

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <sup>(A)</sup>**

|                               |               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 10th</b>            | <i>Church</i> | Parishioners                      |
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b> | <i>Church</i> | Feria                             |
| <b>Tuesday 12h</b>            | <i>Church</i> | St.John Houghton                  |
| <b>Wednesday 13th</b>         | <i>Church</i> | St.Erconwald                      |
| <b>Thursday 14th</b>          | <i>Church</i> | St.Matthias                       |
| <b>Friday 15th</b>            | <i>Church</i> | Feria                             |
| <b>Saturday 16th</b>          | <i>Church</i> | Feria<br>Amanda Louise Harris RIP |

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <sup>(A)</sup>**

|                    |               |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Sunday 17th</b> | <i>Church</i> | Parishioners |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|

**ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN**

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

**WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK****1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY**

Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Nixon Gomes  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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**Website:** [www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org](http://www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org)

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES:** The following link is to a website that has live streaming of church services in the UK <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

**BRENTWOOD PASTORAL DEAF SERVICE:** The only signed Mass streamed online is from the Diocese of Westminster: <https://www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar> or from the Church's own website look for the Live Streaming link near the end of the page <https://olasv.org.uk/>

The link for the Bishop's homily on Good Shepherd Sunday is [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny8FaOh5t7A&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1pOUUnMOEI-ZzluowxeDO-ZpH1hXVv18iSXVDRyy0tOcrwK6T\\_6Yg5WUio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny8FaOh5t7A&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1pOUUnMOEI-ZzluowxeDO-ZpH1hXVv18iSXVDRyy0tOcrwK6T_6Yg5WUio)

Please pray for any parishioners who are suffering from the virus or self-isolating.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** (confession): By appointment – please contact us  
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** At least six months' notice is required  
**BAPTISM COURSE:** Contact the parish office

**THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: For Deacons**

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

**COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL:** If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital, please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317, subject to hospital restrictions due to virus.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <sup>(A)</sup>****WEEK COMMENCING: 10TH MAY 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE -**

Nature comes alive in the month of May. We hear birds singing in the trees, flowers blooming and greenery all around. This is the month dedicated to Mary as we sing, "O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the angels and Queen of the May.." Our floral tributes and pilgrimages to Marian sites are sadly stalled in the current circumstances. Still, there is great cause in joining Mary 'in Spirit' who is the first disciple of Christ as she glorifies God, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". (Lk 1:46). At the recent re-dedication of England as the "Dowry of Mary", this renewal has great significance today. It is more the personal gift of faith of the people of England to Mary, to seek her help in building a strong spiritual foundation in proclaiming the good news. We are requested to pray the Rosary as a family. This month ends with Pentecost Sunday and we reflect on saints who are associated with the Holy Spirit. The day Mary said "Yes" to the angel Gabriel (Lk1:38), and later at the visitation (Lk1:43) she exhibits a life of the Spirit. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For, He accepted our sufferings and bearing the weight of the Cross upon himself brought us the joy of the Resurrection.

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

|                                |   |                              |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| DAILY                          | Morning Prayer                          | <b>temporarily suspended</b> |
| DAILY                          | Rosary/Divine Mercy                     |                              |
| SUNDAYS:                       | Rosary/Divine Mercy                     |                              |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY MONTHLY | Eucharistic Adoration                   |                              |
| CHRISTIAN MEDITATION           | Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 <sub>pm</sub> ) |                              |

While our churches remain closed the Bishops are working with others to draw up guidelines as to how Mass might be celebrated with various social-distancing and hygiene practices in place. Fr. Nixon/ I continue to offer Mass each day at 8.15<sub>am</sub> (Monday – Saturday) and 10.00<sub>am</sub> on Sunday, with the intentions published in the newsletter, and daily exposition from 7<sub>pm</sub>-8<sub>pm</sub>.

On a practical note, Mass intentions can be posted/popped through the letter box of 51, Priory Street and will be published in the newsletter which will be available on the parish website. You will see from the Mass schedule above that we have no intentions left (other than those for specific dates).

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office. Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances. Please note also the guidance issued by Rome and published on our website re indulgences.

The parish continues to incur expenses. Several parishioners have made their weekly offering, sometimes in an envelope hand-delivered, others have posted cheques. Thank you. Parishioners may wish to set up a standing order, our parish office can help.

Please see our website for details of the Indulgence available to parishioners for joining in prayerfully while we are celebrating in church.

The Catholic Bishops' website has some good links, <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

We have been helping with funerals for neighbouring parishes where the PP is prevented from doing so. Please pray for Laurence Connolly and Philip Hackett. In our own parish I am sad to say that Margaret Foley and Colleen Thurlow have died. May their souls rest in peace.

**CAFOD** launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your

prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal) .

**ACTS AT EASTER IN LOCKDOWN** Lockdown may provide us with opportunities to dedicate more time to the reading of Scripture, celebrating our own Liturgy of the Word. Throughout the Easter season we read from the Acts of the Apostles, seeing how the Easter gospel is preached in Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Fr Adrian Graffy has recorded a talk on the opening eight chapters of Acts, which is now available on [www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks](http://www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks).

**VOCATIONS**

Usually on Good Shepherd Sunday the seminarians travel to parishes to speak about vocations. This year three of them, Michael Barwick, Jonathan Burden and Deacon Paschal Uche have recorded video messages in place of this. You can watch them with the following link: <https://bit.ly/3aGVQp9> (leads to YouTube playlist).

We continue to have evenings for those who would like to enquire about a vocation to the priesthood. At the moment these are being held online. Please get in touch with Fr Mark Swires at [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for more information.

**SVP** Since the coronavirus lockdown we have seen the importance of a friendly neighbour. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a “good neighbour” either now or when this crisis is over, please contact us using the details below. We are here to help with anything from practical assistance to just a friendly chat.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS: *The Lord will lead us back together.*** Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19

**SVP:** In these difficult times, we are here to help. If you, or anyone you know, needs help with e.g. Shopping please contact us: Tel: 07493 439427 or email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com).

**SELF-ISOLATING:** If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

**CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS:** UK Catholic Diocesan newspapers are on one website ([www.ChurchPaper.co.uk](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk)) so parishioners can stay in contact with their Church and their community.

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com)  
❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** email: [cb.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:cb.hall@btinternet.com)  
or Tel: 07758 805263 [*answerphone only* – please leave a message with name + contact number]