

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sunday of the Word of God

Saturday 24th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 25th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Mike John Taylor
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Angela Oates RIP
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

Monday 26th			St Timothy & St Titus, Bpp
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Margaret Fernandes

Tuesday 27th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas

Wednesday 28th			St Thomas Aquinas, Pr, D
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Garry Williams RIP

Thursday 29th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Charles Brudenell-Bruce RIP

Friday 30th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Des Fuller RIP

Saturday 31st			St John Bosco, Pr
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Martin White

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Racial Justice Day

Saturday 31st	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 1st February	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Ints: Gustav Ren
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ria + Ben Stekelenburg RIP

- ❖ 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

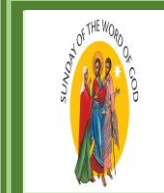
Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
 Fr Gervase Moo

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday of the Word of God

Week Commencing 25th January 2026

Dear friends, we will spend most of the time in the coming Sundays in the company of Saint Matthew. His Gospel, like the other three, has its own characteristics. Matthew is writing for a Jewish audience, and so is always at pains to stress one thing: that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. He does this by reference to Jesus' teaching and miracles, and very often by quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament to show that Jesus was their fulfilment. Today is a perfect example. "*Zebulun and Naphthali*" was an old name for the area round Capernaum by the side of the Lake of Galilee, a busy fishing and trading area, with many Gentile towns and settlements: it is here, rather than in the dangerous town of Nazareth, that Jesus "*settles*" and begins his ministry. This is where the proclamation of the Kingdom of God begins, as was foretold, and the first followers are invited to join Jesus. Peace be with you.

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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 8:23-9:3 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Matt 4:12-23) **God has a stake in our marriage.** Today, we see two aspects of God's plan for our marriage: '... *(I will make) their joy increase*' (Isaiah) and '*I will make you fishers of men*' (Matthew). God wants us to make our love for each other as close to Jesus' love for us as possible, that all whose lives we touch might experience how much God loves them.

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.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Philomena Jean Smith & Ewa Podbereska. Philomena's funeral Mass will take place here on Friday 6th February at 11.00am. Ewa's funeral Mass (Polish) will be here on Wednesday 4th February at 10.45am. The Parish community offers Philomena's & Ewa's family and friends our condolences and assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: After all Masses **next weekend (01/02/26)** a 2nd collection will be taken for **Racial Justice**. Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The Catholic Bishops' Conference has set the theme for 2026 as **"Whoever loves God must also love his brother"** (1 John 4:21):

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. With the theme, *"The word of Christ dwells among you"* (Colossians 3:16). This annual event, established by Pope Francis, encourages deeper engagement with Sacred Scripture, emphasizing the Bible's vital role in Christian life and liturgy. This day serves as a reminder that the Word of God is a living presence, not just a book, guiding faith and transforming lives

2026 CONFIRMATION COURSE: Please can Parents and Candidates who have applied for this course attend a Parents & Candidates Meeting which will be held on **Sunday 25th January 2026** in Cardinal Bourne Hall at **4.00pm**. Please bring with you your child's Baptism + First Holy Communion Certificates.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE: We are looking for volunteers and parents whose children will be attending the course to help in preparing candidates for this sacramental program. Sessions will take place each Saturday in the Church Hall. To volunteer, please contact us colchester@brcdt.org

PALM CROSSES: We would be grateful if people could bring their old palm crosses back to us so that we can make ash for our Ash Wednesday service (18th February). A basket is situated in the Church Porch for collection of these. Thank you.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE PARENTS MEETING: A meeting will take place in Cardinal Bourne hall on **Saturday 7th February at 11.00am**. All parents who have registered their child(ren) for this course must attend. If unable to attend, please let us know by email colchester@brcdt.org



MGR DAVID MANSON RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rt Rev Mgr David Manson, parish priest at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Braintree, who died suddenly on 20th December 2025. He was our Parish Priest for a short while over twenty years ago, before being moved to the Cathedral. He is still remembered by many of us for his inspiring homilies and pastoral involvement.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS: The body of Mgr David Manson will be received into the church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Braintree, at 6pm on Tuesday 27th January when Mass will be celebrated. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood at 11am on Wednesday 28th January. May he rest in peace.

LECTIO DIVINA Please note the Pope's intention for January, '*Praying with the Word of God*'. A good description of Lectio. Quite a good number came to the Advent Lection on Tuesdays at 10.15. Sunday evenings before Mass attracted a few brave souls. If you are interested in forming a monthly group, time and day to be discussed; or a weekly group in Lent, please contact Valerie at valerie.quinlivan@icloud.com or Tel: 07941903227

FILMS ON WEDNESDAY at 12.30pm in the church hall - no charge, everyone is welcome 28th Jan: 2 more episodes of The Chosen, the series portraying the life of Jesus. 4th Feb: A film, The Jesus Revolution - about the Jesus Movement among the hippies in the 1960s.

OUR LADY OF WALSLINGHAM 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

DONATIONS WINTER COATS / JACKETS (JOSIE'S KITCHEN): If anyone has a Winter coat, they no longer wear but it 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.

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.

SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE (18-25 Jul 2026): Applications are open online for this years' Lourdes pilgrimage for those in year 10 and above. You can find all information and the link to apply at www.bcys.net/events/sl26. As always, there is funding available for which we can provide advice and support. We hope to have as many different schools and parishes represented as possible so if there is any support we can give, please do get in touch.

BCCS AFTERNOON TEA: The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the **Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026** (1:30pm-3:30pm). This fundraising event promises an experience of true luxury. Tickets are £35 per person - for more info www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ or contact Julie (jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912277413).



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

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: 29/01/26: **Team 1** / Monday 02/02/6: **Team 2**
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 31/01/26: Yolande + 1 / 01/02/26: SVP