSDAY - Feria Homeless People |
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Friday, 13th

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| | Church | 9:30 am | FRIDAY - Feria Bridget Loftus RIP |
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Saturday, 14th

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| | Church | 9:30 am | SATURDAY - Feria Frederick, Elizabeth & Angelo Lucas RIP |
| | | 6.15 pm | Olive Crawford RIP |

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ([B])

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|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Sunday 15 th | 8:00 am | Sally Clarke RIP |
| | 10:30 am | Parishioners |
| | 2:00 pm | Polish/English Mass |
| | 6:30 pm | Maria A. A. Alama RIP |
| West Mersea | 8:30 am | Brian Jackson RIP |
| Mile End | 9:15 am | Holy Souls |
| Monkwick | 10:15 am | Kathy McPoland RIP |

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45 - 10:30am; 5:30 - 6.00pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months' notice is required

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER [B]

April 8th 2018 – Parish Mass Book page 255

It is often said that for those who believe in God, proof is not necessary. For those who do not believe in God no proof is ever convincing. In today's Gospel the case is strongly made for all those who find it hard or even impossible to believe. When Thomas on his return is told by the other apostles that Jesus is alive again after his death on the cross he, quite understandably, refuses to believe. Thomas had witnessed that fearful and final death; he was in shock and in grief. He did not need false hopes. Whilst being part of the apostolic group, he is also a distinct independent self. He cannot be loyal to the group while being disloyal to his inner self. That would render his loyalty worthless and for Thomas, honesty was more important than loyalty. So when Jesus comes a second time to that upper room he invites Thomas to make the acid test. This is not a scold to Thomas but the gift of personal revelation. The disciples' faith is based on seeing; ours is based on hearing. Through preaching, teaching and witness of life many will come to believe. Through the story of the Church down the ages and the lives of good and holy people, through the simple living of those three great virtues given to us by God – faith, hope and love – many will come to believe. It remains equally true that many, like Thomas, have witnessed and undergone sufferings and sadness and are unable to believe; for others, philosophers and scientists, the whole religious theory just does not make sense. Others still, point to the follies and evils of religion. It was folly and religious evil which put Jesus on a cross. But the risen Jesus offers us faith; not religion. Faith is a life, and like any life can wither if not nurtured. Faith demands active verbs. That does not mean we will never have doubts; but if like Thomas we care about what we believe in, that care will bring us into the presence of the living Lord.

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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| SUNDAYS: | Divine Mercy and Rosary - <i>following</i> | 8.00am Mass |
| CHRISTIAN MEDITATION | Tuesdays in Crypt | 8:00pm |
| DAILY: | Morning Prayer | 8:30am |
| Rosary/Divine Mercy | | 8:50am |
| SECOND SUNDAY MONTHLY | Eucharistic Adoration | 5.00pm-6.00pm |

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers, Tony Allen, John Ashdown-Hill, Pat Banks, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Vicky Culham, Cosette Devaux, John Disley, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Jason McLean, Bernadette McLean, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Elizabeth Pace, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Christine Staines, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Alice White, Patricia Wiltshire.

Many thanks to everyone for a beautiful celebration of Easter. Thank you to those who helped in the Liturgy, those who prepared the flowers and those who led us in song. Thank you to everyone for coming in such good numbers and being a real community of faith. Thank you everyone for your good wishes and generosity to your priests at Easter time.

Church Flowers: The collection for flowers at Priory Street and Mile End on 18/03/18 raised £259.74 - Thank you for your kind generosity.

ROSARY ON THE COAST: For faith, life and peace in the British Isles. 40 Days of spiritual preparation - finishes on 29th April. Visit www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk for more information

Next Second Collection will be Good Shepherd Sunday which will take place on 22nd April for the promotion of vocations.

Colchester Food Bank: An appeal for donations of tinned/dry goods along with cleaning products & long life fruit juices, milk and squashes would be greatly appreciated.

St Scholastica's Retreat: Is this for you OR for someone you know? Open Day – Saturday, 14th April, 2018 The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £459pcm – more information on the poster and from The Warden: Rev Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: info@stscholasticas.co.uk www.stscholasticas.co.uk

Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society): the next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Saturday 14 April at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY. Father Fergus Kelly C.M. (Chaplain to the Marillac Hospital, Warley) will speak on 'The Gordon Riots, London, 1780.' All are most welcome to attend, including non-members of the Society.

New Hall School requires a Class Teacher: For further details & an application form please visit: www.newhallschool.co.uk/job-opportunities Closing Date: Midday, Friday 20 April 2018 Interview Date: Friday 27 April 2018.

The Catholic Education Service: Requires an Assistant Director (Education).

Full details on the role and how to apply can be found on the Catholic Education Service website: www.catholiceducation.org.uk

THY KINGDOM COME: The Vicariate of Evangelisation, supporting our effort to renew our diocese, has decided to join THY KINGDOM COME 2018 --- a global wave of prayer for the renewal of the Christian faith. All you have to do is to pledge to pray between May 10-20. More information and resources will be made available during the weeks coming up to the event. Meantime, you can log in to [_ https://www.thykingdomcome.global](https://www.thykingdomcome.global) for more information.

Dates for your diary: -

Mass for Migrants: Monday 7th May (Bank Holiday Monday), 11.00am, Southwark Cathedral. For decades the Church has welcomed people from many shores, and this Mass celebrates the international diversity of our congregations. Celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark, with our own Bishop Alan. This Mass is full of joy. All are welcome. More details on the poster at the back of the church.

St John Payne Painting Group: are holding their annual "Exhibition of Work" on bank holiday Monday 7th May from 12 noon onwards. Cards & Paintings for sale + Free Refreshments – All are welcome (sales and donations are in support of Essex First Sight).

The Catholic Church and The Bible: Fr Levente Balazs Martos from Hungary, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will lead a study day on this topic at Gidea Park Church Hall, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on Saturday 26th May from 10.30 until 3 pm. The study day will include a panel discussion with Fr Levente, Fr Adrian Gruffy, and Fleur Dorrell, Scripture Coordinator at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Admission is free and you are invited to bring a packed lunch. Please book your place by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or by phone 01708 449914.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for The Vitality London 10K run on Monday 28th May 2018. This May bank holiday event has a lovely atmosphere and takes in many of London's iconic landmarks, finishing in front of Buckingham Palace with all the event facilities, food and entertainment close by in Green Park. For each place, we ask for a registration fee of £30 and a pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship of £200. If you have your own place in the race, we would love to have you on our team; we won't set a sponsorship target, but any funds you can raise for us would be hugely appreciated. For further information, please contact Julie at jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912 277413

Walsingham House at Abbotswick – come and see! The refurbished House is now open, and we love receiving visitors to enjoy the grounds and chapel. You will find pictures and information at www.bcys.net/WHabbotswick. The date of the "official opening" is Saturday September 1st, when you are very welcome to Midday Mass with Bishop Alan, and then to stay for the afternoon, enjoying the beautiful grounds. Do save the date!

PARKING: Again, a reminder that the few parking spaces behind the Hall are for the use of parish & hall staff and for those attending the church, spaces permitting. They are not available for school runs or shopping **AT ANY TIME**. Your co-operation and consideration is appreciated.

SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society): Telephone number - **07493 439427**.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com or Tel: 07758 805263 [*answerphone only* – please leave a message].

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday 19th April 2018: Team 1.

