

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Week Commencing 8TH March 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)			
Saturday 7 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Peter Maurant
Sunday 8 th	Church	8.00 am	Charles Brudenell-Bruce RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Francesca Darby RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Mary Egeolu
Monday 9 th	Monday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Joyce Wrobel RIP
Tuesday 10 th	Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 11 th	Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Thursday 12 th	Thursday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Bridget Lloyd
Friday 13 th	Friday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Delina RIP
	Church	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
	Mile End	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 14 th	Saturday of the Third Week of Lent		
	Church	9.30 am	Carole, Debra, Keith, Marion RIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) 'Laetare' Sunday			
Saturday 14 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Allan Joyce RIP
Sunday 15 th	Church	8.00 am	Ray & Christine Nock RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Guy Wynter RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners

- ❖ 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
- **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!

Dear friends, our reading from Exodus shows the Jewish people in their wanderings in the wilderness having fled from Egypt. However, they are now complaining, and Moses has to intercede for them before God. St Paul reminds us in the second reading that we have all received God's love and grace through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The Gospel of this third Sunday of Lent presents the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well. The theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Supposing our Parish does not have any candidates (thankfully, we have) preparing for Baptism, we will all renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift. 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



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: (Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42) Find our 'living water'. Jesus' message to the woman at the well reminds us of His first miracle at Cana where He changed water into wine. Today, He promises us "living water where we will never be thirsty again...a spring inside...welling up to eternal life". When His grace is poured into us, into our marriages, it can overflow, strengthening us, reaching out to others.

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 Teresa Sanchez-Infante and Iolanda Anzalone 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. Iolanda's funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday 31st March at 11.00am. 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:** This will take place every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in Priory Street.

DAY OF MERCY on **Friday 20th 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



SPECIAL COLLECTION: There will be a special collection taken for the **Church Easter Flowers** on **Sunday 22nd March** the monies collected will be used for the Easter floral displays in Priory Street and Mile End Churches and a collection will be taken at **Monkwick on Saturday 14th March at the 5pm vigil Mass.**

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.

SAVE THE DATE! INTERNATIONAL DAY: This will take place **Sunday 12th 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 and advise.

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 1st Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm. No charge, all are welcome. The following week we shall continue with two more episodes of The Chosen.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM 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

EASTER FUNDAY: This **Easter Monday, 6th April, 10am to 2pm**, come and join the Knights of Saint Columba for an Easter Egg hunt and family Funday. This will take place at St Teresa's, Lexden, with fun for all the family. All children will receive an Easter Egg. £4 entry for children (adults free). For more details please call George on 074767818885.

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

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 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr. Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm. **Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March.** Rev Msgr. John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 23rd 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE & CO. MAYO LED BY BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS: **Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026.** 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price of £799.00 per person. Package includes Return flight from London Stansted – 10kg check in bag. 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single room supplement ?250.00. Maximum 3. Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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 21st – 26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 yrs old, but priority will be given to those in their 1st or 2nd year at university. **Applications close on the 6th April.** If interested-KeziaH@svp.org.uk

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.

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 09/03/26: Team 2 / Monday 16/03/26: Team 3

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 08/03/26: Yolande + 1 / 15/03/26: SVP