

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. Philip Okoli

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
 Tel: 01206 866317
 E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org
 Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org
 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 24 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 25 th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30am	Paul Richard B. Brusola RIP

Monday 26 th	Monday of the Second Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Mr Richard Eberlie RIP

Tuesday 27 th	Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Raju M. RIP
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 28 th	Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Margaret Barker RIP
	Church	7.00 pm	Confirmation Mass

Thursday 29 th	Thursday of the Second Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Annamma Zachariah Pantholil RIP

Friday 1 st March	ST DAVID, Bp Women's World Day of Prayer		
	Church	9.30 am	John + Olive Crawford RIP
	Church	12.30 pm	Stations of the Cross

Saturday 2 nd	Saturday of Second Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Margaret Cunningham (nee Timmins) RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Saturday 2 nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Robert + Winfred Bradshaw RIP
Sunday 3 rd	Church	8.00 am	Michael + Annie O'Reilly RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Thanksgiving for Anniversary (A. Fam)
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Church Loop System: Please note that the Church loop system serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles or the chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass.

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





SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Week commencing 25th February 2024

'I trusted, even when I said: I am sorely afflicted' so sang the psalmist. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane said, 'Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not my will but thy will be done' and so he travelled the way of the Cross – scourging at the pillar, crowning with thorns, carrying of the cross, crucifixion and death. His trust was not misplaced of course as on the third day he rose, body and soul, and entered into eternal glory on his Ascension. The martyrs ever since, hundreds of thousands of them, have imitated Jesus' trust and in most, if not all cases, have joyfully gone to their deaths. We might remember those words of St. Roger Wrenno I have often quoted, 'If you had seen that which I have just now seen, you would be as much in haste to die as I am now' and thereupon he was hanged the second time, successfully. Those without faith and therefore hope do not understand of course, preferring to cling to this earthly life for as long as possible. Something to ponder next time we are afflicted in body or soul.

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



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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: (Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10) *Free to be ourselves.* Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by each other's generous sensitivity, thoughtfulness and kindness, which have helped us grow in confidence to share our deepest feelings, fears and joys. Let us try this week to find ways of growing in that confidence and trust so that in our relationship we radiate God's joy through the way we love each other.

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

DIOCESE 2ND COLLECTION Re LENT FAST DAY After all Masses this weekend there will be a collection taken for **CAFOD Lent Appeal** when your donation and envelopes can be collected. Please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.



LENT DAY OF MERCY on **Friday 15th March 2024:** The Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 9.00pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.



CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: The Bishop is conferring the Sacrament this year and the Confirmation Mass will be on Wednesday, 28th February at 7.00pm with tea/coffee/soft drinks in Crypt afterwards. The Parish Community congratulate all the candidates and thank the Catechists for all their hard work - *May God always be in your life, may He always answer your prayers and never leave you. May He lead you to the correct path as you continue growing spiritually!*

MASS FOR PAULINE OKOLI RIP: Fr Philip will be holding a Mass for his mother Pauline on **Friday 5th April** at St James the Less & St Helen Church at **7.00pm**. All Parishioners are invited to attend and there will be a reception in Cardinal Bourne Hall afterwards. Parishioners are kindly asked to bring a plate of food and a list of suggested plates ideas are on a poster in the Church porch.



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. Everyone is welcome.



ST PATRICKS' DAY - AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION in Cardinal Bourne Hall on **Sunday 17th March 2023** from **3.00pm-5.30pm**. Menu will include assorted sandwiches, cakes, scones with Tea, Coffee & Soft drinks available. Vegetarian, vegan & gluten free catered for by pre-order. Bring your own Alcohol. Entertainment provided by McGahan Lees Irish Dance Academy + Music by Steve Williams & a Raffle. Ticket prices Adults £17.00; 12-16yrs £8.50; 5-11yrs £4.00. Please contact Frances for tickets on 01206 5674258 or 07767146821

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 25th 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.

PLEASE JOIN GIFT AID. Parishioners! The gift aid team will be speaking to you at Priory Street and Mile End on **Sunday 3rd of March**. They will explain how you can help our Parish by joining the Gift Aid Scheme.

CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP: Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April 2024** - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. **7:00 to 9:00pm**. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

RIGHT TO LIFE: Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Take action: Collect a postcard today from the church porch and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD IS INVITING YOU TO TAKE PART IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES DURING LENT. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org

APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Walsingham House are offering a two year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House in Abbotswick, running retreats for young people across the Diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more info www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP; from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Friday 01/03/24: **Team 5** / Thursday 07/03/24: **Team 1**
COFFEE MORNING: 25/02/24: African Community / **03/03/24:** Diane & Adrian