

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)			Evangelii Gaudium Sunday
Saturday 20 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Fr Chris (Retirement)
Sunday 21 st	Church	8.00 am	Mrs Rita O'Neill RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Thomas Joseph McElroy RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Andrew Morton RIP
Monday 22 nd			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Tony Meril Kumar Thomas RIP
Tuesday 23 rd			St Pius of Pietrelcina, Pr
	Church	9.30 am	John Farrell RIP
Wednesday 24 th			Our Lady of Walsingham
*	Church	9.30 am	NO MASS
Thursday 25 th			Feria
*	Church	9.30 am	NO MASS
Friday 26 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Rida Masoom + Family
Saturday 27 th			St Vincent de Paul, Pr
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Gary Williams RIP
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)			
Saturday 27 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Thanksgiving
Sunday 28 th	Church	8.00 am	Raymond Brady RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ray Nock RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Guy & Bridget Wynter 40th Wedding Anniversary
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention
* PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY 24 th + THURSDAY 25 th			
❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office. ❖ Baptism Godparents: 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. ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that <u>6 months' notice</u> of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Thank you. ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment. ❖ Church Loop System: serves all the seats in the centre Nave but not the aisles + chancel. ❖ Mass Intentions. Envelopes are available in Church Porch and are situated either side of Church entrance, please complete envelope & drop through presbytery door.			
➤ Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings: colchester@brcdt.org ➤ SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society): Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com			
* 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.			
 Please check out our Facebook page for all the latest Parish/Diocese/Vatican News/Clergy + Church photos/videos. Please remember to <u>like</u> and <u>follow</u> our page!			

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
Fr Gervase K. Moo CSSp

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
Evangelii Gaudium Sunday
WEEK COMMENCING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Jesus' words, "You cannot serve God and money" strike at the very heart of our world today, a world where wealth, status, and possessions often define success and identity. He isn't saying that money is evil; in fact, it can be a powerful tool for good. The danger lies in allowing money to become our master, shaping our choices, feeding our fears, and distracting us from God's purpose. When we pursue wealth as an end in itself, we risk becoming entangled in worry, greed, or pride. We begin to measure our worth by what we own, rather than by who we are in the eyes of God. But serving God requires a reordering of the heart. It means placing love, generosity, and faith above ambition and self-interest.

So, we must ask ourselves: Where is my heart? Do I find my security in material things or in the faithfulness of God? My money and possessions are good gifts, but they are given to us so that we may serve God more faithfully.

Fr Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.40 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 SEPTEMBER: *For our relationship with all of creation.* Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE. Lord, we ask for your divine intervention and peace to prevail in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Yemen and Sudan and in every land wounded by war. We pray for all those suffering or afraid that you will be close to them and protect them. We ask that you guide leaders and nations to work toward lasting peace and stability around the world. *Amen*



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

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13) ***Money, money, money ...not much changes!*** Dishonest traders, crippling taxes, money lenders and unpaid debts – things haven't changed much since the time of Amos. Honesty and trust are vital regarding all forms of wealth. Let us ask God for the gift of wisdom when deciding together how to use our money, wealth or scarcity. Dishonesty about money shows lack of trust and often leads to divorce.

DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: After all Masses this weekend a 2nd collection will be taken for Evangelii Gaudium Day (*formerly Home Mission Sunday*). This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary. It's 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, *"I believe..."* This is the theme for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2025.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: CAFOD (*Harvest Fast Day*) on 5th October; World Mission Day (*Missio*) on 19th October; Prisoner's Sunday 26th October.

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

SVP (St Vincent De Paul Society): We are always on the lookout for people who are passionate about making a difference by supporting our local community! Join now to meet new people and be part of a friendly team, whilst spending quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle. If you want to play a part in helping others, then we want to hear from you, to volunteer please email colchestersvp@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY FILM CLUB: The next screening of *The Chosen* (S2/ Ep 3+4) is on **Wednesday 24th September** Starting at 12:30pm. All welcome! Please note that Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2026/2027]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/26). The signing of the ***"Certificate of Catholic Practice" forms*** will take place in the Church Crypt on the following dates: -

NOVEMBER 2025	DECEMBER 2025
Monday 11/11/25 at 11.15am – 1.00pm	Thursday 06/12/25 at 11.15am – 12.00pm
Saturday 15/11/25 at 11.15am – 12.00pm	
Saturday 22/11/25 at 11.15am – 12.00pm	

There is no need to make an appointment as parents/guardians and the child (with Baptism Certificate) applying to St Thomas, will be seen on a 1st come, 1st served basis

SPUC: Are calling on all Parishes across the country to join the fightback and raise awareness of their work. SPUC are determined as ever to **defeat abortion and assisted suicide** and believe they can do this by mobilising adequate pro-life support. They urgently need to build critical mass of people necessary to effect real and lasting protection for unborn children and those at end of life. Please complete online <https://spuc.org.uk/join-the-fightback>

SAINT ÓSCAR ROMERO: Archbishop John Wilson (Archbishop of Southwark), will be giving a Talk and power-point Presentation on Saint Óscar Romero, in the Cathedral Parish Hall on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm. Archbishop John has made a special study of St Oscar Romero, and it is a great honour and privilege to invite him to our Cathedral Parish and Diocese for this talk.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – YOUTH GATHER, 25th – 26th October. Youth Gather is a weekend of faith, fun and friendship – with speakers, workshops, prayer and outdoor activities, meeting friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith. There will be coaches offering transport from around the Diocese included in the cost, as well as all meals, cabin accommodation and activities. This event is for year 9 and above. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – JUBILEE YOUTH MASS: On **Thursday 2nd October**, Youth Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral, following a talk from the Donal Walsh #livelife foundation starting from 6:30pm. All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book, but please do let us know if you'd like to bring a group. Get in touch at info@bcys.net for more information.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025, 21st – 25th October Cost £399: The costs include return flights from Stansted, half board accommodation, and transfer from/to Lourdes. This is led by Fr. Stephen Boyle, parish priest of St. Anselm's Dartford. Places are limited at this price to 20 persons, £70 single supplement. Children under 16 go for £199. To book a place please contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, dartford@rcaos.org.uk, Tel: 01322220075

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE SUPPORT - Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next Programme starts 17th October www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Tel: [+44 7887 296 983](tel:+447887296983)

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - FURTHER ACTION NEEDED! As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. Right To Life UK has launched a new *EasyAction* tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you. *Please take action now and visit <http://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter> to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.*

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 22/09/25: **Team 3**/ Monday 29/09/25: **Team 4**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 21/09/25: Matthew + Mariamma / 28/09/25: African Community