

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

World Day of prayer for Vocations

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Mrs P. Okoli RIP
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Monica Wood RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Cathy & John
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Mrs Annie Campbell RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Paul Richard B. Brusola RIP
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>			<b>Monday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (LM)
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>			<b>ST GEORGE, M</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Sidney Finch Castell + Rose Jane Castell
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Mellitus, Bp of London</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Roy Alba RIP
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>St Mark, Ev</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomsfield
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Friday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (M)
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Dolamore RIP
			<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)</b>
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	John Dolamore RIP
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Myra + Terry
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Irena Miluska RIP

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Couples who are planning to get married should contact us **at least 6 months** in advance. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) and after 5.00pm Mass (Monkwick).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).
- ❖ New To The Parish? Then please complete one of our Parish Registration forms, which can be found in the porch at the back of the church.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** [colchester@brcdt.org](mailto:colchester@brcdt.org)
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com)



Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news, Clergy/Church photos/videos. Please remember to **like & follow** our page

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**  
**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**  
**Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

Biblically a name is more than just a label. In the Old Testament we often find the meaning of names being explained, and also name changes e.g. Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel and so on. God himself has dozens of names given to him. At the Annunciation the angel Gabriel (God is my strength) tells Mary the name of the son to be born of her, Jesus, a name which means God Saves. We are baptised in the name of the three Persons of the Trinity and we remind ourselves of this when we make the sign of the Cross. Jesus is a name that saves because it is God in Jesus who does truly save us. We might also recall the second commandment, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, to misuse it. So let us honour the name of Jesus, unlike the blasphemers around us, and recognise him as our Lord and Saviour.

*Fr. Chris*

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: For the role of women.** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, ISRAEL & UKRAINE.** God of hope and mercy, protect all who are in any form of danger; provide practical help to those in need; strengthen the weary, console the grieving, heal the suffering; and bless those engaged in disaster relief efforts with safety and courage. Amen.



**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18) **We lay down our lives, we go beyond...** Couples can relate to the notion of 'shepherding' with regards to their children: "*I know my own and my own know me*". Even in crowds, our children will recognise our voices and we theirs. Also, just as Jesus spoke today of '*laying down His life*', when marrying, we made a solemn vow to lay down our lives for one another.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Jimmy Clarin, Jason Christopher McLean, Grace McCartney, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Maureen R. We also pray for all persons who are ill or are in need.

**† RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joyce Helen Wrobel and Gillian Legonidec who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Funeral details are to be advised.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** After all Masses this weekend a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection will be taken for Vocations Sunday (Good Shepherd Sunday). This is marked as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest*" (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's people - vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

**BAPTISMS:** A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent. It does not matter if they are male or female. If you choose two Godparents, traditionally a male and female that meet the requirements for Godparents. There is no provision for more than two godparents.

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:** Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

**GIFT AID SUBSCRIBERS:** Please can you collect your new box sets from the church porch. Box sets are laid out in alphabetical order. Thank you.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024:** Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come, and wish to reserve a seat on the coach – please add your name to the Coach Seat Reservation list, which can be found on a clipboard in the Church Porch. A 53-seat coach will be picking up from East Hill near the corner of Priory Street at 07:45 for 8:00am departure, with tickets at £17.00 per person, payable on the coach for those who have reserved seats. Please bring a packed lunch, as the cafeteria at Walsingham will be very busy. **There are only 2 seats remaining on coach.**

**CANON BRIAN O'SHEA GOLDEN JUBILEE:** On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 1.30pm, at St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays - Canon Brian O'Shea will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of ordination. All are welcome to attend the service and reception; If attending, please email [N.Chinnon@sky.com](mailto:N.Chinnon@sky.com) for the purpose of numbers and catering.



**SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING:** Anyone who has half-an-hour to spare after Mass is most welcome to stay for coffee and biscuits after 10.30am Mass on Sundays.

**CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. We are always pleased to see a new face and offer a warm welcome to newcomers!

**GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK:** On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of abortion becoming legal in Britain, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Normally we would ask you to fast from all food except bread and water for the day, but as it is still the Easter Season, you might choose instead to fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com) In case you did not see it yet here is The Catholic Herald short article by Clare about the Pro-Life struggle and why fasting and prayer are so important. Please take a few minutes to read it, <https://catholicherald.co.uk/can-pray-and-fasting-really-make-any-difference-when-it-comes-to-abortion/>

**CARITAS:** Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, **Romford** (10-minute walk from Romford Station on the Elizabeth line, Bus routes from London are regular, parking is available but limited and a bike rack is also on site). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)

**THE GUILD OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM:** The Guild's next lecture on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May. Fr Patrick van der Vorst, a recently ordained priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and founder of the evangelistic initiative [www.Christian.Art](http://www.Christian.Art), will deliver our Marian Lecture on **How Beauty Draws us Closer to God**. Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world.

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 22/04/24: **Team 3** / Monday 29/04/24: **Team 4**  
**COFFEE MORNING:** 21/04/24: Diane & Adrian / 28/04/24: The O'Sullivan's