

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

Monday 8th	Church	9.30 am	Monday of the Second Week of Advent Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
------------------------------	--------	---------	---

Tuesday 9th	Church	6.30 am	Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent Polish Advent Mass (Rorate)
	Church	9.30 am	Canon Antony McKenty RIP (Fr Tony)

Wednesday 10th	Church	9.30 am	Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent Canon Antony McKenty RIP (Fr Tony)
----------------------------------	--------	---------	---

Thursday 11th	Church	* 8.45 am	Thursday of the Second Week of Advent Christians in Nigeria
---------------------------------	--------	-----------	---

Friday 12th	Church	9.30 am	Friday of the Second Week of Advent Souls in Purgatory
-------------------------------	--------	---------	--

Saturday 13th	Church	9.30 am	St Lucy, v. m Keith Johnson, Carole Conway RIP
---------------------------------	--------	---------	--

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 'Gaudete' Sunday

Saturday 13th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Mrs Margaret Fernandes
Sunday 14th	Church	8.00 am	Dr David Norman Bagley RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Victor + Kathleen Payne



* PLEASE NOTE THAT MASS ON THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER IS AT 8.45am

- ❖ 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

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
E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Week Commencing 7th December 2025

Advent reminds us that waiting is never easy. In a world used to quick fixes, God calls us to slow down and pay attention to what's happening within us. John the Baptist, in the Gospel, gives a clear message: "*Repent.*" It's the same call we hear during Lent, urging us to reflect, be honest with ourselves, and let God lead us back to what truly matters. While Lent often feels more intense, Advent offers a quieter opportunity for renewal. The things that get in the way of our relationship with God are often small: a moment of impatience, a harsh word, a habit that weighs us down, or simply neglecting prayer. Advent invites us to face these and make simple, meaningful changes that open our hearts to God's presence. Each day, we can clear a little space, whether by reaching out to someone, offering an apology, or spending a few quiet moments in prayer. These small steps prepare us to welcome Christ with open arms this Christmas.

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 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 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: (Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12) **Advent – a new beginning for us?** Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: All completed Registration forms must be received **before the closing date of 31st December 2025**. Please drop completed application forms through Presbytery door (Red door) as soon as possible.

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.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER TREE: Please collect a red Christmas prayer tag from the box situated at the entrance of Church to decorate the tree. On one side please write your prayer request for a loved one, situation, our community, etc ... for Christmas; the other side of the tag is to remain blank. Please return your tag to the other section of box and this will be safely added to the Christmas tree when it is being decorated by our Filipino community. *Just as your tree lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need.* Thank you

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: you can still catch up with Reflective preparation for the Advent Sunday Gospels. **Tuesdays at 10.15am (after 9.30am Mass) & on Sundays at 5.45pm (before 6.30pm Mass).** Further info. on poster in Church and Valerie 07941903227

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION (ST JOSEPH'S, MILE END): There will be a special collection taken for Christmas Church Flowers at St Joseph's (Mile End) this weekend.

CHRISTMAS MASS SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December 2025

Monkwick	5.00 pm	Vigil Mass
Priory Street	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass especially for families
Priory Street	12.00 am	Midnight Mass
Monkwick	12.00 am	Polish Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December 2025

Priory Street	8.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Priory Street	10.30 am	Christmas Day Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Christmas Day Mass
Mersea	8.30 am	Christmas Dawn Mass
Mile End	9.30 am	Christmas Day Mass

St Stephens Day (Boxing Day) Friday 26th December 2025

Priory Street	10.00 am	Mass
Priory Street	2.00 pm	Polish Mass

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: 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. **All Donations to be received by 15th December. Thank you**

REPOSITORY

'WALK WITH ME' Booklets (ADVENT EDITION): Last 2 *Walk with Me* booklets are available for sale priced at £1.50 per booklet. **BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026:** available at £3.20 per book. **CHRISTMAS STOCK:** 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 to go into Repository Box. Thank you.**

SAVE THE DATE! CUPPA CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY: On **Thursday 18th December** after morning mass from **10.10am to 12.30pm** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. There will be festive fun with food, mulled wine, games and music! All welcome!

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.

2026 CONFIRMATION COURSE: Is now closed and no longer receiving new applications



- * **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.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 08/12/25: Team 4 / Friday 19/12/25: Team 5

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 07/12/25: Peggy & Anne / 14/12/25: Yolande + 1