

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 11th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 12th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Paul Cudmore
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention (M)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Doreen Rebeiro RIP
Monday 13th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Rida Masoom + Family
Tuesday 14th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Bernard Capel Harrison RIP
Wednesday 15th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Departed Souls of Legionaries of Mary
Thursday 16th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Norah Hewitt RIP
Friday 17th			St Anthony, Ab
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Thomas McKinley RIP
Saturday 18th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Donors Intention (D+T)
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)		PEACE DAY	
Saturday 18th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 19th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Ints: Penny Quine
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Fr Olindo Cramaro RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	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!

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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)
Week Commencing 12th January 2025

It's just over a fortnight since we celebrated Christmas and here we are at the Baptism of the Lord. That's a period of about thirty years in Jesus' life. John the Baptist has also grown up, his parents Elizabeth and Zechariah have almost certainly died. St. Joseph is probably dead also, while Mary is in her late forties. We might wonder what happened to the shepherds and wise men. One can see how tempting it is to 'fill in the gaps' as some false writings from the early centuries try to do and they can linger on as inaccurate folk memories. The silence about these early years of Jesus' life can tell us something. The important point, surely, is that Jesus lived a normal life. In effect he is sanctifying daily life in the sense that nothing miraculous happened (Mary might have had something to say otherwise). When life for us seems humdrum and routine we can yearn for excitement, seeking fame perhaps. The silent years of Jesus' life can help us temper those urges. We can also note that a 'normal' life for a Catholic is really pretty extraordinary as we love God and neighbour in the Holy Spirit.

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 JANUARY: For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

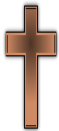
PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE We pray for the people of all war-torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices and for the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) **Being what we promised to be.** Today's feast tells us who Jesus really is; it calls us to be what we promised at our wedding – a sign to the world of God's love for all of us. At the core of this commitment is the undertaking to trust our spouse with who we really are – feelings, thoughts, ideas; all that makes us who we are today.

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, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Pace, Bernard Wilson, Eileen Rose Kelly and Luke Joseph Brennan, who have all recently passed away. The Parish community offers Elizabeth's, Bernard's & Eileen's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Elizabeth's funeral service will be here on Tuesday 21st January at 11.00am. Bernard's funeral service will take place on Monday 27th January at 11.00am and Eileen's funeral service will take place on Thursday 30th January at 10.45am. Luke's Reception into Church will be on Thursday 23rd January at 5.00pm and his funeral service will take place on Friday 24th January at 11.00am. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**



NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: There will be a collection taken at all Masses next weekend 18th + 19th January for **Pax Christi (Peace Day)**. Every year, with the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales, Pax Christi promote Peace Sunday as a way of observing the World Day of Peace. Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace was published last week and his theme is '**Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace**'. - to read Pope Francis Message please click on the following link: - [20241208-messaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.pdf](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/messages/peace/2024-01-18_messaaggio-58giornatamondiale-pace2025.pdf). Racial Justice will take place 16/02/25.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards the church flower fund. Our church looked beautiful thanks to the Floral team and all the hard work they put into making the stunning floral arrangements. Thank you all.

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

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: From January 2025 we will need a person to run the **Repository**. This role is suitable for someone who is limited with time. For more information please call 01206 768418 after 6pm for details.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHILDREN OF WAR on **Tuesday 21st January 2025**. Three times during the day there will be led prayers. These will take place at 10.15am, 12.30pm and 3.15pm and there will be people available at these times to lead prayers. The church will be open all day and people are welcome to come in at any time to pray.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025: Last few copies are available from the back of the Church at £3.20 per copy. These are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

A YEAR OF HOPE: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: [//cafod.org.uk/jubilee](https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week. please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email olwstatue2024@gmail.com

LEGION OF MARY: The Legion of Mary invites parishioners aged 18 and older to join our weekly prayer meetings which will be held in Cardinal Bourne Hall **every Friday at 7.30pm** offering a dedicated time for fellowship and growth. Membership in the Legion does not require specific skills or advanced spirituality. Please do join us in a meeting.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, led by Bp Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow. We hope you will join us.

LOURDES: Noah Pike, Claire Williamson's (*choir mistress*) son, is raising funds so he can go to Lourdes this year, with St. Benedict's, to aid and help people. He will be doing bake sales, and a bit later on will be hosting a poets and pints night (details to follow). He will be speaking at the end of mass in a couple of weeks to introduce himself. If you could support him it would be greatly appreciated. For further information email stressedclaire45@gmail.com.

MUSIC LESSONS: Joshua Pike, Claire Williamson's son, is offering drum and keyboard lessons. He plays at church and is Grade 8 piano and has passed his Grade 8 drums and is now working towards his diploma on drums. Email stressedclaire45@gmail.com for info.

MISSIO RED BOXES: Please bring your boxes in for emptying by either handing it to a priest or if leaving the Box at the Parish Office, please ensure it is clearly labelled.

SVP DONATION BOX: With the support of compassionate people like you, the SVP stands ready to extend the helping hand of friendship to those experiencing loneliness, desperation and hardship. There is an SVP Donation box in the Church porch if you wish to make a donation to assist them in their work

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 13/01/25: Team 2 / Monday 20/01/25: Team 3 / Monday 27/01/25: Team 4
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 12/01/25: Yolande + 1 / 19/01/25: SVP / 26/01/25: Matthew & Mariamma