

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Expectant Mothers



| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Saturday 18th | Church | 6.15 pm | Ron & Margaret Wheeler |
| Sunday 19th | Church | 8.00 am | Private Intention |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Ints: Margaret Hilton |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 5.00 pm | Holy Hour & Vespers |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Private Intention |
| | Church | 8.00 pm | Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Parishioners |
| Mile End | 9.15 am | Tessa Southon RIP | |
| Monkwick | 10.15 am | Ints: Altar Servers | |
| Monday 20th | | | Feria |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Ints: Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy Isaac + Family |
| Tuesday 21st | | | Feria |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas |
| Wednesday 22nd | | | Feria |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Donor's Intention (CN) |
| | Church | 8.00 pm | Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass |
| Thursday 23rd | | | Feria |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Canon John Bloomfield |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Polish Rorate Mass |
| Friday 24th | | | Feria |
| | Church | 9.30 am | Deceased Relatives of Farrell Family |
| | | | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD |
| | Church | 6.00 pm | Ints: Rose + Hugh Pat Robinson |
| | Monkwick | 8.00 pm | Celestine Tighe RIP |
| | Church | 12.00 am | Parishioners |
| | Monkwick | 12.00 am | Polish Midnight Mass |
| Saturday 25th | | | CHRISTMAS DAY |
| | Church | 8.00 am | Ints: Geoffrey Charles Osborn |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Daniel Milgate RIP |
| | Mile End | 9.15 am | Toni + Derrick Foley RIP |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Ints: Joe + Ray Canty + Family |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | | | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C) |
| Sunday 26th | Church | 8.00 am | Parishioners |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Jacob Thomas + Mary Jacob RIP |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Private Intention |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Private Intention |
| | Mile End | 9.15 am | Ints: Fr Neil Brett |
| Monkwick | 10.15 am | Ros Sutcliffe RIP | |

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. Paschal Uche
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

WEEK COMMENCING 19TH DECEMBER 2021

Over the years, I have truly grown to love Mary. As a child she was part of the religious furniture, but through the many challenges and changes of my life, I have come to appreciate Mary as an awesome role model, a powerful mediator and a beautiful Mother. This fourth Sunday of Advent the Gospel invites us to see in Mary what Elizabeth and John the Baptist have perceived in Mary, namely, that the Lord is with her. As a river leads us to the sea so Mary leads us to see that indeed the Lord is with her, in her and through her. We see in Mary not merely how to be a Christian but more so what Christianity is; a pure, undeserved gift that transforms the receiver in to a unique mirror image of the giver. For it was by God's gift that Mary was immaculately conceived, again by God's gift that she assented to God's will and it is by God's gift that she now lives to intercede for us in heaven as our Queen and Mother. St Maximilian Kolbe said do not be afraid of loving Mary too much none of us can love her more than Christ. Love for Mary does not diminish our love for Christ, no; on the contrary, it deepens our love for Christ. This Advent and Christmas may we seek to love Mary more, confident that she will lead us more profoundly to the sea of God's presence.



Please note that Face Masks must be worn in Church, unless medically exempt.



Fr. Paschal

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| DAILY | Morning Prayer | at 9.15 am |
| CHRISTIAN MEDITATION | Wednesdays (CBH) | at 8.00 pm |
| DAILY Mon-Fri | Rosary/Divine Mercy | at 8.45 am |
| 2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY | Eucharistic Adoration | Temporarily suspended |

Please refer to the Website Home Page or External Church Notice Board for details on **Covid restrictions**.

As a Reminder: Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *Catechists*. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Jim Lynas, Maureen R. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

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 Paschal are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income.

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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sunday of Advent, please collect a card bauble from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side to be decorated & on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Please leave your completed bauble in the box at Church exit and this will be safely added to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas. Thank you

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS : There will be a change from previous years in that during the 6^{pm} Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, the First Holy Communion children will be recreating the Nativity scene and will be in costume. All Children are welcome to attend Mass in Costume but no Mary's, Josephs, Angel Gabriels or Stars please - Thank you.

(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.

MILE END NEWS: The next coffee morning will be on 2nd January after the 9:15^{am} Mass at St Joseph's and will be held at the Dog & Pheasant. All welcome.

THE MEDITATION GROUP will not meet on 29th Dec. The following meeting will take place on 5th Jan 2022. Thank you

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2022/2023]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/22). The final date for signing of the "**Certificate of Catholic Practice**" will take place in the church crypt on the following date: - **Sunday 9th January 2022 at 4.00^{pm}-5.00^{pm}**
There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis.

The Masses for week commencing 26th December 2021 are as follows: -



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)

The Masses for week commencing 26th December 2021

| | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 26th | Church | 8.00 am | Parishioners |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Jacob Thomas + Mary Jacob RIP |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Private Intention |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Private Intention |
| | Mile End | 9.15 am | Ints: Fr Neil Brett |
| | Monkwick | 10.15 am | Ros Sutcliffe RIP |
| Monday 27th | Church | 9.30 am | ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist Mrs. Hermione J. |
| Tuesday 28th | Church | 9.30 am | THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm Tessa Southon RIP |
| Wednesday 29th | Church | 9.30 am | ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp, M Timothy English RIP |
| Thursday 30th | Church | 9.30 am | Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas Melanie O'Flynn |
| | Monkwick | 11.00 am | Funeral Mass: Rosalie Sutcliffe RIP |
| Friday 31st | Church | 9.30 am | Seventh Day within Octave of Christmas Ints: Patrick John Lyons |
| Saturday 1st January 2022 | Church | 9.30 am | MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Edwina Bunn |
| SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY | | | |
| Saturday 1st | Church | 6.15 pm | Jerome Burke RIP |
| Sunday 2nd | Church | 8.00 am | Parishioners |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 4.00 pm | Filipino Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Private Intention |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Private Intention |
| | Mile End | 9.15 am | Holy Souls |
| | Monkwick | 10.15 am | Ints: Joseph Hawken |

Please note that there will be **no** newsletter for week commencing 26th December.

MISSIO CHRISTMAS CALENDARS IN CHURCH PORCH: Please take a free calendar.

PARISH FINANCES: If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done by: -

- Dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
Priory St: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>
Mersea: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
Monkwick: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you

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

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 20/12/21: **Team 4** / Thursday 30/12/21: **Team 1**
CBH COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 19/12/21 (Matthew & Mariamma) +26/12/21 (Frances + Nora)