

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C)				YOUTH SUNDAY
Saturday 22nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Bridget Garry RIP	
Sunday 23rd	Church	8.00 am	Mrs Mary McGuinness RIP	
	Church	10.30 am	John Brogan RIP	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Esmerelda Jo RIP	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Mary Davis RIP	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention	
Monday 24th			St Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Pr, and Comps, Mm	
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Mrs Aleykutty George RIP	
Tuesday 25th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory	
	Monkwick	1.00 pm	Requiem Mass: Mary Geraldine Davies RIP	
Wednesday 26th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Elaine Proudfoot RIP	
Thursday 27th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Ijeoma Okoli	
Friday 28th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Teresa Farrugia RIP	
Saturday 29th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Debbie Shales RIP	
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)				
Saturday 29th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Teresa Farrugia RIP	
Sunday 30th	Church	8.00 am	Holy Souls	
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Ellen + Peter Okoli	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Ints: Pace Family	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention	



- ❖ 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 6 months' notice 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.
- **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.



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



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:

Fr. Philip Okoli
Fr Gervase K. Moo CSSP

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Tel: 01206 866317
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Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C)



World Youth Sunday



Week Commencing 23rd November 2025

Today is the Solemnity of Christ the King, the crowning feast that brings the Church's liturgical year to its close. It is a moment that invites us to pause and consider the direction of our lives and the one we truly allow to guide us. Christ's kingship is unlike any earthly rule. It is not built on power or force, but on selfless love, patient service, and the willingness to lay down His life for His people. When we proclaim Him King, we open our hearts to let His teachings shape our own at home, in our friendships and families, in our workplaces, and in the wider world. To let Christ reign in us is to let His Gospel transform how we speak, how we act, and how we love. It calls us to build spaces of respect, compassion, and unity; to choose forgiveness over resentment, service over selfishness, and hope over despair. As this liturgical year ends and a new one waits to begin, may we renew our longing for Christ's gentle, life-giving rule to lead us forward today, tomorrow, and always.

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 NOVEMBER: *For the prevention of suicide.* Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

† NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS. During November, prayers and Masses are said for the Faithful Departed. *November Altar Lists of dead & Envelopes* are available in the Church Porch. Please put the names of your deceased family and friends on the list and place this in the envelope along with your donation and either hand the envelope to a priest or drop the envelope through the presbytery letterbox.

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 Irven, 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: (2 Sam 5:1-3; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:35-43) ***Let us radiate His life and light and goodness.*** 'Today you will be with me in paradise' – Jesus' words as He hung on the cross; even in His agony, He still chose only to love. Through Him, we are given the strength to bear anything joyfully; with the saints we *'inherit the light'*. Today, let us radiate His life, light and goodness, acknowledging Him as our Lord and King.

2nd COLLECTION: After all Masses this weekend a 2nd collection will be taken for **Youth Sunday**. Pope Francis asks the Church throughout the world to celebrate World Youth Sunday on the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is a day to recognise and celebrate young people in our local church communities. This collection supports the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, helping young people grow in faith through retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership opportunities.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration forms are available in the church porch (*by the entrance doors*). Please complete a form for each eligible child + post completed forms through presbytery door **by 31st December**. Any forms received after this date will be added to the next year entries. Please write clearly in block capitals so we can read them.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: The Registration forms are in the church porch by the entrance doors. Please complete forms and post through presbytery door **by 30th November**. Any forms received after this date will be added to the next year entries. Please write clearly in block capitals so we can read them.

SAVE THE DATE! DAY OF MERCY: On **Friday 12th December 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.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MASS: Calling all children. If your child is in reception and above and would like to take part in this year's nativity, could you please email me on stressedclaire45@gmail.com. The main parts usually go to the children of the First Holy Communion course this year. It's performed during the **6.30pm Mass on Christmas eve**. Please let me know as the first meeting will be the beginning of December. Thank you.

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: -

DECEMBER 2025
Saturday 06/12/25 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

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE: Please note that a Certificate of Catholic practice is not required if you have the Baptism and/or First Holy Communion certificates for the child applying to the college.

POLISH ADVENT MASSES (Rorate): These will take place at **6.30am** on the following **Tuesdays** in December: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd at Priory Street.

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (ADVENT EDITION): Advent Walk with Me booklets are available for sale at all Mass Centre's - please note that they have increased in price to £1.50 per booklet due to publisher printing costs. Please leave money in Repository Box.

JOSIE'S KITCHEN: Josie is looking for donations of various items to make her Food + Care packages for the Homeless at Christmas. If you can spare any of the following items: - For Care Packages: general toiletries: shower gels, shampoo, deodorants + body sprays, toothpaste, razors, shaving foam, Socks, scarfs, hats + gloves; For Food Packages: Cup-a-soups, sachets of coffee drinks, hot chocolate, long life milk. Tins of ready meals e.g. Chilli-con-carne, casserole, minced beef, baked beans, tuna, corned beef or ham, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit + puddings, custard powder, mini boxes of cereal, pot noodles, crisps, biscuits, small multipack snacks. These items make a big difference to their lives and show them that they are cared for in our community. Please drop your Donations into the Presbytery. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. *"God loves those who find joy in giving"* John Paul II

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION (ST JOSEPH'S, MILE END): There will be a special collection taken for Church Flowers at St Joseph's (*Mile End*) on the weekend of 7th December - The money will go towards decorating the church over the Christmas period.

LECTIO DIVINA IN ADVENT: A year ago Fr Chis arranged an introduction to Lectio Divina, 'Holy Reading', a reflective response to scripture. He encouraged us to form small local groups to read the Gospels in advance of each Sunday. This year there will be another opportunity in December. Advent Lectio will take place on Tuesdays at 10.15am (*after 9.30am Mass*) in the crypt when there will be reflective readings of the Gospel for the following Sunday. This will be repeated at 5.45pm on Sunday evenings. Please see dates on poster in church porch. All welcome.

EDUCATION SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR- CATHEDRAL HOUSE: A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese. The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9am until 3pm with half an hour for lunch. Term time only. Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role. Salary £14.50 per hour. The closing date for applications is 5pm on 5th December 2025 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS: On **Wednesday 3rd December at 7pm**, Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a short talk on the Prophets. Livestream at www.whatgoodnews.org.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 24/11/25: **Team 2** / Monday 01/12/25: **Team 3**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 23/11/25: Diane + Adrian / 30/12/25: The O'Sullivan's