

| SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)          |                    |          |                        |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>    | <i>Monkwick</i>    | 5.00 pm  | Thanksgiving (A.T)     |  |
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> | <i>Church</i>      | 8.00 am  | Robin Ragu RIP         |  |
|                                    | <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  | Terzy Oziadek          |  |
|                                    | <i>West Mersea</i> | 8.30 am  | Private Intention      |  |
|                                    | <i>Mile End</i>    | 9.30 am  | Arnoldus Tinneveld RIP |  |

|                              |               |         |                                          |  |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> |               |         | <b>Monday of the Second Week of Lent</b> |  |
|                              | <i>Church</i> | 9.30 am | Gary, Keith, Carole RIP                  |  |

|                               |               |         |                                           |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b> |               |         | <b>Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent</b> |  |
|                               | <i>Church</i> | 9.30 am | Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas       |  |
|                               | <i>Church</i> | 6.30 pm | <b>Polish Stations of the Cross</b>       |  |

|                                |               |         |                                             |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>h</sup></b> |               |         | <b>Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent</b> |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i> | 9.30 am | Canon John Bloomfield                       |  |

|                                |               |         |                                            |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b> |               |         | <b>Thursday of the Second Week of Lent</b> |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i> | 9.30 am | Ints: Nuala + Family                       |  |

|                              |                    |          |                                             |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b> |                    |          | <b>Friday of the Second Week of Lent</b>    |  |
|                              | <i>Church</i>      | 9.30 am  | Marcus Dominic Givanovich RIP               |  |
| ✠                            | <i>West Mersea</i> | 11.30 am | <b>Funeral Mass:</b> Rebecca Ann Coffey RIP |  |
|                              | <i>Church</i>      | 12.00 pm | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>                |  |
|                              | <i>Mile End</i>    | 7.00 pm  | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>                |  |

|                                |               |         |                                            |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b> |               |         | <b>Saturday of the Second Week of Lent</b> |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i> | 9.30 am | Eric Proudfoot                             |  |

| THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)       |                    |          |                             |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b> | <i>Monkwick</i>    | 5.00 pm  | Ints: Peter Mourant         |  |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>   | <i>Church</i>      | 8.00 am  | Charles Brudenell-Bruce RIP |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i>      | 10.30 am | Francesca Darby RIP         |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i>      | 2.00 pm  | Polish Mass                 |  |
|                                | <i>Church</i>      | 6.30 pm  | Private Intention           |  |
|                                | <i>West Mersea</i> | 8.30 am  | Private Intention           |  |
|                                | <i>Mile End</i>    | 9.30 am  | Ints: Mary Egeolu           |  |

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Colchester General Hospital: If you would like to arrange for a priest to visit a Catholic relative in hospital, please contact the presbytery direct on (01206 866317).

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** [colchester@brcdt.org](mailto:colchester@brcdt.org)
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@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 Moo CSSp

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Week Commencing 1<sup>ST</sup> March 2026

On Mount Tabor, Jesus offers a "divine preview" of His glory to sustain us through the coming shadows of the Cross. When we catch even a glimpse of this light in prayer or worship, our hearts experience a profound sense of peace. In those moments, everything feels clear, steady and satisfying. Naturally, we want to hold on to that feeling. Like Peter, we cry out, "Lord, it is good that we are here," longing to build permanent shelters to stay in that safe, bright place forever. However, Lent reminds us that these encounters are not meant to be hiding places; they are meant to change us. We cannot live permanently on the mountain of spiritual consolation. Real encounters with God do not remove us from life's tensions, they prepare us for them. We must eventually descend back into the "valley" of our daily responsibilities and struggles. But we do not go back alone. By carrying that satisfying light within us, we find that the true gift of the mountain is not an escape from reality, but the internal strength to face our own crosses.

Fr Philip

## PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

|                             |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>DAILY (Mon-Fri)</b>      | Rosary/Divine Mercy               | <b>at 8.45 am</b> |
| <b>DAILY</b>                | Morning Prayer                    | <b>at 9.15 am</b> |
| <b>CHRISTIAN MEDITATION</b> | Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall) | <b>at 8.00 pm</b> |



**THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: *For disarmament and peace.*** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS:** (Genesis 12:1-4a 2 Timothy 1:8-10 Matthew 17:1-9) ***Transformed by our love.*** Sometimes life is hard and we can get lost in the daily grind of making ends meet, of getting things done. Then, suddenly, a change occurs through a simple show of affection: a kiss, a touch, a loving glance from my beloved! In little gestures like these, we reveal again our love for each other and our relationship is transformed!

**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 Rebecca Ann Coffey and Guy Winter who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Rebecca's funeral Mass will be held at St Cedd & St Gregory Church, West Mersea on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am. Guys funeral mass was held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT):** This will take place every Friday in Priory Street at 12.00pm (afternoon) and 7.00pm at Mile End. **POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS (LENT):** This will take place every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in Priory Street.

**DAY OF MERCY** on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026:** 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.

**LECTIO DIVINA:** The Holy Father requests that we Pray with the Word of God. Reflection on the following Sunday's Gospel will take place **each Tuesday in Lent, In the Crypt at 10.15am (after 9.30am Mass).** info Valerie Q: 07941903227/01206 621196



**LENT FAST DAY** After all masses this weekend a collection will be taken and envelopes and donations can be placed in the collection baskets. Thank you for your support and prayers.



**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** There will be a special collection taken for the **Church Easter Flowers** on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** the monies collected will be used for the Easter floral displays in Priory Street and Mile End Churches.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE:** If any volunteer helpers from previous years' courses still have their copy of the leaders course books, please can you return these to us as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

**REPOSITORY:** There is a selection of St Patrick Day Cards & Easter Cards along with Stations of the Cross Booklets and children's coloring book for sale in Church porch.

**NEW MASS BOOKS FOR THE CHURCH (Year A, Part 2):** We are gradually having to replace all the parishioners' Mass books (*these are the Mass books on each of the benches in Church*). Parishioners may like to take this opportunity to sponsor new books as each Mass book costs £5.95 (*we will need a minimum of 300 books to cover all Parish Churches*). If you would like to donate towards the Church Mass books, then please contact the parish office or put your donation in an envelope marked New Mass books. However big or small your donation it all helps! Our thanks to those who have donated so far.

**WEDNESDAY FILM CLUB:** Next screening in Cardinal Bourne Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm. No charge, all welcome. This week the film is *"Henry Poole Is Here"*, a comedy about a miracle happening to a man who thinks he doesn't want one. The following week we shall continue with two more episodes of The Chosen.

**SAVE THE DATE! International Day:** This will take place Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 in Cardinal Bourne Hall (organised by the SVP). The event will be celebrating Easter around the World. If you would like to bake or bring foods from your country of origin, please contact Tel: 07493 439427/email: [colchestersvp@gmail.com](mailto:colchestersvp@gmail.com) and advise.

**THANKSGIVING MASS FOR JOHN MCCORMACK, CHAIR OF BRENTWOOD GUILD OF ST STEPHEN:** On Saturday 25 April 2026 at St Joseph The Worker, Hutton at 11:30am. Presiding: Fr Gary Dench, Brentwood Director of Liturgy. All servers are welcome. John asks for RSVPs by Sunday 12 April 2026. RSVP [johnmccormack528@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccormack528@gmail.com)

**THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK:** On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30pm. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026:** Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall at 7.30pm. The theme this year is: *"What does it truly mean to be Catholic?"* This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

- **Talk 2.** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm
- **Talk 3.** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

**Talk 4.** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026:** Join Bishop Alan & other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. Please see poster in church + coach list will be put out shortly.

**SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE:** The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England & Wales. The experience will run from 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 yrs old, but priority will be given to those in their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year at university. **Applications close on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.** If interested-[KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**ST PATRICKS' CELEBRATION** on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 7.00pm** at St Teresa's School, Lexden. Please join us for music, Irish dancers + food to celebrate St Patrick's Day! Tickets: Adults £15; Children (*under 14*) £5; Family £35 (*2 x Adults/2 x Children*) this includes a hot meal and dessert. There will be a bar, raffle, and music. For tickets: Paula Light 07718088834.

**CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Thursday 05/03/26: Team 1 / Monday 09/03/26: Team 2**

**COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 01/03/26: Peggy & Anne / 08/03/26: Yolande + 1**