

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)				'Laetare' Sunday
Saturday 14th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Allan Joyce RIP	
Sunday 15th	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	
Monday 16th			Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent	
	Church	9.30 am	Patricia Urquhart RIP	
Tuesday 17th			St Patrick, B. Patron Saint of Ireland	
	Church	9.30 am	Francesca Darby RIP	
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross	
Wednesday 18th			Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent	
	Church	9.30 am	Michael Ngwoke RIP	
Thursday 19th			ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
	Church	9.30 am	Matthew Davis RIP	
	Mile End	7.00 pm	Private Intention	
Friday 20th			Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent	
Day of Mercy	Church	9.30 am	Guy Wynter RIP	
	Church	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
	Mile End	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 21st			Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent	
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Gary Williams RIP	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)				
Saturday 21st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Allan Joyce RIP	
Sunday 22nd	Church	8.00 am	Guy Wynter RIP	
	Church	10.30 am	Parishioners	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Int: Isobel Healey	

- ❖ 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

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA: If facing difficulty, need help to Mass or general assistance, please contact the KSC on 07476781885.

 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

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Week Commencing 15TH March 2026

Today, Jesus restores the sight of a blind man. At first, it seems to be simply a miracle of physical healing, but the story goes much deeper. It is really about another kind of blindness: the blindness of the heart. The man who could not see gradually comes to recognize who Jesus is. His eyes are opened, but so is his faith. Meanwhile, those who thought they could see clearly, especially the Pharisees, fail to recognize the presence of God standing before them. This reminds us that spiritual sight begins with humility. Before we can receive God's light, we must first admit that we need it. When we acknowledge our weakness, our imperfections, and even our sin, we open the door for Christ to heal us. In a special way, this Gospel echoes the meaning of Baptism. Just as the blind man washed in the pool and received sight, we too were given new sight when we were baptized into Christ. During this Lenten season, we pray simply: Lord, help us to see, to see you more clearly and to follow you more faithfully.

Fr Philip

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: (1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1, 6-9,13-17, 34-38) ***Stop and see, be aware.*** God was aware of David's adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah's wife, and how he arranged Uriah's murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business 'cover ups' in today's world, it's important to 'stop and see' – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don't be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

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 soul of Iolanda Anzalone who has recently passed away. The parish community offers Iolanda's 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 she 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.



MOTHERS DAY BLESSING: Lord God, we pray for all Mothers, Guardians & Caregivers everywhere. May those with children feel appreciated. May those grieving empty arms be comforted. May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life be held in the loving grace of God. Amen.

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



WASHING OF FEET- MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER AT 8.00PM (Maundy Thursday- 2nd April 2026). The washing of the feet imitates Jesus' act of love for His "twelve" on the night before He died, this ritual signifies their participation in Christ's mission of love and service to one another and to those in need. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the washing of feet list in Church Porch – 12 volunteers needed.

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

WEDNESDAY FILM CLUB: Please see notice in Church porch for next film screenings. No charge, all are welcome.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK: Please see below or Posters in Church porch.

Parish of St James the Less and St Helen			
HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026			
Monday 30 th March	9.30 am	Mass & Confessions	Priory Street
Tuesday 31 st March	9.30 am	Mass	Priory Street
Spy Wednesday 1 st April	8.30 am	Mass	Priory Street
EASTER TRIDUUM			
2nd April:	9.30 am 8.00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching until Midnight	Priory Street Priory Street
3rd April:	9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm 12.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Children's Stations of Cross Liturgy of the Passion of The Lord Stations of Cross	Priory Street Priory Street Priory Street Mile End
4th April:	9.30 am 5.00 pm 8.00 pm	HOLY SATURDAY [NO CONFESSIONS] Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Solemn Vigil of Easter	Priory Street Monkwick Priory Street
5th April:		EASTER SUNDAY (THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD) Masses at usual Sunday times	
6th April:	10:00 am	EASTER MONDAY Mass	Priory Street

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.**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: On Saturday 23rd May 2026: Join Bishop Alan and 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. If you would like to come and to reserve a seat on the coach, please contact Linda or add your name to the list in church porch - Coach Tickets will cost £23.00 per seat and this is payable in advance!

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. Everyone welcome!

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 07476781885.



* **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

VACANCIES WITHIN DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: Education School vacancies please see the link: - <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM: Monday 16/03/26: Team 3 / Monday 23/03/26: Team 4
COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 15/03/26: SVP / 22/03/26: Matthew + Mariamma