

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)

Saturday 28th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Ints: Una Nagle + Family
Sunday 29th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Katie Frewer RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Raul Palikari
Monday 30th			Sixth day within octave of the Nativity of the Lord
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Michael + Ellen Kate Conlon RIP
Tuesday 31st			Seventh day within octave of the Nativity of the Lord
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mark Murray RIP
Wednesday 1st January 2025			MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
<i>Please Note Mass Time</i>	<i>Church</i>	10.00 am	Cecilia Uglow RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass – New Year
Thursday 2nd			Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianen, Bpp, Dd
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ursula Mary Harrison RIP
Friday 3rd			Feria of Christmas Time
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Teresa Wilzak
†	<i>Church</i>	11.30 am	Funeral Mass: Joan Rita Jeal RIP
Saturday 4th			Feria of Christmas Time
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mr. Joy Abraham RIP
			THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C) Holyday of Obligation
Saturday 4th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 5th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Mr. T. McElroy RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention (IM)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Edna Florida

- ❖ 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



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:
Assistant Priest:

Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Fr. Philip Okoli

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail : colchester@brcdt.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their lives teach us the importance of love, unity, and faith within our own families. They faced the challenges of raising and protecting their child, Jesus, and they did so with utmost love and trust in God. In a world that often challenges the sanctity of family life, we are called to be signs of hope and love, mirroring the Holy Family's commitment to one another and to God. Family is the cornerstone of society and the domestic church where faith is first nurtured. Amidst the divisions and distractions of today, we must strive to strengthen our families through love, prayer, and forgiveness. Parents, be the first teachers of faith to your children. Children, honour and cherish your parents. Let us ask the Holy Family to intercede for us so that our homes may reflect their love, peace, and holiness. May God bless and guide our families, making them places of joy, faith, and hope. Happy new year to you all!

Fr Philip

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 POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY: For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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: (Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52) **We grow, we change.** Mary and Joseph had forgotten that Jesus was growing and maturing into a young man! The story illustrates how subtle are the changes which happen in relationships. As Mary and Joseph had to return to Jerusalem to find Jesus, we too must return to each other continually so we can grow into the deeply loving couple we dreamed of becoming.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Jimmy Clarin, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irven, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Elizabeth Pace, 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 Elizabeth Pace and Bernard Wilson, who have both recently passed away. The Parish community offers Elizabeth's & Bernard's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Elizabeth's funeral service will be here on Tuesday 21st January at 11.00am. Bernards Funeral details are to be advised. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. **Amen.**



MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS & FR PHILIP: 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, cards and gifts received. Our gratitude to all of you who, in any way, made our Christmas celebrations run so smoothly. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS: Our gratitude to all the Church volunteers who are a crucial part of the running of this Parish; Altar Servers, Repository Administrator, Garden Maintenance Team, Altar Linen cleaner, Church Porch Cleaner, Coffee morning volunteers, Readers, Choir, as well as the hard working "Church Cleaning" and "Floral" Teams who made our church look so resplendent over the festive period and to all the adults who set up the Cribs. Our volunteers are vitally important to the running of this parish and they do not necessarily have the time but they have the heart. We are truly grateful for all you do for our Parish. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR POLISH COMMUNITY: We would like to extend a heartfelt *thank you* to our Polish Community who cleaned the church and decorated our amazing Christmas Prayer Tree so beautifully this year – The tree truly looks magnificent!

LECTO DIVINIA: On **Saturday 18th January**, Sr Gabi of COLW (Community of Our Lady of Walsingham) will be giving a talk on Lecto Divinia - this will take place at 2pm til 4pm. **ALL WELCOME!**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (C)			Holyday of Obligation
Saturday 4th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 5th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Mr. T. McElroy RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention (IM)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Edna Florida
Monday 6th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Ronnie Hammond RIP
Tuesday 7th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Mrs. Mary Sebatian
Wednesday 8th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Thanksgiving (P.O)
Thursday 9th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Chachy Joseph RIP
Friday 10th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Mr. T. McElroy RIP
Saturday 11th	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time Charles Samuel Harrison RIP
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD			
Saturday 11th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention (M)
Sunday 12th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Paul Cudmore
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention (M)
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Doreen Rebeiro RIP

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK - ALL MASS TIMES ARE LISTED ABOVE.

May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful 2025.

VOLUNTEER REQUEST: From January 2025 we will need a person to run the **Repository**. This role is suitable for someone who is limited with time. For more information please call 01206 768418 after 6pm for details.

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.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025: Last few copies are available from the back of the Church at £3.20 per copy. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: To register your child(ren), please complete an application form which is in the church porch and drop the completed form in Presbytery letterbox. **The last date for ALL forms to be handed in is 31st December.**

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Friday 03/01/25: **Team 5** / Thursday 09/01/25: **Team 1**
Monday 13/01/25: **Team 2** / Monday 20/01/25: **Team 3** / Monday 27/01/25: **Team 4**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 29/12/24: The O'Sullivan's / 05/01/25: Yolande + 1 / 19/01/25: SVP / 26/01/25: Matthew & Mariamma