

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
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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

(Expectant Mothers)

Saturday 19th	Church	6.15 pm	Joe McEnaney RIP
Sunday 20th	Church	8.00 am	John Cunningham RIP
	Church	9.15 am	Dudley Cecil Bradshaw RIP Live Streamed
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Tony Dixon RIP
Monday 21st			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Private Service	Church	11.15 am	FUNERAL MASS: Roy Gibard RIP
Tuesday 22nd			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Wednesday 23rd			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Mary + John McGinley RIP
Thursday 24th			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	Marcelina (Sally) Widman RIP
	Monkwick	1.00 pm	Malayam Mass
			THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	Church	6.00 pm	Roy Gibard RIP
	Church	8.00 pm	Parishioners
	Church	12.00 am	Mr. Benny Thalanany RIP
	Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass
Friday 25th			CHRISTMAS DAY
	Church	8.00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Roy Gibard RIP
	Church	9.15 am	Patricia Urquhart RIP
	West Mersea	9.45 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Int: Hawken Family
	Church	10.30 am	Fae + Ray Canty + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Saturday 26th			ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
	Church	10.00 am	Jacob Thomas RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
			THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B)
Saturday 26th	Church	6.15 pm	Dec. Mem. Brennan Family
Sunday 27th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	9.15 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Bryn Phillips + Miriam Quinn RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Tony Dixon RIP Live Streamed

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Week Commencing 20th DECEMBER 2020



Saying Yes to God! It's just days till Christmas and as the preparations intensify, I know for some this will be a very hard time of year and peace and joy may seem very far from where you are at right now. In Sunday's first reading (2 Sam 7), David sets his heart on the noble venture of building a temple for the Ark of the Covenant. Nothing wrong with that? Well, God responds to David with a No! Sometimes, our prayers noble and sincere as they may seem can feel like letters sent in hope and sent back with a large No stamped on them! God proceeds to show David and to show us that this No is always in service of a greater Yes. God promises David a blessing that exceeds what he could have asked or prayed for, a house and a kingdom that would endure forever. In Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:26) we meet Mary, at the time a young girl who desires to be a humble dwelling place for God. The angel seems to disrupt this plan only to reveal how Mary's deepest desires are to be a fulfilled in the most amazing way. Is there an unanswered prayer in your life? When our prayer is unanswered, perhaps God is inviting us to submit our minds and hearts, to his greater plans and to his greater love. To this proposal, David said Yes, Mary said Yes. What will we say to God's plans this Christmas? By **hoping** in God, and learning to **love** his will we can say Yes and truly **rejoice** in his **peace**.

Fr. Paschal

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 _{am}	All Temporarily suspended
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00 _{pm})	

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: For a Life of Prayer. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Despite all the restrictions, let us be thankful that we can once again gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment :-

- Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Mass
- Facemasks must be worn when entering all places of worship (unless medically exempt)
- Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- We are still required to have Church Stewards in attendance at each Mass and the Church will be cleaned after each Service in readiness for the next Mass to be held.
- For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office.
- Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10_{am} Mass and 5.30_{pm}-6.00_{pm}
- Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.

THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.

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.

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, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

MISSION TODAY: 2021 Calendars are available on the table in church porch – Please take a calendar and/ or Mission Today Magazine.

THE CELEBRATION OF MASSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

Mass booking forms for Christmas mass attendance will have to be completed (i.e. seats have to be reserved in advance). Booking forms will be monitored and closed when the Church seating capacity has been reached.

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2020

6.00 _{pm}	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	<i>Fully Booked</i>
8.00 _{pm}	Priory Street	Vigil Mass	<i>Fully Booked</i>
12.00 _{am}	Priory Street	Midnight Mass	<i>Fully Booked</i>
12.00 _{am}	Monkwick	Polish Midnight Mass	

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER 2020

8.00 _{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Dawn Mass	Booking Form
8.30 _{am}	Mersea	Christmas Dawn Mass	<i>Fully Booked</i>
9.15 _{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	Booking Form
9.45 _{am}	Mersea	Christmas Day Mass	Mersea Booking Form
10.15 _{am}	Monkwick	Christmas Day Mass	Monkwick Booking Form
10.30 _{am}	Priory Street	Christmas Day Mass	<i>Fully Booked</i>
2.00 _{pm}	Priory Street	Polish Christmas Day Mass	

ST. STEPHEN DAY, SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2020

10.00 _{am}	Priory Street	Morning Mass
2.00 _{pm}	Priory Street	Polish Mass
6.15 _{pm}	Priory Street	Mass

(To avoid disappointment, please book early)



REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER STEWARDS OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD: We need additional volunteer Stewards to cover the extra Masses over the Christmas period. Please contact the Presbytery Office (01206 866317) if you are able to assist on any of the following Masses: -

Christmas Eve: * 6_{pm} Mass * 8_{pm} Mass * Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day: * 8_{am} Mass * 10.30_{am} Mass

If you are attending any of these services, please consider volunteering to Steward
Please note that we are unable to hold services without volunteers

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 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, is a decoration, 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

MERSEA NEWS: Mass Bookings will continue at Mersea in order to control numbers attending. Please use the following links for masses over the next 2 weekends (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times: -
 Sunday 27th December [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 3rd January [Mersea Booking Form](#)

PARISH FINANCES: If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:
 • By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering)
 • Donation baskets are situated at entrance and exit of church
 • Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided) – Please see links on Parish website.

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