

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(‘Gaudete’ Sunday)

Saturday 14th	Church	6.15 pm	Owen Joseph McEnaney RIP
Sunday 15th	Church	8:00 am	Margaret + Dermot Moriarty RIP
	Church	10:30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Anniv: Patrick Brennan
	Mile End	9:15 am	Ann Irvine RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Private Intention

Monday 16th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving
	Church	7.00 pm	St Benedicts College - Carol Service

Tuesday 17th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Tom MacKinlay RIP

Wednesday 18th			Feria
	Church	11.00 am	Ints: Saji Jacob
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Thursday 19th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Rorate Mass

Friday 20th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Des Fuller RIP
	Church	11.00 am	St Thomas More School - Carol Service
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Saturday 21st			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) (Expectant Mothers)

Saturday 21st	Church	6.15 pm	Mary and John McGinley RIP
Sunday 22nd	Church	8:00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10:30 am	Mrs Dorothy Lavelle RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Nancy Drummond RIP
	Mile End	9:15 am	Bridget Ann Irvine RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

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

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

BAPTISM COURSE: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org under Events where a list of course dates are available

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. We can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit patients so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

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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 Tel: 01206 866317
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 15TH DECEMBER 2019 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 88

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15 _{am}
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35 _{am}
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<i>following</i> 8.00 _{am} Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00 _{pm} - 6.00 _{pm}
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00 _{pm}

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *The Future of the Very Young*

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Cherish the gift.* John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself...entrusted yourselves ...to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Pat Keene, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston,

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Sally Pegg who has recently passed away. May she rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of her bereaved family and friends. Eileen's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 31st December at 11.00am.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS : During the 6_{pm} Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costumes; we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! We are also looking for musicians and narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30_{am} Mass. Thank you

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sundays of Advent, please collect a card bauble to decorate the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas

(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6_{pm} Vigil Mass, which will be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent, all children, young and old, are asked to save their loose change and wrap this as a present, which will then be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

FESTIVE SALE OF HOMEMADE PRODUCE (incl. pickles, chutneys and so much more): On **Sunday 22nd December after the 10.30_{am} mass** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. Also Children's Goodie Bags. Please do join us – everyone welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: if you wish to minister at any of the Christmas masses please sign your name on the list in the porch

NEXT HOLY COMMUNION COURSE: Information packs are available in church porch.

"CUPPA CLUB" The SVP would like to invite you to their 'Cuppa Club' coffee morning. **Every Thursday morning from 10_{am} - 12_{noon}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Free coffee and cake!! Newspapers, crosswords, and craft. Come and make new friends.

REPOSITORY SHOP: New Year * New Ideas * New Person(s) required for the Repository – working alongside Frances (as Pauline is stepping down). If interested in this voluntary role, please contact the presbytery 01206 866317.

EVANGELISATION IN COLCHESTER: -Advent a new start... We are about to introduce "Landings" in Colchester. What is it? Landings is a series of relaxed, informal, lay-led meetings, based on faith-sharing within a small group. It offers a safe and supported "landing place" for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are thinking about coming back. It offers already active Catholics an opportunity to share their faith; to participate in the Church's mission to welcome those who have been away; and a chance to grow and learn from each other's spiritual journeys. More information to be provided in the coming weeks.

VIDEOS OF RECENT STUDY DAYS: Videos of the first two study days in the series marking the Year of the God who Speaks are now available. Both Fr Adrian's day 'Beginning with Genesis', which opened the series, and the day given more recently by Fr Nicholas King SJ on 'The Scriptures in Advent' are free to view on www.whatgoodnews.org Just go to the home page and click on 'Watch latest event'.

CHRISTMAS MASSES		
Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December		
Priory Street	6.00 _{pm}	Vigil Mass especially for families
Monkwick	8.00 _{pm}	Vigil Mass preceded by Carols at 7.30 _{pm}
Priory Street	12.00 _{am}	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30 _{pm}
Monkwick	12.00 _{am}	Polish Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December		
Priory Street	8.00 _{am}	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mersea	9.00 _{am}	Christmas Dawn Mass preceded by Carols at 8.30 _{am}
Mile End	9.15 _{am}	Christmas Day Mass preceded by Carols at 9.00 _{am}
Priory Street	10.30 _{am}	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 _{pm}	Polish Christmas Day Mass
St. Stephens Day, Thursday 26th December		
Priory Street	10.00 _{am}	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 _{pm}	Polish Mass



FILIPINO CHRISTMAS SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on the following dates in December, Wednesday 18th, Friday 20th, Monday 23rd in Priory Street at 8_{pm} and on Saturday 28th December at 12_{pm} (Noon) followed by Christmas party in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: Third Sunday of Advent December 15th: Meditative Evening Prayer at 74 Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD. Tea from 4_{pm}, Prayer 4.30_{pm}. All welcome.

LECTIO DIVINA is simply a way of reflecting on scripture in preparation for the Sunday readings. This will take place on **Saturdays of Advent at 5.15_{pm}** in the meeting room in the presbytery. Access will be from the church porch. **All are welcome.**

THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY would like to invite the Parish community to join them at their Christmas party scheduled for **Saturday 21st December from 4_{pm}-9_{pm}** at the Greenstead Community Hall. Please come and join us.

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** email: cb.hall@btinternet.com

or Tel: 07758 805263 [*answerphone only* – please leave a message with name + contact number

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Monday 16th December: **Team 3**