

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK



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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

Saturday March 18 th	6:15 pm	Mr & Mrs Noel Blanchette RIP
Sunday March 19 th	8:00 am	Pete, Teresa and Simon Monk RIP
	10:30 am	Dr Roger Sykes RIP
	4:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Caroline Long RIP
West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls RIP
Mile End	9:15 am	Kay Knight RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Joseph Hawken RIP

Monday 20th ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Church 9:15 am Frederick, Elizabeth and Angelo Lucas RIP

Tuesday 21st

Feria

Church 9:15 am Michael & Ellen Kate Conlon RIP

Church 6:30 pm Stns of the Cross – Polish/English + H/C

Wednesday 22nd

Feria

STM School Mass Church 9:15 am Rose Donovan RIP

Church 12:15 pm Holy Souls RIP

Thursday 23rd

Feria

Church 9:15 am Margaret Murray RIP

Friday 24th

Feria

Church 9:15 am In Thanksgiving RIP

Church 12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Church 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 25th

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Solemnity

Church 9:15 am The Clarke Family RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

[Laetare Sunday & Mothering Sunday]

Saturday March 25 th	6:15 pm	Margaret Barker RIP
Sunday March 26 ^h	8:00 am	V. Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield RIP
	10:30 am	Mary Atkin RIP
	2:00 pm	Polish Mass
	6:30 pm	Intentions of the Brown Family
West Mersea	8:30 am	Parishioners
Mile End	9:15 am	Sabu Mathew RIP
Monkwick	10:15 am	Catherine Spicer RIP

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:45-10:30am; 5:30-6pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: At least six months notice is required

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT [A]

March 19th 2017 – Parish Mass Book page 158

Brothers and sisters, this Sunday's Gospel invites us to meditate and to understand profoundly a basic human experience; "Thirst." The Word of the Lord urges us to see our experience of "thirst" in relation to Him. With this, allow me to share these two themes, "Thirst for God" and "God's thirst for us".

In our spiritual journey more often than not, the quest for a meaningful life occupies our priority. But frankly, since we base our quest on material things, our "thirst" for them becomes constant and endless. Trapped into an unending longing for material success, wealth and earthly pleasures, as often happens, we fall into confusion and finally to emptiness.

The Gospel of John illustrates the same scenario in the Samaritan woman. She was practically empty. But having found the Master, she satisfied both her human need for water, from the wellspring and her spiritual need; eternal life.

My dear parishioners, we need to acknowledge in us our longing for God. Only God, our loving father can quench our thirsting mind, heart and soul. We just have to trust him because no matter how little our faith maybe, if we just persevere in believing, He will satisfy us to the fullness. His mercy and compassion is always ready to satisfy everything we do miss in life.

Yet, we also need to realize that God thirsts for us. Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Until you know how deep inside that Jesus thirst for you - you can't begin to know what he wants to be for you or who he wants you to be for him." And so, let us continue our Lenten exercises, in our search for this living water which only Jesus can give us, hoping that with the celebration of Easter we may be filled with satisfaction and fulfilment needed, for our eternal salvation. Amen.

.Send, O Lord, holy apostles into your Church.

Fr Alex rcj

Please see Mass Schedule for ANY change

SUNDAYS: Divine Mercy and Rosary Following 8am Mass
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Tuesdays – Crypt 8:00pm
DAILY: Morning Prayer 8:15am; Rosary/Divine Mercy 8:35am
FILMS FOR FAITH: Please see below

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember in your prayers; Percy Abrahams, Lorraine Atkin, Pat Banks, Antoinetta Caldeira, Frank Campbell, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Olive Crawford, Vicky Culham, Margaret Doorish, Margaret Griffin, Jim Harvey, John Harvey, Jan Holden, Julie Jefferies, Pat Keene, Marie Kent, Patrick King, John Lawlor, Peter Ledgley, Nathanael Lee, Joanne Leon, Doreen Lowe, Marie Lyons, Canon Anthony McKentey, Jean Mansell, Mary-Ann Martin, Cara Maude, David Merryman, Byron Miller, Amadine Morgan, Margaret Norman, Charles Norman, Anne Renwick, Leah Patterson, Ronald Quijano, Stephen Rhatigan, Chris Sands, Maureen Sheeran, Christine Staines, Filomena Velasquez, Mary Wallace, Brea Ward, Patricia Wiltshire, Tony White,

SECOND COLLECTION AT PRIORY STREET AND MILE END: This weekend for Easter flowers. Thank you.

LENT 2017

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday, at 12 noon followed by soup and a roll in the Crypt, with donations going to the Colchester Soup Run. Again, every Friday, Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm which, this year, due to the retirement of Canon Peter Walker, take place at Priory Street. Also every Tuesday at 6:30pm Stations of the Cross take place here in Polish/English, followed by Holy Communion.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT – Lectio Divina - reflective Reading of the Sunday scriptures; Fridays at 6:30pm before Stations of the Cross, in the Crypt from March 3rd until March 31st.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS: The first Lenten Reflection: *Betrayal*. March 23rd, at 6:30pm in the Church. There is a poster in the Porch. Further information: Valerie Q. 07941 903227.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mgr Michael Corley and Patricia Urquhart who have recently died. May they rest in peace and we pray for the comfort of their bereaved families. Mgr Michael Corley's funeral will be on Wednesday, April 5th, at Brentwood Cathedral at 11:30am. The funeral arrangements for Patricia will be announced shortly.

SCHOOL LENTEN MASS: Will take place on Wednesday, 22nd March, at Priory Street at 9:15am. Following this Mass, Dr Jane Hargreaves, one of the Stewards of the Gospel, will be in the Cardinal Bourne Hall to speak with any interested parents. *There will also be the usual 12:15pm Mass.*

FILMS FOR FAITH: Films For Faith will be showing *The Ten Commandments – Part II* on 22nd March in the Crypt. Timings: 1:00pm for a 1:15pm start and finish by 3:15pm. Refreshments will be provided and all are most welcome.

CENTENARY MASSES: The main Centenary Mass to mark the setting up of the Diocese in 1917 takes place this Wednesday, 22nd March, at Brentwood Cathedral. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be presiding with Bishop Alan and the priests of the Diocese and five representatives from each Parish. Our allocation has gone to the three Stewards of the Gospel, Jane Hargreaves, Bernadette Morrison-Ebling and Andrew Johnson, Richard Atkin, Parish Administrator and Diana Cody, former Administrator and presently part-time Secretary. All your priests will be attending.

COME AND PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: *Deanery Vocations Holy Hour* here at St James the Less, on Wednesday 29th March, at 7:30pm with Fr Mark Swires, Parish Priest of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe and Chaplain to the University of Essex.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CATHOLIC CHAPLANCY: If you are a student or a member of staff at the University and would like full information on Mass times and all other Groups and Events, please visit www.EssexCatholic.org.uk

TEACHING VACANCY: Deputy Headteacher Vacancy -St Joseph the Worker Primary School, Hutton, Brentwood. from September 2017. Please contact the school on 01277 227282 for an application pack and further details. Closing date is 30th March 2017.

WEEKDAY MASS: It has been suggested several times that our 9:15am Mass should be altered to 9:30am to enable people to get to Mass in the week. Bus passes can only be used after 9am. Let us know what you think.

SOUP RUN ORGANISER/CO-ORDINATOR REQUIRED: Please contact the Parish Office.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The new sets of envelopes are available in the Church Porch from this weekend.

MINISTRY OF WELCOME: We need more volunteers to help in this important Ministry which involves welcoming people to Mass with a hymn book and Newsletter. We need volunteers for all Masses at Priory Street. Please contact Paul Horwood on 01206 852728 if you are willing to help and learn what is entailed

SAINSBURY'S SCHOOL VOUCHERS: We are collecting these vouchers for St Thomas More's School. Please donate your vouchers by bringing them to the Parish Office.

CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS: cb.hall@btinternet.com 07758 805263

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Thursday, March 23rd, Team1 .