

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD (B)

<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	6.15 pm	Emma RIP
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Rhonda Sayer RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
Live Streamed	Monkwick	10.15 am	Brendan Burke RIP

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PALMS WILL BE BLESSED AND DISTRIBUTED AT ALL MASSES ON PALM SUNDAY.**

## Monday 29<sup>th</sup> MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK Confession after Mass

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Mark Cannon & Family
Private Service	Church	4.30 pm	<b>Reception into Church:</b> Theresa Sales RIP

## Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK Confession after Mass

	Church	10.00 am	Mr & Mrs Mathew & all Dec Fam Members
Private Service	Church	12.30 am	<b>Funeral Mass:</b> Theresa Sales RIP

## Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK Spy Wednesday

Live Streamed	Church	9.00 am	Teresa Sales RIP
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## Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April MAUNDY THURSDAY

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
	Church	8.00 pm	Ints: Amber Jackson <small>Mass of the Lord's Supper</small>

## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> GOOD FRIDAY (Fasting and Abstinence)

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
Live Streamed	Church	11.15 am	Stations of the Cross (Children's)
	Church	1.00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
	Church	3.00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> HOLY SATURDAY

Live Streamed	Church	10.00 am	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer
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## THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (B)

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Church	8.00 pm	Parishioners / Ints: Barnes Family <small>Easter Vigil</small>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b> <small>Live Streamed</small>	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	9.15 am	Ints: Jimmy Daly
	Church	10.30 am	James, Mary & John Galvin RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intentions
West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intentions	
Monkwick	10.15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP	

**FACEMASKS.** It is now a legal requirement that facemasks or coverings are worn when entering all places of worship (unless you are medically exempt or under 11yrs)

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 10am Mass and 5.30pm-6.00pm
- ❖ Mass Intentions. These can be posted through the presbytery letterbox and they will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook).
- ❖ If you are self-isolating and would like to speak to a priest or have any worries, please contact us at the Presbytery on 01206 866317 and we will try to help you.



Parish Priest: Mgr. Christopher Brooks  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Paschal Uche  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrork

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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD (B)**  
**WEEK COMMENCING: 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**



Psalm Sunday marks the End of lent and the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus enters triumphantly in to Jerusalem and the air is filled with songs and an atmosphere of joy. Just a few days later the same crowds that were hailing Hosanna are crying crucify him. Perhaps the sudden change of events mirrors what we experienced this time last year, going from normality to lockdown in the space of a few short days. From pubs, parks and cinemas to the now mundane four walls of our homes. Sudden change can be hard, it can also be an opportunity to grow. C.S Lewis beautifully states that *"Mere change is not growth. Growth is the synthesis of change and continuity, and where there is no continuity there is no growth"*. The churches year is a cycle of continuity to which we bring our ever-changing circumstances. Holy week, the central week of the Churches life celebrates the Paschal Mysteries of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. The mysteries incorporate all the changing seasons of life and at the same time offer a steady framework of continuity for growth. In them we see how life gives way to death and in Christ death gives birth to life. My prayer for this Holy week is that as a parish we take our confusion, brokenness, anxiety and difficulties to the constant well spring of God's love in the liturgy. Whether at home or in the church may we focus afresh on Jesus who comes again to make all things new.

Fr. Paschal

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45am	<b>All Temporarily suspended</b>
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	
2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt (8.00pm)	



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: Intention for Evangelization: – Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33) **Unconditional love.** Love is called to be unconditional, not 'counting the cost', not 50/50, but both giving 100%. Today's Gospel reminds us a rich harvest is only possible when a single wheat grain falls on the ground and dies. Our loving efforts, trials and difficulties in marriage are ways of 'dying' to a lifestyle contrary to what God is calling us to.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Despite all the restrictions, let us be thankful that we can once again gather together, despite social distancing, as God's people. Please note the following norms which remain in place in order to promote a COVID 19 safe environment:-

- ♦ Churches will open 15 minutes before start of Mass
- ♦ Facemasks must be worn when entering all places of worship (unless medically exempt)
- ♦ Entrance to Church will be via the main door, exit by the side door
- ♦ Hand sanitiser is available at entrance and exit, though you may bring your own
- ♦ It will be essential that people sit where they are asked and do not move from there
- ♦ The use of face covering/mask in Church is now mandatory (please don't forget yours when attending Church) and that you wear it so that it covers both your mouth and nose.
- ♦ Social distancing must be maintained at all times within Church.
- ♦ An Offertory Collection box will be situated at entrance and exit; the donation station is also useable
- ♦ No touching of Statues or Images in Church
- ♦ Toilets will be closed except for genuine emergencies.
- ♦ We are still required to have Church Stewards in attendance at each Mass and the Church will be cleaned after each Service in readiness for the next Mass to be held.
- ♦ No mingling with other people you do not live with after Mass outside the Church.

**THE PARISH STEWARDS ARE HERE TO HELP AND DIRECT YOU TO YOUR SEAT(S), PLEASE BE POLITE TO THEM AS THEY CAN ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND DIOCESAN REGULATIONS.**

*Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.*

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially John Dolamore, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Valerie Thurston, Joan Jeal, Jimmy Clarin, Rosie Burnside-Fitch. We pray for all persons who have contracted Covid-19 and their families.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES:** Please note that there will not be a seat reservation system in place and all services will be on a first come first served basis, this will mean that once seating capacity has been reached there will be no further admittance. (as an alternative the 10.15am Service at Monkwick usually has available seating). Mass will be celebrated on the following days/times:-

- Monday and Tuesday in Holy Week – Mass at 10am; Confessions after Mass
- Wednesday in Holy Week – Mass at 9am
- Maundy Thursday- Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; Mass at 8pm (without the washing of the feet, no altar of repose and no watching to midnight).
- Good Friday – Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; with the Good Friday Liturgy at 1pm and 3pm; Children's Stations of the Cross at 11.15am
- Holy Saturday – Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10am; The Easter Vigil will begin at 8pm and will be celebrated as normal except that there will be no service of light, fewer readings and no baptisms/receptions.
- Easter Sunday – Masses at Priory Street: 8am; 9.15am; 10.30am; 6.30pm / Mersea: 8.30am / Monkwick: 10.15am

**MERSEA NEWS:** Please use the following links for reserving seats at Mass (right click booking form and open hyperlink) alternatively, links for booking forms are on website under mass times. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April – FULLY BOOKED

**SVP – HELP FOR FAMILIES AT EASTER:** Active Essex is offering a range of clubs for children over Easter. They are completely free for young people who are eligible for free school meals or working families who need additional support. Fun activities include sports and arts and craft. For more information see: [www.activeessex.org/activeeasterbooking](http://www.activeessex.org/activeeasterbooking) Or find details on our Facebook page (SVP Colchester)

**ALL BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL VACANCIES** (for which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website. To view current vacancies with further information please use this link:- <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

**LADY D'ARCY WITH FYNCHES AND BERRYFIELD COTTAGES ALMSHOUSES:** Applications are still invited for a vacancy at Berryfield Cottages, Colchester. Application forms are available from the Clerk to the Charity, Michael Siggs, PO Box 993, Colchester, CO3 3TQ Or Tel: 01206 765138 Email: [michael.siggs@btconnect.com](mailto:michael.siggs@btconnect.com) Closing date for applications is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (Please see last weeks Newsletter for application criteria).

**TOWARDS THE EASTER VIGIL:** Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared audio commentaries on two of the readings for the Easter Vigil. They are available at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) on the home page. Going to 'Easter Genesis', you can consider in more detail the story of creation in Genesis chapter 1. 'The Binding of Isaac' is an invitation to explore the difficult story in Genesis chapter 22 of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son Isaac.

**PARISH FINANCES:** If you wish to make an offering/donation this can be done in various ways:

- By dropping envelope through Presbytery door (please write on envelope Mass Offering or Parish Maintenance) or in the Donation Basket situated at Church entrance & Exit
- Diocesan Online Donation platform (where donations can also be gift aided):-
  - St. James the Less & St. Helen <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester>
  - St. Cedd & St. Gregory: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-b>
  - St. Theodore of Canterbury: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-d>

Everything that happens in our parish is only possible with your support. Thank you

LIVE STREAM: DAILY MASSES AND A SUNDAY MASS (Weekdays 10am (Except Tues), please see Schedule for Sunday Live Stream Mass Time)