

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

(Day for the Unemployed)

Saturday 22nd	Church	6.15 pm	Richard Lambe RIP
Sunday 23rd	Church	8:00 am	Penny Bloomfield RIP
	Church	10:30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls
	Mile End	9:15 am	Thomas Cusack RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Private Intention

Monday 24th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Mr. Mathew Foley
	Church	12.00 pm	FUNERAL MASS: Dr. Paolo Doria RIP

Tuesday 25th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Bernadette Murrin RIP
	Church	12.30 pm	REQUIEM MASS: Pauline Morreale RIP

Wednesday 26th			ASH WEDNESDAY (Fasting & Abstinence)
	West Mersea	9.00 am	Private Intention
	STM School Mass	9.30 am	Anthony Murphy et al. RIP
	Church	12.15 pm	Holy Souls
	Monkwick	6.30 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	7.30 pm	James Lavery RIP

Thursday 27th			Thursday after Ash Wednesday
	Church	9.30 am	Ints. Wendy Higgins

Friday 28th			Friday after Ash Wednesday
	Church	9.30 am	Margaret Barker RIP
	West Mersea	9.30 am	Stations of the Cross
	Church	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
	Colchester Hospital	12.00 pm	

Saturday 1st March			Saturday after Ash Wednesday
	Church	9.30 am	Bridget Lloyd

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Saturday 1st	Church	6.15 pm	Mrs. Jolanta Betkowski RIP
Sunday 2nd	Church	8:00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10:30 am	Maureen & Peter Ahern + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls
	Mile End	9:15 am	Holy Souls
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (confession):	Saturday 9:45am -10:30am; 5:30pm -6.00pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:	At least six months' notice is required
BAPTISM COURSE:	www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org under events: where a list of course dates are available

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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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 23RD FEBRUARY 2020 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 139

Every human being has within them a need, desire, to be liked. Arguably, this is a result of the Fall because such a need works against the dynamic of true charity. In today's Gospel, Jesus sketches out some of that dynamic of charity, it is something which focusses on the good of the other. The need to be liked focusses on self and how comfortable we feel, and in particular it easily leads to compromise on values, standards etc, as we sacrifice them in order to be liked. We commonly find people who dedicate themselves, partly unconsciously perhaps, to seeking praise from others, being liked. Enemies then become a challenge, as they clearly don't like 'us', and it is easiest to turn away from them as a result. Charity instead looks at what is good for them, regardless of their real or apparent dislike of 'us'. Jesus gives us the perfect example of charity, dying to save us despite the fact that we are all sinners, people who have rejected God in those sins. If God were to be kind only to those who liked him perfectly, heaven would likely remain empty.

Fr. Chris

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 FEBRUARY: *Listen to the Migrants' Cries*

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Finding the joy in our sacramental relationship.* The joy of courting couples is obvious for all to see. Over the years, excitement can lessen, our independent attitudes strengthen; competition and jealousy creep in. Today Jesus calls us to "...*turn the other cheek...*". In confidence share, in trust listen, in faith forgive, so that our spouse will grow in self-worth and the sparkle of joy will reignite.

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

CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY is on Friday 6th March. Will you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help highly trained, highly skilled local experts around the world to save and support the health of the world's poorest families? CAFOD urgently need your help to reach out to even more people who need treatment, care and love. Envelopes in porch, please give what you can to help those less fortunate.

READERS: Pope Francis has 'dedicated' this year to the Word, asking all Catholics to spend more time reading and reflecting on the Scriptures. It seems fitting therefore for us as a parish to be more attentive to the reading of Scripture during Mass, and also renew and refresh those who do proclaim the Word in Mass. In the first instance, I would like to invite parishioners to give me the names (of others or themselves) who would like to be considered as readers in our parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: commencing on Friday 28th February this will take place here every Friday of Lent at 12_{pm} (Noon) and also every Tuesday at 6.30_{pm} from 3rd March for our Polish Community. Mersea will also be every Friday at 9.30_{am}

LENT TALKS Lent is the time of reflection. Continuing last year's venture we have invited more speakers on Lent-related themes. Come and join us in the hall at 7.30_{pm} any Lent Friday evening starting on 6th March to 3rd April. A poster with the programme is at the back of the church. All are welcome.

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE: for new-borns and children up to age 6 yrs. will take place on **Friday 24th April 2020** here in the Crypt from 7:30_{pm}-9.00_{pm} (entrance to Crypt is via Church). No appointment is necessary and all baptism dates will be arranged during the 2nd session of course. *[If you would like to present a child for Baptism aged 7 or older, please email the Parish Office].*

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (LENT EDITION): Copies are still available in church porch £1 each.
DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: Reduced to £2.00 a copy - still available in church porch. Please put monies in the Repository box

REPOSITORY (CHURCH PORCH): now selling a selection of St Patrick's Day cards.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: There will be a St Patrick's Event on the evening of Saturday, 21st March. More details to follow.

100 CLUB MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW: Please see list of winners in church porch. Congratulations to all our winners and good luck to all entrants in the next draw!

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 4th March** with a **start time of 1.15_{pm}** screening "*The Path of the Messiah*". Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard in porch for future films and screening dates.

THE SVP CUPPA CLUB is running **every Thursday morning from 10_{am} to 12_{noon}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. Come and enjoy a free tea/coffee and cake with friends. Newspapers, puzzles, games and craft. If you know anyone who would like to come but needs a lift, please get in touch, using the contact details below.

COLCHESTER CATHOLIC HERITAGE GROUP: On Monday 24th February, there will be a meeting in the Crypt after the morning mass.

MESSAGE FROM (BCCS) BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Thank you for your support and the Crib collection donation of £491.19. This will allow us to continue to deliver our specialist service to children, young people and their families.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM takes place on **Saturday 23rd May 2020**. For transport details contact Theresa Higgins on 07881370626.

POUSTINIA PROJECT: As we prepare to celebrate the Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry, the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham hopes to find benefactors who can support their 'Poustinia' project. With there being an ever-greater need for silence in today's world, many people are searching for space to enter into the silence of their hearts and listen to 'the still small voice of God' I Kings 19:12. As a community of men and women in different states of life, we accompany people so they can live in the joy and freedom of Mary's 'Fiat' or 'Yes'. We are hoping that a parish, a group of parishioners or individuals may contribute to this project. We need to raise £100,000 to build two shepherd's huts and develop prayer gardens around them at our convent, House of the Divine Will. If you know of anyone who can help please give them our contact details and ask to speak with Sr. Camilla COLW (info@walsinghamcommunity.org or 01328 801018).

BEFRIENDING AND SUPPORT GROUP: At St John Payne Church, Greenstead we have a friendly group which aims to help those suffering grief for any kind of loss Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd of March, between 10_{am} and 12_{noon}, then on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to come and join us for coffee, biscuits and a chat. Details from Judy on 01206 869601.

COLCHESTER FOOD BANK: have requested the following items: tinned/dry goods incl. tinned tomatoes, fruit + puddings, pasta, rice, jars of sauces, long life fruit juices, milk and squashes, custard, jam, peanut butter, small multi-pack snacks, tea & coffee, cleaning, hygiene & sanitary products and small packets of washing powder, liquid or capsules. **Thank you to all who donate**, we can advise that all goods are always greatly appreciated. Please keep donating much needed items and remember those we are helping in your prayers

A HEALING SERVICE is taking place 6-8_{pm}, Saturday 29th February for anyone in need of time for self-reflection. The evening comprises a warm and sociable welcome followed by guided opportunities for psychological and spiritual growth. The venue is English Martyrs church, 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch RM11 6BJ. Please contact Mandy on 07801 470 516 or email healingservice@english-martyrs.com so that we have an idea of attendee numbers.

❖ **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 24th February: **Team 1**