

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 20th	Church	6.15 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 21st	Live Streamed Church	8.00 am	Frederick, Elizabeth and Angelo Lucas
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intentions
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Theresa Welfare RIP
Monday 22nd			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Sadie Cronin
Tuesday 23rd			Feria
	Church	10.00 am	C.T. Joseph RIP
Wednesday 24th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 25th			THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Mrs. Margaret Barker RIP
Friday 26th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	K. M. John RIP
Private Service	Church	12.30 am	Funeral Mass: Teresa Evans RIP
Live Streamed	Church	3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 27th			Feria
Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Alice Reid RIP

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD (B)

Saturday 27th	Church	6.15 pm	Emma RIP
Sunday 28th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Rhonda Sayer RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
Live Streamed	Monkwick	10.15 am	Brendan Burke RIP

PLEASE NOTE THAT PALMS WILL BE BLESSED AND DISTRIBUTED AT ALL MASSES ON PALM SUNDAY.

FACE MASKS. 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 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ 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 (Except Tues), 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!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Week Commencing 21st March 2021



In the reading from Hebrews we encounter the phrase, 'He (Jesus) learnt to obey through suffering'. What might this mean, as it seems a strange thing to say? We can recall that the root of 'obey' is a verb which means, 'in the direction of hearing'. In other words, a person hears and, in obeying, acts on what they hear; the familiar phrase, 'I hear and I obey' comes to mind. If what a person hears is pleasant, obeying is most likely straightforward. In such cases, the obeying isn't much of a test, the will of the person speaking and the will of the hearer readily coincide. When it comes to something unpleasant, suffering is involved, then the obeying probably isn't quite so straightforward. In those cases, the person really does learn to obey, to submit their will to that of the other. Jesus learnt to obey through suffering, the obvious question we can ask ourselves is, how well do we do? Do we obey when it suits us, when what is requested fits with our own ideas, and disobey when we don't like the request? Or do we learn to obey through suffering. Like Jesus?

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

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 MARCH: Intention for Evangelization: – Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33) **Unconditional love.** Love is called to be unconditional, not 'counting the cost', not 50/50, but both giving 100%. Today's Gospel reminds us a rich harvest is only possible when a single wheat grain falls on the ground and dies. Our loving efforts, trials and difficulties in marriage are ways of 'dying' to a lifestyle contrary to what God is calling us to.

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, 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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: still available £2.80 per copy.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES: Mass will be celebrated on the following days/times:-

- Monday and Tuesday in Holy Week – Mass at 10am
- Wednesday in Holy Week – Mass at 9am
- Maundy Thursday- Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; Mass at 8pm (without the washing of the feet, no altar of repose and no watching to midnight).
- Good Friday – Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; with the Good Friday Liturgy at 1pm and 3pm; Children's Stations of the Cross at 11.15am
- Holy Saturday – Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; The Easter Vigil will begin at 8pm and will be celebrated as normal except that there will be no service of light, fewer readings and no baptisms/receptions.
- Easter Sunday – Masses at Priory Street: 8am; 9.15am; 10.30am; 6.30pm / Mersea: 8.30am / Monkwick: 10.15am

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 March [Mersea Booking Form](#) Sunday 4th April – 8.30am [Mersea Booking Form](#)

LENTEN TALKS: Please join us for our mini-series of Lenten talks which will take place at 7pm on Thursday the 25th of March. These talks will be held via Google Meet with the 3rd talk being led by Fr. Chris on the theme 'Prayer'. If you would like to participate, please email colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org for further information & password. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you.

FUNERAL TIME CHANGE: The funeral service for Theresa Sales on 30th March will commence at 12.30pm and NOT 12.45pm.

SVP – HELP FOR FAMILIES AT EASTER: Active Essex is offering a range of clubs for children over Easter. They are completely free for young people who are eligible for free school meals or working families who need additional support. Fun activities include sports and arts and craft. For more information see: www.activeessex.org/activeeasterbooking Or find details on our Facebook page (SVP Colchester)

BCYS: Please pray for all those taking part in the Sponsored Sleepout on Friday 26th March. People from all over the Diocese will be taking part in a sponsored sleepout to support the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and local homeless charities incl. Basildon Emergency Night Shelter, Caritas Anchor House, and others. We ask you to please pray for all those taking part incl. groups from Wanstead, Basildon, Romford, Lexden & Colchester, and if you are able to sponsor them you can do this online at www.bcys.net/donate.

LADY D'ARCY WITH FYNCHES AND BERRYFIELD COTTAGES ALMSHOUSES: Applications are invited for a vacancy at Berryfield Cottages, Colchester. Applicants should be older single people, of limited means, residing in Colchester and in need of housing. The accommodation comprises a living room, bedroom, wet room and kitchen. Current "rent" is £120 per week incl. of water rates. Utility bills and Council tax are resident's responsibility. The property will not be available before May. Application forms are available from the Clerk to the Charity, Michael Siggs, PO Box 993, Colchester, CO3 3TQ Or Tel: 01206 765138 Email: michael.siggs@btconnect.com Closing date for applications is 16th April 2021

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. 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