

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)			Sunday of the Word of God
Saturday 25 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 26 th	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Anniversary Mike Taylor RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Fr David Barnes RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	John McFadden RIP
Monday 27 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Maureen Jobber RIP
	Church	11.00 am	Funeral Service: Mr. Bernard Wilson RIP
Tuesday 28 th			St Thomas Aquinas, Pr, D
	Church	9.30 am	Beatrice Floyd RIP
Wednesday 29 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Harry Calvert
Thursday 30 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Yvette RIP
	Church	10.45 am	Funeral Mass: Eileen Rose Kelly RIP
Friday 31 st			St John Bosco, Pr
	Church	9.30 am	Des Fuller RIP
Saturday 1 st February 2025			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Teresa Wilczak

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (C)

Saturday 1 st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family
Sunday 2 nd	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Fr Sean Carroll RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Scoth Flores Dagandara RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: M. Lipski

- ❖ 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

- **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.

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: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Okoli

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

Sunday of the Word of God


Week Commencing 26th January 2025

The letter to the Hebrews contains the phrase, 'The word of God is alive and active', and I suggest we can see this in the two situations described in today's first reading and Gospel. The book of Nehemiah deals with the return from exile in Babylon and the resulting religious revival. Ezra doesn't curl up in a corner with the Law (note - individual reading of the Bible is still recommended), he reads out loud to a large crowd. Similarly Jesus reads the verses of Isaiah out loud to the people in the synagogue, and follows up with a brief homily. The Bible didn't just drop out of the sky, it was the Catholic Church which discerned, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which writings were to be considered normative, canonical. Key to this discernment was the requirement that the writings had been regularly and widely proclaimed in the liturgy, the Mass as we now call it. The Church didn't gather to listen to novels, it was the word of God they desired. We therefore have a living discernment, the Church members guided by the Spirit recognised writings inspired by the same Spirit and learnt to live by them.

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 Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for 2025 is *'Pilgrims of Hope'*, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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: (Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21) **A new creation.** On our wedding day you and I became us! I am still me; you are still you, but we are now linked together in a unique relationship. When we share ourselves completely with each other, we are enabled to speak with the authority of faith, hope and love. In this context we bring the Good News of marriage to everyone

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, 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 Marion Vickers & Francis Branter who have both recently passed away. The Parish community offers both Marion's & Francis's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Marion's funeral service will take place at Colchester Crematorium at 10am on Wednesday 5th February. Details for Francis's funeral service are to be advised. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. *"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."* **Pope Francis, Aperuit illis**

LEGION OF MARY: The Legion of Mary invites parishioners aged 18 and older to join our weekly prayer meetings which will be held in Cardinal Bourne Hall **every Friday at 7.30pm** Please do join us in a meeting. **The Legion of Mary will be attending all Masses on Sunday 9th February if you would like to talk to them.**

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].

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: Will be for Racial Justice on 16th February 2025.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP: We are planning to restart the Children's Liturgy Group at the church. This group is designed for children from Preschool/Reception up to Year 2 and will be held every Sunday during the 10:30am Mass. Activities will include prayer/gospel readings, singing, and arts/crafts related to the Sunday gospel. We urgently need more volunteers! If you're interested, please contact Nicole at lwpsnicole@gmail.com. A DBS check is required, and preparation materials will be provided. Thank you for your support!

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The 1st Film showing is on **Wednesday 5th February** and will continue on the first Wednesday in each month, starting at 12.00pm. In general they will be a mixture of Catholic films and light entertainment. Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE - SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, 19th – 26th JULY 2025: Open to anyone in school year 10 and above. Join the BCYS for our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting the adult pilgrimage in a week of prayer, service and fun! All details can be found at www.bcys.net/events. Funding and bursary opportunities are available.

CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY: on **Sunday, 9th February, from 2–6pm** at St. Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford RM1 4AT. This event is an opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost-of-Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. To find out more www.caritasbrentwood.org/network.

VACANCY: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is looking to recruit a Communications and Fundraising Administrator to provide effective administrative and communications support to the Marketing and Fundraising Team. The role is based at their head office in Billericay High Street and ideally would be a full-time position (37 hours per week) although some flexibility may be available for the right candidate. Full details can be found in the Job Description on the BCCS website: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/work-us/> **Closing Date: 31st January 2025.**

COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM House Appeal: In honour of the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February - the *World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life* - could you help a new, growing, religious community? The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham seeks donations to establish a mission house in Walsingham where they can expand their work of spiritual accompaniment, hospitality and supporting young people to grow in faith. The community will pray for all benefactors and are grateful for donations of any amount which can be made at www.walsinghamcommunity.org/maryshouseappeal Web: www.walsinghamcommunity.org. Tel 01362 692574

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: THE jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of Our Lady and All Saints is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit The Vatican, Rome, Assisi, Padua, Venice & Pisa. Date: **30th August to 4th September 2025** (6 days). Superior 4* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email: frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 27/01/25: **Team 4** / Friday 07/02/25: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 26/01/25: Matthew & Mariamma / **02/02/25:** African Community