

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

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Week Commencing 18th May 2025

Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment, *“Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”* He says this immediately after Judas departs to betray Him. In that moment of imminent betrayal and suffering, Jesus speaks not of revenge or fear, but of glory and love. His love is not abstract or sentimental—it is practical, humble, and sacrificial. With this kind of love, He washes the feet of the one who will deny Him and the one who will betray Him. This kind of love becomes the defining mark of Christian discipleship: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” What makes us Christians is how we love—not only when it’s easy or deserved, but especially when it costs us something. Jesus invites us to love as He loved: to serve, to care, to forgive, and to bear with others patiently. This love transforms relationships and communities. Let us pray for the gift of such love in our hearts.

Fr Philip

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Saturday 17th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Vicky Wilson
Sunday 18th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
+ KSC Rosary Crusade	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Amanda Harris RIP
West Mersea		8.30 am	Maria Nila Tavera + Anna Liza B. Cagadas RIP
Mile End		9.30 am	Michael + Bridget Brady RIP

Monday 19th Monday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Ints: Manuel

Tuesday 20th Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Mrs Aleru
Church 6.30 pm Our Lady of Fatima Procession+ Polish Mass

Wednesday 21st Wednesday after Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Ints: Marco

Thursday 22nd Thursday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Rida Masoom + Family
Church 6.00 pm Polish Confession for First Holy Communion

Friday 23rd Friday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Gregorio Carpela + Aida Tolentino RIP

Saturday 24th Saturday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Church 9.30 am Carole Conway RIP
Church 12.00 pm Polish Celebration of First Holy Communion

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Saturday 24th Monkwick 5.00 pm Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas

Sunday 25th Church 8.00 am Mary & William O'Grady RIP

Church 10.30 am Ints: Ursula Howard-Sneyd

Church 2.00 pm Polish Mass

Church 6.30 pm Private Intention

West Mersea 8.30 am Private Intention

Mile End 9.30 am Parishioners

- ❖ 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. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment.
- ❖ Church Loop System: serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles + chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.

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

REPOSITORY: There is a good selection of assorted items available for sale in church.



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!

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



Almighty God, we thank you for raising a new pontiff for us, Pope Leo XIV. May you bless him with all he needs to lead the church. Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ. May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God's people, to embody your love for the world

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *For working conditions.*

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29) ***Love is the fundamental requirement.*** Eastertide is a time for us as couples to celebrate the reality of our love as being a reflection of the presence of God, who is Love. It is a time for us to recognise more readily the risen Lord is alive in us, with us, and present in the many and various ways we try to share our love.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin J Brian Critchley, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

† **RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anthony George (Tony) Weekes and Michael Christopher (Mick) Lavelle who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers Tony's and Mick's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Tony's funeral service will be at St Cedds, Mersea on Monday 2nd June at 12.30pm. Mick's funeral service will be at St James the Less & St Helen on Friday 6th June at 1.45pm.

ROSARY CRUSADE: The Knights of St Columba will be praying the Rosary at St James the Less & St Helen after 10.30am today – Sunday 18th May. All are welcome to join them.

NEXT SECOND COLLECTION: Each year, the diocese marks ***World Communications Day.*** This year's theme is "*Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts*" (cf. 1Pt 3:15-16). **A collection will be taken at each Mass on Sunday 1st June.**

RESTART OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP: We are excited to announce that the Children's Liturgy Group will resume on **Sunday, 1st June 2025**, at the church. This group is offered for children from Preschool/Reception up to Year 2 and will take place every Sunday during the 10:30am Mass, excluding the summer holiday period. Activities will include prayer and gospel readings, singing, and arts/crafts related to the Sunday gospel. Please note that it is NOT a drop-in session and an adult MUST accompany each child during the session. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at childrenliturgystjames@outlook.com.

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



OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The next Procession is on **Friday 13th June at 6.30pm** followed by mass in Polish + Rosary.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SATURDAY 24th MAY 2025: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come and wish to reserve a seat on the coach – please add your name to the Coach Seat Reservation list, which can be found on a clipboard in the Church Porch. A 53-seat coach will be picking up passengers from East Hill near the corner of Priory Street at 8.15am for prompt 8:30am departure, **Coach seats are £17.50 per person payable in advance.** Please bring a packed lunch, as the cafeteria at Walsingham will be very busy.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE THROUGH THE PRESBYTERY DOOR WITH THE NAMES OF THE PASSENGERS WRITTEN ON THE FRONT OF THE ENVELOPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

BISHOP ALAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT: Fr Patrick is



inviting all parishioners to attend a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan on **Saturday 31st May at 11.00am.** Fr Patrick requests that all attendees to the Mass bring at least one flower with them to place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Light at the beginning of the Service when you will be invited to bring forward your flowers. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the parish hall and all are welcome to attend this. The Plenary Indulgence of the Jubilee Year 2025 will be available to those attending, who complete a prayer for the future Pope's intentions, and receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days of the Feast Day.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CHURCH FLOWER GROUP: We have a gifted group of flower arrangers here who work hard to ensure that there are always flowers on display in the church, and in particular for the major events during the year like Christmas & Easter. We are a small friendl team working on a rota, with 3 teams and each team taking a fortnight at a time, usually on a Friday morning. No experience is necessary simply enthusiasm and the physical ability to assist as we all teach and help each other. Flower arranging is an enjoyable ministry, if you are interested in getting involved please contact Jane Hopgood 07761557375 or email: janehopgood735@gmail.com We look forward to welcoming new members to our group.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next screening will be on **Wednesday 4th June** commencing at 12.00pm in Cardinal Bourne Hall. All are welcome.

CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY: This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on **Saturday 7th June 2025** from 11am until 2pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org



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.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Friday 23/05/25: **Team 5** / Thursday 29/05/25: **Team 1**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 18/05/25: Diane & Adrian / 25/05/25: The O'Sullivans