

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

('Laetare' Sunday)

Saturday 21st	Church	Ints: James McCarthy Parishioners
Sunday 22nd	Church	Ints: Josephine + Ray Canty + Fams Joseph Hawken RIP
Monday 23rd	Church	Feria Thanksgiving
Tuesday 24th	Church Colchester Cemetery	Feria Des Fuller RIP 11.00 am FUNERAL SERVICE: Wendy Valerie Munson RIP
Wednesday 25th	Church	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Margaret Barker RIP
Thursday 26th	Church Colchester Crematorium	Feria Ints: Barns Family 12.30 pm FUNERAL SERVICE: William Wynne RIP
Friday 27th	Church	Feria Thanksgiving
Saturday 28th	Church	Feria Thanksgiving

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Sunday 29th	Church	David Anthony Hill RIP Parishioners Catherine Hawken RIP
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION	(confession): Saturday morning 9.30am onwards
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:	At least six months' notice is required
BAPTISM COURSE:	Contact the parish office

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital, please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317, subject to hospital restrictions due to virus.

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. Nixon Gomes
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

WEEK COMMENCING: 22ND MARCH 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 164

We are in an extraordinary situation with the spread of Covid-19 which requires, therefore, extraordinary responses. The inside of the newsletter gives details of some the measures which we are being asked to undertake as regards our religious practice, reflecting changes in behaviour generally. One thing in particular I would ask of everyone, that we look out for each other. If you are aware of a neighbour who lives alone, for example, I hope it may be possible (within guidelines for safety) to keep an eye on them and assist where possible. It is also a time in which we can deepen our prayer life. God bless.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	temporarily suspended
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00pm)	

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have asked that all public services in church be suspended until further notice.

They have dispensed everyone from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays.

Fr. Nixon and I will continue to offer Mass each day, with the intention published in the newsletter, but the church doors will be locked during the celebration (probably early morning). On a practical note, Mass intentions can be posted through the letter box of 51, Priory Street and will be published in the newsletter which will be available on the parish website.

The Church will be open usually from 9^{am} to 5^{pm}, Monday to Saturday, and from 8^{am} to midday and 1^{pm} to 6^{pm} on Sunday. Parishioners are encouraged where possible to make a visit during these periods. We will endeavour to leave the side door open so people can enter and leave without touching a door handle; please touch as little as possible inside the church. At times the front door may be the one to use.

The preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is suspended. Confirmation preparation can continue online and at home. The celebration of these Sacraments as such has been postponed, hopefully we should be able to celebrate them later this year.

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office.

We can still visit for the Sacrament of the Sick, with suitable precautions.

Guidelines for Holy Week and Easter have not yet been finalised.

Also, the parish continues to incur expenses, parishioners are encouraged to give a weekly offering, in a suitably marked envelope or Gift Aid envelope, this can be posted through our letter-box. Gift Aid envelopes for the new financial year will be delivered to your home. Parishioners may wish to set up a standing order, our parish office can help.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19

FR. NIAL HARRINGTON: Due to ill health, please keep Fr Niall in your prayers.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUPS: Meditators are invited to meditate at home on Mondays, 12.00pm and/or Tuesdays 8pm. Material will be sent to the groups online. Thank you Valerie

CANCELLATION OF LENT TALKS: Please note that due to the current circumstances the Lent Talks have been cancelled.

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE: The course in April has been suspended.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: Due to the current situation, we are not continuing with face-to-face teaching and we ask that you collect a workbook pack for this month. If this situation continues into April then packs will be available for that month as well. Each pack contains a prayer and reflection sheet which you can all use together and do together and don't forget our Youcat books. Please pray for those who are in isolation and those who have contracted Covid-19 and in need of intensive care.

SVP: In these difficult times, we are here to help. If you, or anyone you know, needs help with e.g. Shopping please contact us: Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com.

IN BRIEF- CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): -

- ♦ No Public Masses : The Clergy will continue to say mass daily but this will be in private (i.e. without a congregation)
- ♦ The Church will remain open for private prayers every day.
- ♦ Mass Intentions will continue to be said during the private mass (*Please drop Mass Intention Envelope through Presbytery door*)
- ♦ Social distancing on entering the church will need to be maintained in all circumstances (2-metre distances).
- ♦ Stations of the cross can be done by individuals but not in a group setting
- ♦ Confessions will be heard on Saturday mornings 9.30am onwards
- ♦ There are a number of ways to watch the celebration of the Mass; on Radio, TV, live stream. The following link is to a website that has live streaming of church services in the UK <https://www.churchservices.tv/>
- ♦ Please maintain good hygiene i.e. sanitizing hands by either soap and water or gel before attending church.
- ♦ Please contact us if there are any concerns about visiting and anointing of the sick at home, in nursing homes and hospitals.
- ♦ All pastoral in-home and nursing home visits are to be discontinued.

MISSIO MAGAZINES FOR SPRING 2020 are available free in the church porch, please take a copy. If you have a full Red Missio Box please keep this at home until further notice.

DONATION STATION: If you wish to make a donation, please touch the screen in the appropriate place and follow the instructions. Alternatively, please put envelopes through presbytery door with offertory collection written on front of envelope also 'Gift Aid' envelopes.

CANCELLATION OF LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2020: Letters will be sent out to all Pilgrims within the next few days.

POSTPONEMENT OF BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE EVENTS: Given the evolving situation in relation to the Corona Virus we have taken the decision to postpone some training and planned BDES events in order that we can provide early notification. We are therefore postponing all training and BDES events between Sat 21st March 2020 and Wed 29th April 2020 inclusive. We will review the situation before the Easter break and make a further decision about training and events after 29th April 2020 at that point. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES: The following link is to a website that has live streaming of church services in the UK <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

BCYS & WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Please note the following cancellations: -

- 28th March: Tree planting at Walsingham House at Abbotswick
- 27th-29th March: Lenten Reflection & Revision Retreat at Walsingham House at Abbotswick
- 1st April: Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral
- 3rd April: Sponsored Sleepout at Walsingham House at Abbotswick
- 19th April: Billericay Padre Pio Prayer Group, Day of Devotion to the Divine Mercy at Walsingham House at Abbotswick.
- 3rd May: Gathering of the Confirmandi with Bishop Alan, Brentwood Cathedral

RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY: A range of resources, incl. the livestream and prayers for the Re-dedication, are all available from www.behold2020.com

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** email: cb.hall@btinternet.com
or Tel: 07758 805263 [*answerphone only* – please leave a message with name + contact number]
CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Monday 23rd March: **Team 1**
