

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



Monday 1st December 2025			Monday of the First Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Joyce Wroble RIP
Tuesday 2nd			Tuesday of the First Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Wednesday 3rd			St Francis Xavier, pr
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 4th			Thursday of the First Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Sidney Finch + Rose Jane Castell
	Church	11.00 am	Funeral Mass: Zita Kaspariene RIP
Friday 5th			Friday of the First Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Gary Williams RIP
Saturday 6th			Saturday of the First Week of Advent
	Church	9.30 am	Joy Abraham + Mrs Aleyamma Abraham RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Saturday 6th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Mike Taylor RIP
Sunday 7th	Church	8.00 am	Antonio Rodriguez RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Melissa Lunn RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Nancy Budworth, Ken Ridge RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners



- ❖ 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**



- * **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 WALSHINGHAM STATUE: If you would like to host the statue at home + pray the Rosary for a week. Gemma – Tel: 01206 844751/ 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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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Week Commencing 30th November 2025

Dear friends, today we begin the Advent Season during which we shall make our preparations for the Lord's birth into our lives at Christmas. The theme for today is very much of waiting but also of being ready for the moment which will arrive at a time we do not expect. Advent opens with a great promise: *"In the days to come..."* the hope of a people who need God. *"...The master is coming"* is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. We are encouraged to stay awake and treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this **prayer** or **that confession** or the **other change** in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today. Peace be with you.

Fr Gervase

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 DECEMBER: *For Christians in areas of conflict.* Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

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: (Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14: Matthew 24:37-44) ***Walk in the light of the Lord.*** God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also St Paul tells us, "*the time has come: you must wake up now*", because now is all we have.



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.

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (ADVENT EDITION): Walk with Me booklets are available for sale at all Mass Centre's priced at £1.50 per booklet. Please leave money in Repository Box.

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

7 READINGS & CHRISTMAS CAROLS: There will be a 7 readings and Carol service on **Saturday 13th December at 6.30pm** All welcome. If you would like to join the choir or be involved, please contact Claire stressedclaire45@gmail.com

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.

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.

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.

REPOSITORY: The Repository now has a selection of single Christmas Cards & 2026 Calendars and Diaries available for sale in the Church Porch along with a new selection of Mass Intention cards. All monies go into Repository Box. Thank you.

MISSION TODAY CALENDAR 2026: Please feel free to take a calendar from church porch

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

MYLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING AT CHESTERWELL CO-OP on Friday 12th December at 6.30pm. Members of Boxted Band will provide the music and bring their own Carol Sheets for us to use for the words. Please be aware that Mersea Homes will be filming as part of their Christmas promotion. A collection bucket would be provided and the proceeds would go to the East Anglian's Children's Hospices.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 01/12/25: **Team 3** / Monday 08/12/25: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 30/12/25: The O'Sullivan's / 07/12/25: Peggy & Anne