

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) 'Laetare' Sunday

Saturday 29th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Ints: Anne McCarthy
Sunday 30th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Beena De Silva RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Kathleen Payne RIP

Monday 31st			Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mrs E. Pace RIP

Tuesday 1st April			Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Connell McGinley + Maura O'Connell RIP
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 2nd			Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Francis Branter RIP

Thursday 3rd			Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent
<i>Please note time of Mass!</i>	<i>Church</i>	8.45 am	Carole Conway RIP

Friday 4th			Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Bernard Kelly RIP
	<i>Church</i>	12.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
	<i>Mile End</i>	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross

Saturday 5th			Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Noel L'Esperance RIP

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

Saturday 5th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Michael Brooks RIP
Sunday 6th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Raymond O'Neill RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Donat Wilczak
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

- ❖ 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; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.

☪ **CUPPA CLUB:** We meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
 ☪ **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

- ☪ **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: Mgr. Christopher Brooks
Assistant Priest: 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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
'Laetare' Sunday
 Week Commencing 30th March 2025

Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, reminds us that amid a season of penance there is hope and joy. In today's Gospel reading from Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son—a powerful illustration of God's fatherly love and mercy. The wayward son, after wasting his inheritance, returns home in humility, and his loving father welcomes him with so much affection. This story can be likened to our own spiritual journey, showing that even when we falter, sincere repentance is met with divine forgiveness and renewal. As we reflect on our lives, we are encouraged to reconcile not only with God but also with one another, embracing a spirit of reconciliation and compassion. Laetare Sunday calls us to celebrate in anticipation of the joy of the coming Easter festivities and the renewal it will bring to us. Receive God's mercy and forgiveness, and let your heart be filled with hope and joy, knowing that, like the prodigal son, you are always welcomed back with open arms.

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

2025 Year of Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. A Jubilee happens every 25 years and is a special opportunity for coming closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church grants special graces called Plenary Indulgences during the Jubilee Year. These graces can be for your own soul or the Holy Souls in purgatory. **Our Lady of Light Church, Clacton on Sea**, has been designated as a Sacred Place of Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. Full details of all services are available at: <https://ourladyoflight.uk/>

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: *For the use of the new technologies.* Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Joshua 5: 9-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32) *The need for gratitude and trust.* The Gospel illustrates the Father's amazing forgiveness but the elder brother reacts angrily and is resentful and self-righteous. At times when we feel hurt and resentful and life seems unfair, and tensions rise, we can blame each other. Jesus' message is to trust in our husband/wife, to look for their loving ways and to ask forgiveness for our own faults.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Anthony (Tony) Weekes, J Brian Critchley, Edwina Pastor, Jimmy Clarin, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irvén, Mrs. Maureen McKenna, Peter Wyatt, Hilda Morah, Jason Christopher McLean, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frances Conlon who has recently passed away. The Parish community offers Frances's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Frances's Funeral service will be here at 12.00pm on Wednesday 9th April. May she rest in peace. **Amen.**



MOTHERS DAY BLESSING: Lord God we pray for all Mothers, Guardians & Caregivers everywhere. May those with children feel appreciated. May those grieving empty arms be comforted. May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life be held in the loving grace of God. Amen.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: This weekend a special collection will be taken after all Masses for Church Easter Flowers & Decorations (*Mile End + Priory Street*).

DAY OF MERCY on **Friday 11th April 2025:** The Church will be open all day with Mass at 9.30am followed by Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction at 8.30pm. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

WASHING OF FEET- MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER AT 8.00PM (Maundy Thursday). The washing of the feet imitates Jesus' act of love for His "twelve" on the night before He died, this ritual signifies their participation in Christ's mission of love and service to one another and to those in need. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the washing of feet list in Church Porch – 12 volunteers needed.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: The next film showing will be on **Wednesday 2nd April** – Film will start at 12.00pm. + **9th & 16th April** 2 Kings 2. 11 will be screened in 2 parts - All welcome

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025

Monday 14th April 9.30 am **Mass & Confessions** Priory Street
Tuesday 15th April 9.30 am **Mass** Priory Street
Spy Wednesday 16th April 8.30 am **Mass** Priory Street

EASTER TRIDUUM

17th April: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 9:30 am **Office of Readings & Morning Prayer** Priory Street
 8:00 pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching until Midnight** Priory Street

18th April: **GOOD FRIDAY**
 9:30 am **Office of Readings & Morning Prayer** Priory Street
 10:30 am **Children's Stations of Cross** Priory Street
 3:00 pm **Liturgy of the Passion of The Lord** Priory Street
 12:00 pm **Stations of Cross** Mile End

19th April: **HOLY SATURDAY [NO CONFESSIONS]**
 9:30 am **Office of Readings & Morning Prayer** Priory Street
 8:00 pm **Solemn Vigil of Easter** Priory Street

20th April: **EASTER SUNDAY (THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD)**
 Masses at usual Sunday times
 [There will be no Mass at Monkwick]

21st April: **EASTER MONDAY**
 10:00 am **Mass** Priory Street

POLISH HOLY WEEK SERVICES	
CONFESSIONS (Priory Street)	Tuesday 15 th April at 5.30pm/ + Stations at 6.00pm
PASCHAL TRIDUUM (Monkwick)	Thursday 17 th April at 7.00pm
	Friday 18 th April at 2.30pm
	Saturday 19 th April at 8.00pm
BLESSING OF FOOD (Priory Street)	Saturday 19 th April at 1.00pm
EASTER SUNDAY (Priory Street)	Sunday 20 th April at 12.30pm
EASTER MONDAY (Priory Street)	Monday 21 st April at 12.00pm



OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at your home and pray the Rosary for a week. please contact Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751 or email olwstatue2024@gmail.com

REPOSITORY: There is a selection of Easter Cards for sale in Church porch.



LENTEN TALKS 2025: The final talk will take place on **Wednesday 2nd April** in the Cathedral. Fr Stephen Morrison (O. Praem), Norbertine Parish Priest of *Our Lady of Sorrows*. After studying French at Oxford entered the Norbertine Order. Latin Scholar and speaks several other languages. Gifted preacher. Theme: "Eucharistic Doctrine of Song: The 'Lauda Sion' of St Thomas Aquinas."

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the 2nd talk in the series '*Proclaim the Word*', entitled '*A richer table of God's word*', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7pm on **Wednesday 2nd April** via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book for this free event.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 31/03/25: **Team 3** / Monday 07/04/25: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 30/03/25: Diane & Adrian / 06/04/25: The O'Sullivan's