

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 7th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 8th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Frank Nally RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Fr Chris Hogan RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Margaret Ashmore RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Parishioners
Monday 9th	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon Anthony McKentey RIP
Tuesday 10th	Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)
Wednesday 11th	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP
Thursday 12th	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	V.Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield
Friday 13th	St Lucy, v, m		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Marco
Saturday 14th	St John of the Cross, Pr, D		
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Andrzej Wilczak RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) ('Gaudete' Sunday)

Saturday 14th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Mr. Charles Williams RIP
Sunday 15th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Maureen Jobber RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Margaret Kilis

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Baptism Godparents: 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.
- ❖ 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



- **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.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
- **KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA:** George Johnson (BEM, Grand Knight) 07476 781885; George Benedict (Membership Officer) 07834 725890; email: george.johnson@ksc.org.uk



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/ Clergy + Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like** and **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

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Week Commencing 8th December 2024

The readings this week address what is usually called the second coming, actually it will be the third – the first is at Bethlehem, the second is now in the Church, the third is at the end of time. This final and full coming of Jesus will be in power and majesty. At the end of the Apocalypse, itself the last book of the Bible, God declares, 'Now I make the whole of creation new'. Today's readings look at changes in the physical world. I think we ought to consider also how the saints will be changed, something we don't perhaps think about very much. Those found worthy of a place in the communion of saints will be glorified in body and soul, immortal. In this part of our life here on earth we are only too aware of our bodily and spiritual frailty, a glorified person will be in perfect harmony with God and therefore themselves and all the other saints. Pope Francis is asking us to be Pilgrims of Hope, people who trust in God's promises and look forward in hope to the fulfilment of those promises in themselves. I would suggest each of us spends a little time trying to imagine what it will be like as an immortal being in body and soul, even a fuzzy idea ought to make us yearn for heaven more than the things of this world.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *For pilgrims of hope*
 We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE We pray for the people of all war-torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices and for the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6) ***Smoothing out rough ways...to welcome You.*** Paul speaks of our '*partnership in the Gospel*' and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to '*come to true discernment*' about our choices. Luke's Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to '*prepare a way for the Lord*'? Are there 'paths' that need '*straightening*' or 'rough' attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION: This weekend a special collection will be taken for Church Flowers at St James the Less (*Priory Street*) & St Joseph's (*Mile End*). The money will go towards decorating these churches over the festive Christmas period.

DAY OF MERCY: On **Friday 20th December 2024**, the Church will be open all day with **Mass at 10.30am** followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 9.00pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS: Calling all children who would like to take part in the Christmas Nativity Mass. Every year the children of our parish perform the nativity at the **6pm children's Mass on Christmas eve**. It would be lovely to have as many children as we can this year - for your child to take part, please email Claire stressedclaire45@gmail.com as soon as possible, so we arrange to have a rehearsal to prepare for the mass. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: There will be a 7 readings and Carol service on **Saturday 14th December at 7.00pm** All welcome. If you would like to join the choir or be involved, please contact Claire stressedclaire45@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree when it is being decorated. Just as your tree lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need. Thank you

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: From January we will need a person to run the **Repository**. This role is suitable for someone with limited time. For more information please call 01206 768418 after 6pm for details.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2025/2026]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/25). The final date for signing of the "**Certificate of Catholic Practice**" forms will take place in the Church Crypt on **Sunday 8th December at 3.00pm til 3.45pm**. There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: There is usually an annual celebration of this Sacrament for young people in Year 9 or above. To register your child, please complete an application form which is in the church porch and drop the completed form in *Presbytery letterbox*. The Programme begins in February 2025. Volunteers (*Catechists*) will be needed to run the course. To volunteer, please speak to Fr Philip.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: All completed Registration forms must be received **before the closing date of 31st December 2024**. Please drop completed application forms through Presbytery door (*Red door*) as soon as possible.

STATEMENT ON SECOND READING OF ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has issued a statement following the vote for the Bill in Parliament today. This can be found on the Diocesan website or click & open the link [Statement on Second Reading of Assisted Suicide Bill - Brentwood Diocese](#)

MYLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER are singing Christmas Carols outside the Chesterwell Co-op on **Friday 13th December at 6.30pm**, please do come along. There will be a collection bucket with the proceeds from this going to the Children's Society.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Church Services over the Christmas season are as below

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December 2024

Priory Street	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass (families)
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass / Carol Service at 11.30 pm
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December 2024

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass

St Stephens Day, Thursday 26th December 2024

Priory Street	10.00 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): This will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 19th December at Priory Street.

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place at 8.00pm on the following dates in December: Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th at Priory Street. Filipino Children's Christmas party on 21st December 2-8pm; On 28th December Filipino Mass at 12.30pm followed by Christmas Party til 10.00pm.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 09/12/24: **Team 2** / Monday 16/12/24: **Team 3**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 08/12/24: Frances / 15/12/24: African Community