

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:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)			
Saturday 8 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Roger Hobday RIP
Sunday 9 th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Betts Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Noreen Downes RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention	
Monday 10 th			St Scholastica, v
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving
Tuesday 11 th			Our Lady of Lourdes <small>Principal Patroness of the Diocese</small>
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Wednesday 12 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Mary Barge
Thursday 13 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Rida Masoom + Family
Friday 14 th			St Cyril, m & St Methodius, B
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Saturday 15 th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Church	9.30 am	Private Intention

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Racial Justice Sunday

Saturday 15 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Robert Bradshaw
Sunday 16 th	Church	8.00 am	Pete, Teresa + Simon Monk RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Mrs Oksama Zakhleniuk RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Special Intention for all Parish Volunteers
	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).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.

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



> **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.



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!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Week Commencing 9th February 2025

The Gospel tells the story of Jesus calling His first disciples. Simon Peter and his companions had been fishing all night without success. When Jesus tells them to cast their nets again, they obey—despite their doubts—and catch so many fish that their nets nearly break. Overwhelmed, Peter falls at Jesus' feet, recognizing His divine power. Jesus then calls them to a new mission: to become fishers of men. They leave everything behind and follow Him. This passage reminds us of the power of obedience and trust in the Lord. Even when our own efforts seem not to be yielding results, God can bring abundance when we listen to Him. Peter's reaction, humility and awe, teaches us how to respond to Christ's presence in our lives. As followers of Christ, we are also called to be fishers of men, sharing the Gospel and bringing others to Jesus. Like Peter and his friends, we may feel unworthy, but Jesus sees beyond our weaknesses and calls us anyway. Let us trust in Him, cast our nets in faith. God's grace is always greater than our doubts.

Fr Philip

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 Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is 'Pilgrims of Hope', and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 6: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11) *Follow your dream.* 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.' Isaiah was sustained by his vision of God in glory; Paul by his vision of Jesus. On our wedding days we had a dream for our future together. The grace of God has sustained that vision through many struggles. Let's always seek to follow our dream.

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



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Francis Branter, Monica Howley & Barry Oliff (*who used to run the church repository*) who have all recently passed away. The Parish community offers Francis's, Monica's & Barry's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Francis's funeral service will take place at Colchester Crematorium at 3.15pm on Thursday 20th February and Monica's Funeral service will be here at 1.00pm on Thursday 6th March. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

DIOCESAN 2ND COLLECTION: After all Masses this weekend a collection will be taken for Lourdes Sick + Helpers Pilgrim fund. The proceeds raised from this annual collection is used to help cover the costs of nurses and others who assist. This ensures that pilgrims with medical conditions can come to Lourdes. The money is also used to support pilgrims who otherwise could not afford to come.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting on **Saturday 1st March at 11.15am** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. ALL PARENTS will be required to attend to complete the registration process for your child.



LEGION OF MARY: The Legion of Mary invites parishioners aged 18 and older to join our weekly prayer meetings which are held in Cardinal Bourne Hall **every Friday at 7.30pm**. The mission of the Legion of Mary is to deepen one's faith while serving Christ through devotion to His Blessed Mother. **Recruitment Drive -The Legion of Mary will be attending all Masses today if you would like to talk to them.**

INTERACTIVE PASSION PLAY: Unfortunately, due to total lack of interest, the Passion Play won't be going ahead.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next film showing is on **Wednesday 5th March** and will continue on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome.



PALM CROSSES: We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us so that we can make ash for our Ash Wednesday service (**5th March**). A basket is situated in the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.

ASH WEDNESDAY (5th March): This marks the beginning of Lent, a time of fasting that has been kept almost since the time of the Apostles. We will have 3 Masses at 9.30am; 12.15pm & 7.30pm with "ashing" (optional).

NEXT DIOCESAN 2ND COLLECTION: Will be for Racial Justice on 16th February 2025.

THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET: The Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025 is published in a collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion Booklet will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. And a whole lot more - numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. **THE JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AT £1.50 PER COPY**

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA QUIZ NIGHT: In aid of Beacon House (*Colchester homeless support charity*) and the KSC Charities. There will be a table quiz on the **1st March at 7pm for a 7:30pm start** in Cardinal Bourne Hall, Priory Street. £5 entry per person. Teams of 6-8. Light refreshments will be provided, so please bring food and drink. Raffle prizes and Grand National Draw Tickets will be on sale. Please support this worthy cause. For more information, or to book a space, call George on 07476781885.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

LATIN NIGHT PARTY on Saturday, 15th February from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at St Teresa's Church Hall. Join us for an exciting evening of dancing, food, wine, and great company! Cost: £10 per person (includes food & drinks) Pay at the door - Everyone Welcome!

COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM House Appeal: In honour of the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February - the *World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life* - could you help a new, growing, religious community? The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks donations to establish a mission house in Walsingham where they can expand their work of spiritual accompaniment, hospitality and supporting young people to grow in faith. The community will pray for all benefactors and are grateful for donations of any amount which can be made at www.walsinghamcommunity.org/maryshouseappeal Web: www.walsinghamcommunity.org. Tel 01362 692574

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: The last few remaining copies of the directory available in the Church porch.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd February 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at [//bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025](https://bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025) More information at www.altonrenewal.com

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 13/02/25: **Team 1** / Monday 17/02/25: **Team 2**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 09/02/25: Diane & Adrian / 16/02/25: The O'Sullivan's