

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

Saturday 27th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Beatrice Kinsella RIP
Sunday 28th	Church	8.00 am	Mrs P. Wilkey RIP
	Church	10.30 am	David & Sue Kelly RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention
Monday 29th	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY , Bp, M Patron Pastoral Clergy of England		
	Church	9.30 am	Con Nicoll RIP
Tuesday 30th	Sixth day within octave of the Nativity of the Lord		
	Church	9.30 am	Thanksgiving: Prince + Elizabeth
Wednesday 31st	Seventh day within octave of the Nativity of the Lord		
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Mrs Margaret Fernandes
Thursday 1st January 2026	MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD		
* Please Note Mass Time	Church	10.00 am	Ints: Ann Prior
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass – New Year
Friday 2nd	SS Basil the Great + Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd		
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Monica Galvin + Family
Saturday 3rd	Feria of Christmas Time		
	Church	9.30 am	Garry Williams + Carole Conway RIP
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (A)			
Saturday 3rd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Maria Chennattu
Sunday 4th	Church	8.00 am	Mrs Marjorie Garry + Janice Garry RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Chris Maughan + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Int: Pauline Onojobi

- ❖ 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



- * **CUPPA CLUB:** Will 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 **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
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Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A)



Week Commencing 28th December 2025

Dear friends, as an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Fr Gervase

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 prayer with the Word of God.* Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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: (Ecclesiastes 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 17-23). ***Be kind and gentle when we are making decisions.*** The readings today challenge us to listen sensitively to each other; to be prepared to let go of our own desires and to be deeply aware of each other's thoughts and feelings as we make decisions together. For this we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the gifts of compassion and understanding, courage and hopefulness.

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 Irvn, 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.

MESSAGE FROM FR PHILIP & FR GERVASE: 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.

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 2026: 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.

2026 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION COURSES: Both courses are now closed to new applications – for those who have sent in your application forms, please note that further details will follow shortly.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (A)

Saturday 3rd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Maria Chennattu
Sunday 4th	Church	8.00 am	Mrs Marjorie Garry + Janice Garry RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Chris Maughan + Family
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	2.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Int: Pauline Onojobi

Monday 5th	Church	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time
	West Mersea	7.30 pm	Debbie Keith, Carole Conway RIP
			Private Intention

Tuesday 6th	HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
	<i>Church</i> 9.30 am	Ints: Maureen + Peter Ahern + Family

Wednesday 7th	Church	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time
			Anniversary: Mrs Mary Sebastian

Thursday 8th	Church	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time
			Ints: Brigid + Michael McDonald

Friday 9th	Church	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time
			Chachy Joseph

Saturday 10th	Church	9.30 am	Weekday of Christmas Time
			John Okoli RIP

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

Saturday 10th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Joyce Wroble RIP
Sunday 11th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Peggy Fulilwa
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Souls in Purgatory
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention

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 2026.

SAVE THE DATE! The visit of the relics of St Gerard will be here on **Wednesday 21st January 2026.** Gerard Majella (6 April 1726 – 16 October 1755) was an Italian lay brother of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, better known as the Redemptorists, who is honored as a saint by the Catholic Church. His intercession within the Catholic Church is for children, unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, expectant mothers, motherhood, the falsely accused, good confessions, lay brothers.

DONATIONS WINTER COATS / JACKETS (JOSIE'S KITCHEN): If anyone has a Winter coat, they no longer wear but is in good condition, please consider donating it. Items will be given to the homeless and those in need this Winter. Please drop into the Presbytery.



- * **CUPPA CLUB:** Will reconvene on Thursday 1st January and will continue to meet **every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am** in the Hall.
- * **SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING** after 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 29/12/25: **Team 2** / Monday 05/01/26: **Team 3**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 28/12/25: Matthew + Mariamma/ 04/01/26: African Community