

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(Expectant Mothers)

Saturday 21st	Church	6.15 pm	Mary and John McGinley RIP
Sunday 22nd	Church	8:00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10:30 am	Mrs Dorothy Lavelle RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Nancy Drummond RIP
	Mile End	9:15 am	Bridget Ann Irvine RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

Monday 23rd			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Anniv: Vicky Culham
	Church	1.15 pm	REQUIEM MASS: Peter Harold Ledgley RIP
	Church	8.00 pm	Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass

Tuesday 24th			THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	Church	9.30 am	Canon Thomas Clarke
	Church	6.00 pm	Parishioners
	Monkwick	8.00 pm	Intentions: Hawken Family
	Church	12.00 am	Ints: Baby Ella, Mum & Dad
	Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th			CHRISTMAS DAY
	Church	8.00 am	Intentions: Chrysopoulos Family
	Church	10.30 am	Thanksgiving + Prayers
	West Mersea	9.00 am	Chrissie Curran RIP
	Mile End	9.15 am	Anniv: Annellen Ball
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass

Thursday 26th			ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
	Church	10.00 am	Gillian Balard RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass

Friday 27th			ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist
	Church	9.30 am	E+C McElroy RIP

Saturday 28th			THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm
	Church	9.30 am	B.P + Family
	Church	12.00 pm	Filipino Mass

			THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
Saturday 28th	Church	6.15 pm	John Wilmot RIP
Sunday 29th	Church	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	Church	10:30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Holy Souls
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Mile End	9:15 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP

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

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
 Tel: 01206 866317
 E-Mail: colchester@dioceseofbrentwood.org
 Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 22ND DECEMBER 2019 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 90

St. Paul, in his introduction to his letter to the Romans, proclaims that his apostolic mission is to preach the 'obedience of faith'. What does this mean? It is quite simple yet challenging. To have faith means a person is committed to Christ, not just as mere words but as action. As St. James points out, faith without works is dead. A person shows what they believe by what they do, a good tree produces good fruit as Jesus tells us. The call to repentance, which runs throughout Advent, is the call to a way of life which truly expresses the Gospel in action. Hence the weeks of Advent, a time during which we can reflect on our lives, comparing them with Christ's life, repenting on what is at odds with the Gospel and so being more prepared to celebrate Christmas, the coming of God-with-us. It would be especially worthwhile to think about how we are planning to 'celebrate Christmas', in tune with the world about us or with the Gospel?

Fr. Chris

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO HOSPITAL MASS ON FRIDAY 27th Dec.

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15 _{am}
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35 _{am}
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<i>following</i> 8.00 _{am} Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00 _{pm} - 6.00 _{pm}
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00 _{pm}

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *The Future of the Very Young*

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Taking courage from love.* The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said “Yes!” We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph, we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Pat Keene, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS : During the 6_{pm} Family Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve we encourage the children to come dressed in Nativity costumes; we are looking to fill the church with Marys, Josephs, Donkeys, Angels, Innkeepers, some travelling kings and characters of all kinds to add to our celebration. There will also be the chance for children to read and take part in the Mass - come early! We are also looking for musicians and narrators ... please see Hywel after the 10:30_{am} Mass. Thank you

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: On the last Sunday of Advent, please collect a card bauble to decorate the tree. On one side, a decoration, on the other a prayer for loved ones, our community ... for Christmas. Add to the tree, as a present for all of us, when you come to church over Christmas

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 Nixon are the beneficiaries, since this collection forms the main part of their personal annual income. Thank you.

(BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: A special collection will be taken during the 6_{pm} Vigil Mass, which will be added to the Crib Collection. During the remaining days of Advent, all children, young and old, are asked to save their loose change and wrap this as a present, which will then be brought forward during Mass. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: if you wish to minister at any of the Christmas masses please sign your name on the list in the porch

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting, including Registration on Friday 10th January 7:30_{pm}-9:00_{pm} in the Crypt in Priory Street. The first children's session follows on Saturday 11th January 10:00_{am}-12:00_{pm} in the Cardinal Bourne Hall.

WANTED – CATECHISTS: With young people preparing for sacraments of Initiation throughout the parish if you have ever wanted to know more, or are willing to share your faith with our young people please contact Hywel Edwards at Edwards.hywel@btinternet.com or after the 10:30_{am} Mass. The numbers of children we can prepare is dependent on the availability of catechists to prepare them - so please don't be shy!

FESTIVE SALE OF HOMEMADE PRODUCE (incl. pickles, chutneys and so much more): this will take place today after the 10.30_{am} mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall. Also Children's Goodie Bags. Please do join us – everyone welcome.

REPOSITORY SHOP: New Year * New Ideas * New Person(s) required for the Repository – working alongside Frances (as Pauline is stepping down). If interested in this voluntary role, please contact the presbytery 01206 866317.

FILIPINO CHRISTMAS SIMBANG GABI MASSES: These will take place on the following dates in December, Monday 23rd in Priory Street at 8_{pm} and on Saturday 28th December at 12_{pm} (Noon) followed by Christmas party in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 8th January 2020** with a **start time of 1.15_{pm}** screening “*The Book Thief*”. Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard in porch for future films and screening dates.

MESSAGES FROM RECIPIENTS OF 2nd COLLECTIONS:

- **SVP:** We would like to thank you for the generous donation we received from the second collection for “*World Day of the Poor*”. This, together with your generosity throughout the year, will enable us to help others to have a happier Christmas. **Thank you.**
- **JOSIE'S KITCHEN:** Many thanks for your generous contribution on behalf of the homeless. **Thank you.**
- **CHURCH FLORAL TEAM:** a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone for your generosity for the Christmas flower collection.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December

Priory Street	6.00 _{pm}	Vigil Mass especially for families
Monkwick	8.00 _{pm}	Vigil Mass preceded by Carols at 7.30 _{pm}
Priory Street	12.00 _{am}	Midnight Mass preceded by Carols at 11.30 _{pm}
Monkwick	12.00 _{am}	Polish Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December

Priory Street	8.00 _{am}	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mersea	9.00 _{am}	Christmas Dawn Mass preceded by Carols at 8.30 _{am}
Mile End	9.15 _{am}	Christmas Day Mass preceded by Carols at 9.00 _{am}
Priory Street	10.30 _{am}	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 _{pm}	Polish Christmas Day Mass

St. Stephens Day, Thursday 26th December

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

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, we can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the patient so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

❖ **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 December: **Team 4**