

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
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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 20th | Church | 6.15 pm | Holy Souls |
| Sunday 21st | Church | 8.00 am | Dr. Halley Mathew RIP |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Parishioners |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Ints: Kathleen James + Fam |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Anniversary: William Wynne RIP |
| Live Streamed | Monkwick | 10.15 am | Dec Family Members (K) |

Monday 22nd THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, Ap

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|---------------|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Anniversary: Mary Margaret Knapp RIP |
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Tuesday 23rd Feria

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| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Florence Farrell RIP |
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Wednesday 24th Feria

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| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Bridget Ann Irvine RIP |
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Thursday 25th Feria

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| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Florence Farrell RIP |
| Private Service | Church | 4.00 pm | RECEPTION INTO CHURCH: Brendan P. Burke RIP |

Friday 26th Feria (Lent Fast Day)

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|-----------------|--------|----------|---|
| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Patricia Urquhart RIP |
| Private Service | Church | 11.30 am | FUNERAL MASS: Brendan Patrick Burke RIP |

Saturday 27th Feria

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| Live Streamed | Church | 10.00 am | Private Intention (SF) |
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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------|---|
| Saturday 27th | Church | 6.15 pm | Ints: Jan Holden |
| Sunday 28th | Live Streamed Church | 8.00 am | 7 th Anniversary: Mrs. Margaret Barker RIP |
| | Church | 10.30 am | Private Intentions |
| | Church | 2.00 pm | Polish Mass |
| | Church | 6.30 pm | Holy Souls |
| | West Mersea | 8.30 am | Violet Woollatt RIP |
| | Monkwick | 10.15 am | Parishioners |

FACEMASKS. It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or 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.

LIVE STREAM: DAILY MASSES AND A SUNDAY MASS
 (Weekdays 10am, please see Schedule for Sunday Live Stream Mass Time)

[St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester](#)

Please check out our Facebook page for Live Stream Masses and all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy photos/videos. Please remember to [like](#) & [follow](#) our page!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Week Commencing 21st FEBRUARY 2021



In the Old Testament God makes several covenants with people, including the one detailed in today's first reading. The series of covenants culminates in the New Testament, Jesus brings about the greatest and last of them. We could pause for a moment and be astonished. A covenant binds two parties, promises are made and to be kept and the covenant itself is sealed in a solemn manner. So a covenant between two people is a serious matter, how startling that the New Covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus, binds God to mankind. Not only that, but we had broken the previous covenants and were guilty of continuing to scorn God's mercy, nevertheless the Son of God gives his life for us and thereby establishes the New Covenant in his blood. We have just set out on our Lenten journey, again; Holy Lent as the Church describes it, a journey towards the celebration of Easter. As we undertake our penances etc. in this season, may we keep Easter very much at the forefront of our minds and hearts, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ together make sense of all that we are doing in these forty days.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: Violence Against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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.

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.
- No mingling with other people you do not live with after Mass outside the Church.

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 John Dolamore, Jan H, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin, Rosie Burnside-Fitch. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (LENT EDITION): Last few remaining in church porch at £1 a copy.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Teresa Mary Evans and Mary Margaret Cocks who have recently passed away. May they rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of their respective bereaved family and friends. Teresa's Funeral Mass will be held here on Friday 26th March at 12.45pm and Mary's Funeral Mass will be held here on Thursday 15th April at 11.45am. **Please note that we require volunteer Stewards for these 2 Funeral services. Please contact the Presbytery if you are able to assist. Thank you.**

MERSEA NEWS: Please use the following links for reserving seats at Mass (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times: Sunday 28th February [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 7th March [Mersea Booking Form](#)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This will take place in the church every Friday of Lent at 3pm (This will also be live streamed for those physically unable to attend). For the Polish Community this will be here every Tuesday at 6.30pm.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL is on Friday 26th February. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted, as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: still available £2.80 per copy + **2021 Diaries reduced - 1/2- price!**

STAY SILENT WITH MILLION MINUTES: SILENT is a project started by Million Minutes, an organisation which enables young people to be the ones to build a world based on the principles at the heart of Catholic social teaching. A 'Million Minutes of Silence' is a simple idea – **each minute is sponsored to raise money for social action projects supporting young people.** We want this year to be the biggest year yet, to show our collective support for young people, and to raise at least a million pennies (which is £10,000!) to help young people restore our world. For more info [SILENT - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service \(bcys.net\)](http://SILENT - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (bcys.net))

STUDY DAY (Learning From Covid): Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

BCYS SPONSORED SLEEPOUT 2021: Find out what it really feels like to be sleeping rough at this time of year, whilst helping to support local homelessness charities and the BCYS by asking friends and family to sponsor you to spend the night in your own gardens, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes - no tents allowed, whatever the weather! The event will be led from Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with a virtual Mass at 11pm info https://bcys.net/events/sleepout2021/?fbclid=IwAR1YdlhEFzqXpCzPpnylgKAZ6g_wUhvqW5c3J7WMMm1y21qfN_GhM2_XcA2A

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 or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
St. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>
St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

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