

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)			
Saturday 17 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Joan Kerrins RIP
Sunday 18 th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Mr Ong RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Maureen Gallagher RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30am	Private Intention
Monday 19 th			
	Church	9.30 am	Mr Varghese Chandy Pattara RIP
Tuesday 20 th			
	Church	9.30 am	Mary Margaret Knapp RIP
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 21 st			
	Church	9.30 am	Dr. Halley Mathew RIP
Thursday 22 nd			
	Church	9.30 am	Patricia Peters RIP
Friday 23 rd			
	Church	9.30 am	Mr Thampi John Vallimannil RIP
	Church	12.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 24 th			
	Church	9.30 am	Mr Vincent John Alphonso RIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)			
Saturday 24 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 25 th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Paul Richard B. Brusola RIP



Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



We have just begun Lent. Lent, derived from the Latin word "laentecere," meaning 'to soften,' is a 40-day period that starts on Ash Wednesday and concludes before the celebration of the Paschal Triduum, excluding Sundays. The number 'forty' is often associated with intense spiritual experiences; for instance, God caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights to cleanse the earth, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years, Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai, and Elijah journeyed for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb. During these forty days, we shall make a conscious effort to grow spiritually, praying and fasting. We will sincerely work to draw closer to God and commit ourselves to matters pertaining to our faith. The Gospel reminds us that trials and challenges will arise during this period, but we must not succumb to temptation. It is hoped that we will emerge as better and stronger Christians at the end of Lent.

Fr. Philip

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Bereavement Support Group- Please see poster in Church Porch, Website or Facebook

➤ **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 & follow** our page

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE. God of hope and mercy, protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Amen.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Genesis 9:8-15 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15) **We hunger for closeness.** 'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Jimmy Clarin, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Joyce Wrobel, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Jason McLean, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Peters, long-term member of this Parish, and known to many, died this month. Patricia recently moved to be near her family. The parish community offers Patricia's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: After P. Street + Mile End Masses this weekend there will be a special collection taken for the **Church Easter Flowers on Sunday 18th February** the monies collected will be used for the Easter floral displays in Priory Street and Mile End Churches.

REPOSITORY: There is a selection of St Patrick Day cards for sale in Church porch.



LENT FAST DAY will be on Friday 23rd February. We are asked to eat simply and give what we have saved to CAFOD to support families with resources, tools and training to help feed themselves. Envelopes will be in church porch. Please return them the following weekend (25th Feb) when a 2nd collection will be taken. Thank you for your support and prayers.

LENT DAY OF MERCY on Friday 15th March 2024: The Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 9.00pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.



SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING: Anyone who has half-an-hour to spare after Mass is most welcome to stay for coffee and biscuits after 10.30am Mass on Sundays.
CUPPA CLUB: We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. Everyone is welcome.

SAVE THE DATE: The Diocese Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 25th May 2024. Further details will follow in due course along with seat reservation details.



ST PATRICKS' DAY - AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION in Cardinal Bourne Hall on **Sunday 17th March 2023** from **3.00pm-5.30pm**. Menu will include assorted sandwiches, cakes, scones with Tea, Coffee & Soft drinks available. Vegetarian, vegan & gluten free catered for by pre-order. Bring your own Alcohol. Entertainment provided by McGahan Lees Irish Dance Academy + Music by Steve Williams & a Raffle. Ticket prices Adults £17.00; 12-16 yrs £8.50; 5-11yrs £4.00. Please contact Frances for tickets on 01206 5674258 or 07767146821

CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP: Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April 2024** - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. **7:00 to 9:00pm**. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE: February Newsletter
<https://canonesses.co.uk/February-2024-Newsletter.pdf>

SJOG HOMES FOR UKRAINE MATCHING SERVICE: Caritas Social Action Network is an international Catholic charity with services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland. It is matching Ukrainian people displaced by war with people in the Catholic community who are willing to host them for 6 months. for more info. Please take a prayer card from Church porch or see the poster in Church porch/facebook. More info Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk> E-mail: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT: Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD IS INVITING YOU TO TAKE PART IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES DURING LENT. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/len or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on **Saturday 24 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm** at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 7HB. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP; from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Walsingham House are offering a two year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House in Abbotswick, running retreats for young people across the Diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more info www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 19/02/24: **Team 4** / Friday 01/03/24: **Team 5**
COFFEE MORNING: 18/02/24: Matthew & Mariamma / **25/02/24:** African Community