

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(c)			
Saturday 24th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Sunday 25th	Church	8.00 am	Mary & William O'Grady RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Ursula Howard-Sneyd
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
Monday 26th			St Philip Neri, Pr
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Mr. K. V. Augustine RIP
Tuesday 27th			ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bp
	Church	9.30 am	Rev L. Matthews
Wednesday 28th			Wednesday after Sixth Sunday of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving (RJ)
Vigil Mass	West Mersea	7.30 pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 29th			THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
	Church	9.30 am	Bridget Lloyd
	Church	12.15 pm	Private Intention
	Church	7.30 pm	Rida Masoom + Family
Friday 30th			THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	Church	9.30 am	Kelly Greer RIP
Saturday 31st			DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN, BRENTWOOD
	Church	9.30 am	Michael Treby RIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(c) WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY			
Saturday 31st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 1st June	Church	8.00 am	Ints: Catherine + John O'Grady
	Church	10.30 am	Dezso Varga RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Henry Stewart
	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.
- ❖ 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 one Godparent.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment.
- ❖ Church Loop System: serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles + chancel.
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch; Suggested Stipend £10 a 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** and **follow** our page!

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:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ^(c)

Week Commencing 25th May 2025

One thread running through the readings this Sunday would be, I suggest, the idea of home. In the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, we have the account of how the early church welcomed those of non-Jewish birth as members, a pivotal moment. We could say that these converts found a home in the church. The second reading shifts in time to the end of days, the completion of the church. The first Jerusalem had been the dwelling place of God on earth, the heavenly Jerusalem is revealed as the true home of the glorified church, where God lives eternally with the saints in joy. Finally in the Gospel passage Jesus reveals that each believer will be a living temple where God dwells within. Each Sunday as we come to church we are 'coming home', foreshadowing the heavenly Jerusalem. The Church has always emphasised the importance of joining the rest of the community, the church, on Sundays, not as a way of filling up the benches but as a foretaste and promise of our final home.

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



Almighty God, we thank you for raising a new pontiff for us, Pope Leo XIV. May you bless him with all he needs to lead the church. Fill him with the power of your Spirit, the peace of your presence and the compassion of Christ. May he walk with you, in wisdom and humility, and lead us, together with all God's people, to embody your love for the world

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *For working conditions.*

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29) ***Love is the fundamental requirement:*** Eastertide is a time for us as couples to celebrate the reality of our love as being a reflection of the presence of God, who is Love. It is a time for us to recognise more readily the risen Lord is alive in us, with us, and present in the many and various ways we try to share our love.

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

† **RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anthony George (Tony) Weekes, Michael Christopher (Mick) Lavelle & David Patrick Doble who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers Tony's, Mick's & David's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Tony's funeral service will be at St Cedds, Mersea on Monday 2nd June at 12.30pm. Mick's funeral service will be at St James the Less & St Helen on Friday 6th June at 1.45pm.

NEXT SECOND COLLECTION: Each year, the diocese marks ***World Communications Day***. This year's theme is "*Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts*" (cf. 1Pt 3:15-16). **A collection will be taken at each Mass on Sunday 1st June.**

RESTART OF CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP: We are excited to announce that the Children's Liturgy Group will resume on **Sunday, 1st June 2025**, at the church. This group is offered for children from Preschool/Reception up to Year 2 and will take place every Sunday during the 10:30am Mass, excluding the summer holiday period. Activities will include prayer and gospel readings, singing, and arts/crafts related to the Sunday gospel. Please note that it is NOT a drop-in session and an adult MUST accompany each child during the session. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at childrenliturgystjames@outlook.com.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week. please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email olwstatue2024@gmail.com



OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The next Procession is on **Friday 13th June at 6.30pm** followed by mass in Polish + Rosary.

REPOSITORY: There is a good selection of Rosaries, cards, books and assorted items available for sale in the church porch.

BISHOP ALAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT: Fr Patrick is



inviting all parishioners to attend a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan on **Saturday 31st May at 11.00am**. Fr Patrick requests that all attendees to the Mass bring at least one flower with them to place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Light at the beginning of the Service when you will be invited to bring forward your flowers. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the parish hall and all are welcome to attend this. The Plenary Indulgence of the Jubilee Year 2025 will be available to those attending, who complete a prayer for the future Pope's intentions, and receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days of the Feast Day.

- **FREE FAMILY FILM ON WEDNESDAY:** A happy film about a well-known polite bear (*suitable for all ages*), will be screened in the church hall on **Wednesday 28th May starting at 12:30pm**. Everyone is welcome - no charge
- **WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP:** The next screening will be on **Wednesday 4th June** commencing at 12.30pm in Cardinal Bourne Hall. All are welcome.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE: Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June at 3.00pm**, followed by a reception in the hall. If you are recently married or preparing for marriage or celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please let Fr Chris know that you would like to attend this event.

COLCHESTER ROCK CHOIR on **Saturday 7th June 2.00pm** at St Teresa's Church for 1hr. The concert is free, but donations will be gratefully received and will be divided between the Sisters of Walsingham & Alzheimer's Association. Please contact Catherine on 07971 052441 or email cat68gray@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SUMMER LUNCHEON: Join us for an elegant afternoon on **Friday, 13th June, from 12.30 – 15.30** at The Lawn, a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house in Rochford. Enjoy exclusive use of the venue as we serve a delicious two-course luncheon in the Orangery, overlooking beautiful gardens. Tickets are £37.50 per person. Reservations www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ For further info please contact Julie – jabbott@bccs.org.uk / 07912 277413.

WE BELIEVE: *National Festival of Catholic Life* on **25th – 28th July 2025**, Oscott College, near Birmingham organised by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom. Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope with Catholics from across the country and a wide range of inspiring speakers. Day tickets available, or come and camp for the long weekend, or stay nearby. Currently a significant "Earlybird" booking discount is still available – full weekend passes are just £70. All the details are at www.webelievefestival.com

CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY: This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on **Saturday 7th June 2025** from 11am until 2pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org



CUPPA CLUB: We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

GIFT- AID SUBSCRIBERS: Please collect your new box sets from the church porch.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 29/05/25: **Team 1** / Monday 02/06/25: **Team 2**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 25/05/25: The O'Sullivan's / 31/05/25: Peggy & Anne