

# ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

## CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

### WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

### Week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

My dear friends, the second reading reminds us that love is not just to be spoke about, but it is something we live out in truth and action. Love is not just a sentiment, or a mere word uttered; it's a force that demands expression through tangible deeds. John calls us to action, urging us to love not with words or speech but with actions and in truth. Our love should be evident not only in big gestures but also in the small, everyday moments of life. It's in the simple acts of kindness, the listening ear, the helping hand, that we truly manifest love. We cannot claim to love while withholding compassion from those who need it most. True love requires vulnerability, openness, and a willingness to step out of our comfort zones for the sake of others. When we love authentically, we align ourselves with the very essence of God, for God is love. Therefore, let us love without reservation. In loving one another fervently, we bear witness to the transformative power of love in a world hungry for genuine care and love.

*Fr. Philip*

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	John Dolamore RIP
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Myra + Terry
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Irena Miluska RIP
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, v, D</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Farrell Family
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention (J)
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>			<b>Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<i>Church</i>		<b>* NO MASS</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>			<b>St. Athanasius, Bp, D</b>
	<i>Church</i>		<b>* NO MASS</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>			<b>SS PHILIP AND JAMES, App</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	John Belson RIP
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Canon Brian O'Shea
			<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)</b>
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	In Thanksgiving (AD)
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Michael Rush RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

#### \* Please Note: There Will Be No Masses on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door. A suggested minimum stipend is £10 per Mass. The Mass Intention will be published in the newsletter (available on the parish website or via Facebook or collection from Church).
- ❖ New To The Parish? Then please complete one of our Parish Registration forms, which can be found in the porch at the back of the church.
- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** [colchester@brcdt.org](mailto:colchester@brcdt.org)
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto: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

**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

<b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<b>at 8.45 am</b>
<b>DAILY</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>at 9.15 am</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b>	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	<b>at 8.00 pm</b>



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: For the role of women.** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**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:** (Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 1 John 4:7-10 15:9-17) Called to reflect God's love. "Love one another as I have loved you". With these words Jesus spells out God's plan for marriage. As husband and wife we are called each day to give our lives to each other as completely as we are able. From today let us decide to reflect this 'sign' of God's love to our children, our family and our friends.

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

**† RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joyce Helen Wrobel, Maria Kelly and Gillian Legonidec and who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Joyce's funeral service will be here on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am. Maria's funeral service will be St Cedd & St Gregory on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.15am. The funeral details for Gillian are to be advised.

**NEXT SECOND COLLECTION:** Each year, the diocese marks *World Communications Day* on the Sunday before Pentecost; This year it will fall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This year's theme is *Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*. To read the message of his holiness Pope Francis for the 58<sup>th</sup> world day of social communications, please click on this link [World Communications Day 2024](https://www.worldcommunicationsday.org/) There will be a collection taken after all masses..

**TALK AND VOLUNTARY COLLECTION FOR CAFOD SUDAN APPEAL:** The people of Sudan urgently need our help and CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal. When violence broke out last year, most aid agencies evacuated and Humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help. For further details, visit [cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal](https://www.cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal). Gemma (CAFOD rep) will be giving a short talk after masses next weekend (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May) and at Mersea the following weekend.

**BAPTISMS:** 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. It does not matter if they are male or female. If you choose two Godparents, traditionally a male and female that meet the requirements for Godparents. There is no provision for more than two godparents.

**GIFT AID SUBSCRIBERS:** Please can you collect your new box sets from the church porch. Box sets are laid out in alphabetical order. Thank you.

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:** Bishop Alan will be celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life in the Cathedral on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 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.

**REPOSITORY:** First Holy Communion cards are now available for sale in the Church Porch.

**CANON BRIAN O'SHEA GOLDEN JUBILEE:** On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 1.30pm, at St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays - Canon Brian O'Shea will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of ordination. All are welcome to attend the service and reception; If attending, please email [N.Chinnon@sky.com](mailto:N.Chinnon@sky.com) for the purpose of numbers and catering.



**CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall. We are always pleased to see a new face and offer a warm welcome to all!

**VACANCY FOR A CLEANER AT ST THOMAS MORE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School are looking for a cleaner for 2 hours daily from Monday to Friday (3.30pm -5.30pm during term time). The hourly rate is £11.98, starting as soon as possible. If you are interested, please contact the School for more details on 01206 865722.

**THY KINGDOM COME - PENTECOST PRAYER NOVENA 2024:** There will be 24/7 prayer running from 2pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May to 10pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Sion Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us any time from 6am to 12 midnight. It would be very helpful if you could book an hour slot in the prayer room by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm which is taking place each evening. We look forward to welcoming you for this special prayer time. For more information, please contact [admin@sioncommunity.org.uk](mailto:admin@sioncommunity.org.uk) Sion Community, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

**CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE – ST PATRICK'S WAY PILGRIMAGE 2025:** The Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22-27 April 2025. We will be journeying along the newly established St Patrick's Way in the North of Ireland. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers. If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way-april-2025/> or email [projects@canonesses.co.uk](mailto:projects@canonesses.co.uk). Closing date: 10 May 2024.

**THE GUILD OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM:** The Guild's next lecture on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May. Fr Patrick van der Vorst, a recently ordained priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and founder of the evangelistic initiative [www.Christian.Art](http://www.Christian.Art), will deliver our Marian Lecture on [How Beauty Draws us Closer to God](https://www.christian.art/how-beauty-draws-us-closer-to-god). Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world.

**MUSIC OF HOPE CONCERT ON SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 7.30PM** at Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane, CO1 1LS. Music will be by The East of England Coop Band (Brass Band) + Chelmsford Salvation Army Songsters. These two musical groups come together for the first time to support the work of Medaille Trust, a charity that supports victims of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK, what is sure to be an entertaining and uplifting evening that we have entitled "Music of Hope". There is no charge for the evening, there will be a refreshment break halfway through and at the end freewill donations will go 100% to the Medaille Trust.

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM:** Monday 29/04/24: **Team 4** / Friday 03/05/24: **Team 5**  
**COFFEE MORNING:** 28/04/24: The O'Sullivans / 04/05/24: Peggy & Anne