

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

Saturday 10th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Joyce Wroble RIP
Sunday 11th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Private Intention
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: Peggy Fulilwa
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Souls in Purgatory
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention
Monday 12th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Int: Jo Abraham
Tuesday 13th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mrs Joyce Wroble RIP
Wednesday 14th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Mrs Margaret Fernandes
Thursday 15th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Glen Miller
Friday 16th			Feria
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Norah Hewitt
Saturday 17th			St Antony, Ab
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Keith Johnson, Garry Williams RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Peace Day

Saturday 17th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Sunday 18th	<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>	6.30 pm	Jerome Raju RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Private Intention
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Ints: 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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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



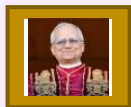
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) Week Commencing 11th January 2026

Dear friends, it may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to, the only Son of God, the Beloved. 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.

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: (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17) ***You are my chosen one.*** Today, Isaiah and Matthew talk of Jesus being 'the Chosen One' and 'the Beloved'. So often, we are aware of the times when our partner annoys us. We need to develop a sensitivity so that, when we are tempted to be critical, we remember that this is my 'chosen one' and look for ways to affirm our partner, our 'beloved'.

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 Iven, 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 Kathleen Envr (Colchester Crematorium 1.45pm on Thursday 15.01.26), Sheila Margaret Lanning (Colchester Crematorium 10.45am on Wednesday 07.01.26), Marcus Dominic Givnaovich (Colchester Crematorium 12.15am on Tuesday 20.01.26) who have all recently passed away. The Parish community offers their respective families and friends our condolences and the 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. **Amen.**

NEXT DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTIONS: There will be a collection taken at all Masses next weekend 18th + 18th January for **Pax Christi (Peace Day)**. Every year, with the support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales, Pax Christi promote Peace Sunday as a way of observing the World Day of Peace. Pope Leo's message for the World Day of Peace is "**Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming peace'**". - to read Pope Leo Message please click on the following link: - https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Pope-Leo_Messgqe-for-World-Day-of-Peace-2026.pdf Racial Justice will take place 01/02/26.

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 the hall at **4.00pm**. Please bring with you your child's Baptism + First Holy Communion Certificates.

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.

MISSIO RED BOXES: Please bring your boxes in for emptying by either handing it to a priest or if leaving the Box at the Parish Office, please ensure it is clearly labelled.

SAVE THE DATE! Later this month our diocese will host the relics of St Gerard Majella at four locations (*see poster for details*). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. 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. **Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint.**

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.

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL: Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes. In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.. Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today. **Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm** - New Hall School (CM3 3HS). For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards the church flower fund. Our church looked beautiful thanks to the Floral team and all the hard work they put into making the stunning floral arrangements. Thank you all.

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).

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: To start the week, on **Saturday 17th January at 10.00am** - Myland Churches Together are having a joint service at The Well Methodist Church, 84 Nayland Road, CO4 5ET. All welcome!

SVP DONATION BOX: With the support of compassionate people like you, the SVP stands ready to extend the helping hand of friendship to those experiencing loneliness, desperation and hardship. There is an SVP Donation box in the Church porch if you wish to make a donation to assist them in their work

SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE (18-25 Jul 2026): Applications are open online for this year's 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.

Please keep Fr Philip + his family in your prayers as he lays his father to rest.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 12/01/26: **Team 4** / Friday 23/01/26: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 18/01/26: The O'Sullivan's / 25/01/26: Peggy & Anne