

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

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

Monday 16th	Monday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Joseph RIP
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Tuesday 17th	Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	9.30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Wednesday 18th	Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Thursday 19th	Thursday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)

Friday 20th	Friday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Rida Masoom + Family

Saturday 21st	Saturday of the Third Week of Advent		
	Church	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) 

Saturday 21st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	George Farrell RIP
Sunday 22nd	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Very Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention (CO)
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Anna Kilis

Please note that Mass on Friday 20th will be at 10.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day

- ❖ 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).

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

 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

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

'Gaudete' Sunday

Week Commencing 15th December 2024

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and His return at the end of time. Over these four weeks, we ready our hearts for Christmas through penitential reflection. However, in the middle of this season, the Church calls us to rejoice in hope, marking Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Much like Laetare Sunday during Lent, the liturgical colour for today is rose, symbolizing the joyful mood of this celebration. The second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, captures the spirit of the day. St. Paul encourages us to embrace a joyful attitude, even amidst life's challenges. He exhorts us to "rejoice in the Lord always" and reminds us that true joy comes from our relationship with God. The joy of Gaudete Sunday is rooted in the anticipation of Christ's birth, the ultimate source of our hope and happiness. As we draw closer to Christmas, may we open our hearts to the peace and joy that Christ brings.

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 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 peace and the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18) **Rejoice in God's gift.** Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.

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 Irvén, 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.

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 OFFERING: The Offertory Collection at all the Christmas Masses is, by tradition, the parishioners' personal gift to the Clergy. In this Parish, Fr Chris and Fr Philip are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income.

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 6.30pm 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.

THANK YOU to all the drivers who kindly took Fr Philip to and from St Joseph's Church, Mile End on a regular basis. God bless you all. Fr Philip now has a car and is mobile.

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

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.

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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025: Copies are now available from the back of the Church at £3.20 per copy. Please leave money in the Repository box. 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.



CUPPA CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY in the hall, Thursday 19th December 10-11.30am. Music, party food and drinks, maybe some mulled wine! Please join us! All welcome!

THANKS to COLW for their mission and for all who helped. We will be following up their suggestions for Lectio Divina.



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. **The last date for confirmation forms to be handed in is 31st December.**



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.

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 to follow.

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 (Nativity/Families)
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass
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

FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASSES: On 28th December Filipino Mass at 12.30pm followed by Christmas Party til 10.00pm. **Filipino Children's Christmas party has been cancelled.**

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 16/12/24: Team 3 / Monday 23/12/24: Team 4

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 15/12/24: African Community / 22/12/24: Diane + Adrian