

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
Monday 23rd	Church	9.30 am	Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent Anniversary: Joe Singleton RIP
Tuesday 24th	Church	9.30 am	Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent Joyce Wrobel RIP
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 25th	Church	9.30 am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Thursday 26th	Church	9.30 am	Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent Anniversary: Ricardo Inao RIP
Friday 27th	Church	9.30 am	Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent Canon John Bloomfield
	Church	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
	Mile End	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 28th	Church	9.30 am	Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent Ints: Daniel Chennattu
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)			
Saturday 28th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Mrs Chinaelo Anolue RIP
Sunday 29th	Church	8.00 am	Ints: Christopher Brown + Family
	Church	10.30 am	Guy Wynter RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention



- ❖ 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

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Week Commencing 22nd March 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Gospel of this 5th Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith that the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds – what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself. 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: (Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45) The Lord will lead us back together. Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

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 Angelo Sancassani, Christine Rosina Wyer and Iolanda Anzalone who have all recently passed away. The parish community offers Angelo's, Christine's + 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. Christine's funeral service will be at St Theodore Church on Thursday 9th April at 12.15pm. Angelo's funeral details are to be advised. 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.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: There will be a special collection taken for the **Church Easter Flowers** after all masses this weekend at Priory Street & Mile End Churches, with the monies collected being used for the Churches Easter floral displays.

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.

SOUP & A ROLL: There will be homemade soup and a roll in the hall after 10.30am mass on Palm Sunday – this is in aid of our 3 young people who will be going to Lourdes this year. Please email or sign the form at the back of the church. We kindly ask that you support them on this fundraiser.

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!

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026: Last few copies available at £3.20 per copy.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK: Please see below or posters in Church porch+ Noticeboard.

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 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 Easter Cards along with Stations of the Cross Booklets and children's coloring books, Rosary's etc., along with CTS booklets for sale in Church porch – please leave monies for these in the Repository wall box.

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 kindly donated so far.**

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

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.

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



* **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

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 23/03/26: **Team 4** / Friday 03/04/26: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING ROTA: 22/03/26: Frances + 1 / 29/03/26: African Community