

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Saturday 21st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	George Farrell RIP
Sunday 22nd	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Very Rev. Canon Joseph Whitfield
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention (COLW)
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Anna Kilis
Monday 23rd			Monday of Fourth Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday 24th			Tuesday of Fourth Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon
			THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	Church	6.00 pm	Nativity Performance (followed by Mass at 6.30pm)
	Church	6.30 pm	Anton Mak RIP
	Church	12.00 am	K. M. John RIP
	Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th			CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION
	Church	8.00 am	Canon Thomas Clarke
	Church	10.30 am	C. T. Joseph RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass
	West Mersea	8.30 am	S.I. (S.F)
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
Thursday 26th			ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
	Church	10.00 am	Des Fuller RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Friday 27th			ST JOHN, Ap, Evangelist
	Church	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Farrell Family
Saturday 28th			THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Mm
	Church	9.30 am	Patricia Pearce RIP
	Church	12.30 pm	Filipino Mass
			THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)
Saturday 28th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Una Nagle + Family
Sunday 29th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Katie Frewer RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Raul Palikari

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office. Baptism Godparents: 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 1 Godparent.

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



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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 ADVENT (C)

Expectant Mothers

Week Commencing 22nd December 2024

The characteristic liturgical colour for Advent is violet, the same as Lent and indeed funerals, so it is not thought of as a joyful colour but rather sorrowful. The Church is asking us to spend this time leading up to Christmas in reflecting on our need of a saviour and so helping us prepare for Christmas day itself. At times this can be difficult, surrounded as we are by non-believers for whom Advent means nothing. This Sunday's readings tell us that the coming Saviour will be a true shepherd, bringing peace and security. We also hear that he will be characterised by his obedience, 'Behold, I have come to do your will', a lesson for us to imitate. Finally, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary (the meeting of Old and New Testaments we could say) is marked by joy. Jesus himself indicated that those who have little sense of sin also have little sense of forgiveness and therefore joy in being redeemed. In these last few days of Advent we can try to deepen our sense of sorrow (that we need a Saviour) so that in turn our joy at his birth is increased.

Fr. Chris

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45 am
DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15 am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00 pm
LEGION OF MARY	Fridays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 7.30 pm



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *For pilgrims of hope*

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE We pray for the people of all war-torn countries, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide their choices and for the laying down of all weapons.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44) ***The welcome sound of the return of our loved one.*** Today we hear of Mary's time away visiting Elizabeth. This might remind us of times we face spending extended periods on our own. At first it may seem liberating, but loneliness can soon kick in. How loving then our return home is! Maybe the challenge here is ensuring that demonstrating our love and affection is not restricted to such occasions.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Pace and Bernard Wilson, who have both recently passed away. The Parish community offers Elizabeth's & Bernard's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Elizabeth's funeral service will be here on Tuesday 21st January at 11.00am. Bernards Funeral details are to be advised. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**



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

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS: If any parent signed up for their children to take part in the 6.30pm Nativity play on Christmas Eve, please make sure they are at the rehearsal this Sunday after the 10.30am mass. If the children who have parts aren't there, unfortunately, we will have to give them to someone else. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: From January 2025 we will need a person to run the **Repository**. This role is suitable for someone who is limited with time. For more information please call 01206 768418 after 6pm for details.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree when it is being decorated on Monday. Thank you

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Church Services over the Christmas season are as below: -

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December 2024

Priory Street 6.30 pm Vigil Mass (Nativity/Families)
 Priory Street 12.00 am Midnight Mass
 Monkwick 12.00 am Polish Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December 2024

Priory Street 8.00 am Christmas Dawn Mass
 Mersea 8.30 am Christmas Dawn Mass
 Mile End 9.30 am Christmas Day Mass
 Priory Street 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass
 Priory Street 2.00 pm Polish Christmas Day Mass

St Stephens Day, Thursday 26th December 2024

Priory Street 10.00 am Mass
 Priory Street 2.00 pm Polish Mass

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE FILLED WITH HIS PEACE AND YOUR HEART WITH HIS JOY!

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION IN AID OF THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY:

In accordance with Diocesan policy, our Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord [February 2nd] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025: Copies are now available from the back of the Church at £3.20 per copy. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: To register your child(ren) for the courses commencing 2025. Please complete an application form which is in the church porch and drop the completed form(s) in the Presbytery letterbox.

The last date for ALL forms to be handed in is 31st December.

LECTO DIVINIA: On **Saturday 18th January**, Sr Gabi of COLW (Community of Our Lady of Walsingham) will be giving a talk on Lecto Divinia this will take place at 2pm til 4pm. **ALL WELCOME!**

MESSAGE FROM JOSIE (*Josie's Kitchen*): On behalf of all my people, homeless and those in need. I want to thank Fr Chris and all the parishioners & congregation of St James the Less and St Helen for the wonderful donations received towards their Christmas presents, food, toiletries and warm clothes which will see them through Christmas and part of the winter. I am so overwhelmed and full of gratitude to you all for your great generosity. *Merry Christmas & a Happy, healthy 2025 to you and your families, God bless Josie*

MISSIO RED BOXES: Please bring your boxes in for emptying by either handing it to a priest or if leaving the Box at the Parish Office, please ensure it is clearly labelled.

THANK YOU to all volunteers in this year's Countdown to Christmas, for all the preparations, flowers, Church cleaning, nativity cribs (inside and outside), contributions and helping prepare for the day.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 23/12/24: **Team 4** / Friday 03/01/25: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 22/12/24: Diane + Adrian / 29/12/24: The O'Sullivan's