

# 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  
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 St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Church	8.15 am	(1) Anthony Southon RIP (2) Parishioners
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>			<b>ST ANDREW, Ap, Patron of Scotland</b>
	Church	8.15 am	Ints: Rooney Family
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2020			<b>Blessed John Beche, Ab, M</b>
	Church	8.15 am	Ints: James, Kathleen + Family
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>			<b>Feria</b>
	Church	8.15 am	Giovanni Emoli RIP
Private Service	Church	11.45 am	<b>FUNERAL MASS:</b> Michael Walter Gooch RIP
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>			<b>St Francis Xavier, Pr</b> (Migrants Day)
	Church	10.00 am	Gian Luigi Ferpozzi RIP
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>			<b>Feria or St John Damascene, Pr, D</b>
	Church	10.00 am	Private Intention
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>			<b>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
	Church	10.00 am	Anne Sears RIP
			<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)</b> (Bible Sunday)
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Church	6.15 pm	Frank Nally
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	9.15 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Lilian Southon RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Anniv: Alice + Frank Waddell
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10.15 am	Atholl Brown RIP

**FACE MASKS.** 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)

- ❖ Church will be open daily from 10am to 11am for private, individual prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament up to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and then open to parishioners for celebration of Mass from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am – See Mass Schedule above.
- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact our parish office.
- ❖ Visiting for the Sacrament of the Sick is possible, under certain circumstances.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) can take place during daily private prayer - please speak to priest
- ❖ 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.

**LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES:** We are happy to advise that Mass will be live streamed on Sunday at 8.00am to our Facebook Page  St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

 Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican news/ clergy photos/videos + Reflections from Fr Paschal. Please remember to like and follow our page.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

WEEK COMMENCING 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020



In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus mentions a doorkeeper as someone who needs to stay alert, awake. It reminded me of the Roman 'god', Janus, who was supposed to guard doors etc. (Please note, I am not in any way suggesting that such a god existed, just referring to the idea of the story). He was portrayed with two faces, so he could cover front and back doors at the same time. Jesus exhorts us, rather forcefully, to 'Stay awake'. Coming at this time of the church's year, we can take it as a reminder to 'look both ways', not just now but always, awake and watchful. What do I mean by 'look both ways'? Looking back is to bring under review where we have come from, past choices we've made etc., which help us understand who we are now, both good and bad aspects. Looking forward is to call to mind God's promises and stir up our desire to receive what is promised. Putting the two together we come to the present, awake and alert, actively seeking to put God's will into practice in our daily lives, to deepen our conversion of heart. If we are not doing that, we shall be sleepwalking through life, apparently awake but with unseeing eyes. This season is instead very much a time to be wide awake.

Fr. Chris

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**PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES**

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DAILY	Morning Prayer at 9.45 <sub>am</sub>	<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 (8.00 <sub>pm</sub> )	

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is good that we are able to reopen our churches for Mass. However, I am increasingly conscious of the situation of St. Joseph's at Mile End. It is of such a shape that very few could attend Mass and so it has not been reopened, given the pressure on church space with distancing guidelines etc. I appreciate that the regulars there may be missing their 9.15 Sunday Mass, I would be, and hope that you are not feeling aggrieved. All being well, we shall be able to resume normal services some time next year.

Due to the latest Government restrictions, we are currently not able to gather for public worship from 5<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December. During this time, Fr. Paschal and I will continue to celebrate Mass separately each day at 8.15<sub>am</sub> without a congregation; Mass intentions will be published for each Mass in the weekly newsletter. The Church will open daily (Mon-Sun) from 10.00<sub>am</sub> to 11.00<sub>am</sub> for individual prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. From Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, we will once again be able to celebrate public mass from 10am. Please see Mass Schedule for week's masses. Thank you to all our volunteer Stewards, as without you this would not be possible. *Fr. Chris*

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 Private Prayer & Mass (from 03/12/20)
- ♦ 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 daily for private prayer and the church will be cleaned in readiness for the next morning.

**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.*

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**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: Artificial Intelligence.** We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

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**ABBOT JOHN BECHE:** Next week we remember Blessed Abbot Beche who died for the Faith on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1539 here in Colchester.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Roy Gibard who has recently passed away. May he rest in peace. We pray for the comfort of his bereaved family and friends. Roy's Funeral details are to be advised. Please note that due to Government restrictions – funeral attendance is by family invitation.

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**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14: Matthew 24:37-44) ***Walk in the light of the Lord.*** God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also St Paul tells us, "the time has come: you must wake up now", because now is all we have.

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**PARISH GIFT DAY:** Our apologies, this has had to be postponed until further notice. Thank you to those Parishioners who dropped their donations through Presbytery door.

**WALK WITH ME (ADVENT EDITION):** Now available in church porch at £1 a copy.  
**REPOSITORY:** 2021 - Diaries & Calendars are available for sale in Church Porch.

**SVP NEWS: Are you ready to take on the Sponsored Snowdon Staircase challenge?** During the last lockdown, we actively helped several individuals and families in our local community but as we enter the next lockdown, we need to replenish our funds. All you need is a staircase and a sponsor form, which can be downloaded from our Facebook page (SVP Colchester) where you will find all the instructions. Please help us to help those in greatest need this Christmas. Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS:** CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

**CAFOD MESSAGES TO THE BRAVE:** Every day, human rights defenders and environmental activists across the world are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. CAFOD are asking that as many of us as possible to show our solidarity with these brave people, by sending them a Christmas message, to show their efforts and struggles are not forgotten. It's easy to do - please follow the link below for instructions, or go to the CAFOD website and look for Messages to the Brave. <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns/Messages-to-the-brave>

**PARISH FINANCES:** We thank you in advance for the offering that you give today. 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)
- Donation baskets are situated at entrance and exit of church
- Setting up a regular gift by Standing Order, (please contact Presbytery office for form).
- The Donation Station (in Church porch)
- 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. Joseph, Mile End: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=colchester-c>  
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**