

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)

Saturday 28th	Church	6.15 pm	John Wilmot RIP
Sunday 29th	Church	8:00 am	John Lowe RIP
	Church	10:30 am	Parishioners
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Holy Souls
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Mile End	9:15 am	Private Intention
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Celestine Tighe RIP

Monday 30th	Church	9.30 am	Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas Jadwiga Pauk RIP
Tuesday 31st	Church	9.30 am	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas Jacob Thomas RIP
	Church	11.00 am	REQUIEM MASS: Eileen Mary Ursula Pegg AKA Sally Pegg RIP
Wednesday 1st January 2020	Church	10.00 am	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Octave of Christmas) Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
Thursday 2nd	Church	9.30 am	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, BPP,Dd Joseph O'Connor RIP
Friday 3rd	Church	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide Canon John Bloomfield
Saturday 4th	Church	9.30 am	Feria of Christmastide James, Kathleen + Family

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)

HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION

Saturday 4th	Church	6.15 pm	John Wilmott RIP
Sunday 5th	Church	8:00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10:30 am	Galvin, Slacke, O'Regan, O'Keefe Families
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6:30 pm	Parishioners
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	West Mersea	8:30 am	Holy Souls
	Mile End	9:15 am	Thomas Harrison RIP
	Monkwick	10:15 am	Private Intention

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION	(confession):	Saturday 9:45am -10:30am; 5:30pm -6.00pm
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:		At least six months' notice is required
BAPTISM COURSE:		www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org under where a list of course dates are available

COLCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital please contact the presbytery direct on (01206) 866317, we can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to visit the patient so that they may receive Holy Communion if they do not require a priest visit or are long term in-patients.

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. Nixon Gomes
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Willenbrock

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)
WEEK COMMENCING: 29TH DECEMBER 2019 - PARISH MASS BOOK PAGE 106

Family life is experiencing a crisis of stability, partly caused by economic hardship, but often by other factors like lack of generosity, or too much insistence on getting one's own way. Today's feast invites us to meditate on our own contribution to family life. In the homespun maxims of Ben Sirach, we read how Jewish families in Our Lord's time applied the Fourth Commandment as a promise of blessing Sir 3:3-7, 14-17. A practical application of the fourth commandment, that we should honour our parents, not only when we are young, but also when they are old and in need of care.

Finally, the Gospel story of the flight into Egypt shows how even Jesus, Mary and Joseph, that best of all families, had to cope with dangers and hardships, which they faced together with the help of God.

Fr. Nixon

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY	Morning Prayer	9.15 _{am}
DAILY	Rosary/Divine Mercy	8:35 _{am}
SUNDAYS:	Rosary/Divine Mercy	<i>following</i> 8.00 _{am} Mass
2 nd SUNDAY MONTHLY	Eucharistic Adoration	5.00 _{pm} - 6.00 _{pm}
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Tuesdays in Crypt	8.00 _{pm}

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: *The Future of the Very Young*

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: *Be kind and gentle when we are making decisions.* The readings today challenge us to listen sensitively to each other; to be prepared to let go of our own desires and to be deeply aware of each other's thoughts and feelings as we make decisions together. For this we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the gifts of compassion and understanding, courage and hopefulness.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto, Pat Keene, Venetia Hetherington, Elizabeth Pace, Hilda Morah. Valerie Thurston

MASS TIME: Please note that the mass time on Wednesday 1st January 2020 is 10.00_{am}.

MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR NIXON: We hope you enjoyed the festive break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the Clergy Christmas Collection and Gifts received. Our thanks to all of you who, in any way, made our Christmas celebrations run so smoothly.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS: Our gratitude to the hard working "*Cleaning*" and "*Floral*" Teams who made our church look so resplendent over the festive period and to Hywel and his team of adults and children who decorated our amazing Christmas Trees. Our volunteers are vitally important to the running of this parish and they don't necessarily have the time but they have the heart. Thank you for helping we are truly grateful to you.

NEXT BAPTISM COURSE: for new-borns and children up to age 6 yrs. will take place on **Friday 7th February 2020** here in the Crypt from 7:30_{pm}-9.00_{pm} (entrance to Crypt is via Church). No appointment is necessary and all baptism dates will be arranged during the 2nd session of course. [*If you would like to present a child for Baptism aged 7 or older, please email the Parish Office*].

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2020/2021]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/20). The final dates for signing of the "***Certificates of Practice***" will take place in the church crypt on the following dates: -

- Sunday 5th January 2020 at 4.00_{pm} – 5.00_{pm}
- Monday 6th January 2020 at 4.00_{pm} – 5.00_{pm}
- Saturday 11th January 2020 at 3.00_{pm} – 4.00_{pm}

There is no need to make an appointment as parents **and** the child applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis – *entrance to the crypt is via the church*.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The Programme starts with a Parents Meeting, including Registration on **Friday 10th January 7:30_{pm}-9:00_{pm}** in the Crypt in Priory Street. The first children's session follows on **Saturday 11th January 10:00_{am}-12:00_{pm}** in the Cardinal Bourne Hall. There are still some Information packs available in the church porch.

WANTED – CATECHISTS: With young people preparing for sacraments of Initiation throughout the parish if you have ever wanted to know more, or are willing to share your faith with our young people please contact Hywel Edwards at Edwards.hywel@btinternet.com or after the 10:30_{am} Mass. The numbers of children we can prepare is dependent on the availability of catechists to prepare them - so please don't be shy!

THANK YOU to everyone who attended and supported the *Festive Sale of Homemade produce* last weekend. It was a great success and many delicious items were available. A special thanks to Nora for her hard work in organising the event and to all the team of volunteers who supported her.

REPOSITORY SHOP: New Year * New Ideas * New Person(s) required for the Repository – working alongside Frances (as Pauline is stepping down). If interested in this voluntary role, please contact the presbytery 01206 866317.

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] and these offerings will go to the (BCCS) Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next Film showing is on **Wednesday 8th January 2020** with a **start time of 1.15_{pm}** screening "*The Book Thief*". Everyone is most welcome. No Entrance fee just make a donation towards refreshments. Please see noticeboard in porch for future films and screening dates.

EVANGELISATION IN COLCHESTER: -Advent a new start... We are about to introduce "Landings" in Colchester. What is it? Landings is a series of relaxed, informal, lay-led meetings, based on faith-sharing within a small group. It offers a safe and supported "*landing place*" for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are thinking about coming back. It offers already active Catholics an opportunity to share their faith; to participate in the Church's mission to welcome those who have been away; and a chance to grow and learn from each other's spiritual journeys. More information to be provided in the coming weeks.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are on sale at the back of the church. These are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Priced at £2.80 per copy (money to go in "*Repository*" Box in church porch).

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Children and families from Essex and East London have direct therapeutic support to our highly experienced counselling team. We provide support directly to children, adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various reasons including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268 947061.

SVP: If you know of someone who is lonely, housebound or simply in need of a friend, please contact us, using the details below. If you would like to join us the details of our next meeting are at the back of the church, along with a collection box.

❖ **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427 or email: colchestersvp@gmail.com

❖ **CARDINAL BOURNE HALL BOOKINGS:** email: cb.hall@btinternet.com

or Tel: 07758 805263 [*answerphone only* – please leave a message with name + contact number]

CHURCH CLEANERS' ROTA: Monday 30th December: **Team 1** (2020 Rota available in porch)