

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)				
Saturday 2nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	John Dolomore RIP	
Sunday 3rd	Church	8.00 am	Ints: May Imbert	
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Maureen McElroy	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Emilie Agyei RIP	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention	

Monday 4th			THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Mm
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Mrs Joyce Wrobel RIP
Tuesday 5th			Tuesday of Fifth week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	1 st Year Anniversary: Sijo Jose RIP
Wednesday 6th			St John Payne, Pr, M
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Val Joseph
Thursday 7th			Thursday of Fifth week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Rita Porter RIP
Friday 8th			Friday of Fifth week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Jack + Olivia
Saturday 9th			Saturday of Fifth week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Debbie + Keithe RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)				
Saturday 9th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Heavenly Birthday: Mary Davies RIP	
Sunday 10th	Church	8.00 am	10 th Anniversary: Athene Jones RIP	
	Church	10.30 am	Maria Latacz RIP	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Guy Wynter RIP	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners	

- ❖ For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please email or contact our parish office.
- ❖ Baptism Godparents: A Godparent must be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. You only need one Godparent.
- ❖ Marriage Preparation: Please be aware that 6 months' notice of intention for Marriage is required especially if marrying outside the Parish. Thank you.
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturdays after 9.30am Mass (Priory Street) to 10.30am; after 5.00pm Mass at Monkwick; And by appointment.
- ❖ 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; Suggested Stipend £10 a mass.
- **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 in need of assistance or a member of another Council and looking for a meeting please call 07476781885.

 **CUPPA CLUB:** We 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



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
 Fr Gervase Moo

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Week Commencing 3rd May 2026

In the first reading, we see a turning point in the life of the early Church. A problem arises: some widows are being overlooked in the daily distribution. The apostles realise that the community cannot grow if people are neglected. So, they choose seven men and entrust them with this responsibility. This marks the beginning of what we now call the diaconate. The word "deacon" means servant. It is not about position or honour, but about care and responsibility. These men were chosen to notice needs and respond with love. From this small step, the Church continued to grow. Different ministries developed, all rooted in service. The Church is strongest when everyone plays a part. This speaks to us today. We may not all be ordained, but each of us has a role to play. Whether as ushers, choristers, cleaners, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, priests, catechists, or those who quietly support the life of the Parish, every service matters. We are all called, in our own way, to serve and to build up the Church. Every small act of service matters.

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
LECTIO DIVINA- In Church Crypt	1 st Wednesday of each Month (Starting on 6 th May, then 3 rd June, 1 st July etc.,).	at 10.15 am



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: *That everyone might have food.* Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 6:1-7 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12). ***I am in you and you are in me.*** Jesus says, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father". In our married life, through the visible sign of the way we love each other, when people meet one of us we can be a sign that 'when seeing me, you see the one I love, in me and with me', thus emulating Jesus' relationship with His Father.

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, Sean Brennan, Nicollas and Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need.

NEXT SECOND COLLECTION: World Communications Day will be on Sunday, 17 May 2026. This year's theme is: *Preserving Human Voices and Faces*. In today's communication ecosystems, technology influences interactions more than ever before – from algorithms curating news feeds to AI authoring entire texts and conversations. *Dicastery for Communication* You can read Pope Leo's message <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leos-message-for-world-communications-day-2026/>

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. - **Coach Tickets selling fast only 5 seats remaining – the cost is £23.00 per seat. Those who have reserved seats please use envelopes and pay ASAP – No money will be taken on the day!**

BENEFIT CONCERT ON SATURDAY 23rd MAY from 7.30^{pm} to 10.00^{pm}: The parish will be holding a fundraising concert with quiz to raise money towards covering the costs of our 3 young people going to Lourdes. Please bring a picnic + drinks and come and support us. There will be a raffle and if anyone can donate anything please email Claire at stressedclaire45@gmail.com. No tickets required but donations accepted.

LECTIO DIVINA: New Monthly Group in the Crypt on the first Wednesday of each month, starts at 10.15^{am} (*after the 9.30^{am} Mass*). Beginning May 6th, then June 3rd, July 1st etc. Further info. Valerie 07941903227.

KSC ROSARY CRUSADE MAY 2026: Please join the KSC on the following dates for the annual May Rosary Crusade. Each one will be after the Mass time listed in brackets. 3rd May - St Teresas Lexden (9^{am}), **10th May - St Joseph's Mile End (9:30^{am})**, **17th May - St James the Less and St Helen Priory Street (10:30^{am})**, 24th May - St John Payne Greenstead (9^{am}), 31st May - St Teresas Lexden (9^{am}). For more details please contact Michael on 07592 031588 or see the poster in the Church Porch.

REPOSITORY: Various cards, rosaries and assorted items are available in the Repository. Please leave money for purchases in the Repository wall box. Thank you.

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! So far, we have received donations totaling **£421.00** towards the **£1,495.00** cost of books. **Our thanks to those who have kindly donated so far.**

GIFT AID DRIVE: This has been postponed to June '26 – details to follow in due course.

WEDNESDAY FILM GROUP: Film screenings will take place on **the 1st Wednesday of each month** commencing at 12.00^{pm} in Cardinal Bourne Hall. All are welcome.

PAINTERS + DECORATORS: We are looking for qualified painters and decorators for work to be done in the Clergy house. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer or know someone who is qualified and can give us a quote. Thank you.



OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM STATUE: From June 2026- 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

FEAST DAY OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT on Saturday 16th May (Clacton-on-Sea): The day begins with a walking procession on the sea front at 10.00^{am}. Bishop Alan will preside at the Mass at 11.00^{am}. Those attending are invited to bring flowers to place at the Shrine during the Penitential Rite. A reception will be held afterwards in the Parish Hall. If you would like to attend the Mass, please email clacton@brcdt.org by 2nd May.

KSC SOUTHERN PROVINCES AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE 2026: Join us for our annual pilgrimage to Aylesford on **Sunday the 28th of June**. Bring a picnic and enjoy the wonderful grounds following Mass in the open-air shrine to St Simon Stock with the Carmelite friars. In the afternoon there will be a rosary procession. For more information please call Justin on 07540 050814.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026: There are copies of the directory available in the Church porch – these are very useful as they contain the liturgical calendar for the church year and information about all parts of the Diocese including Diocesan contact details, parishes, schools, prayer groups and other organisations and societies. Price **reduced to £2.50 per copy**. Please leave money in Repository box on wall in Church Porch.

KSC ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK FOR BCCS: On the 23rd of May at 10^{am} please join the Knights of St Columba on their annual sponsored walk in aid of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Donation can be made at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/team/ksc-colchester-walkers> Any questions please contact Gary on 07913 608472

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK: Please pray for all those living out the vocation to marriage and couples preparing to marry. Support is available for those who need it, and your Fr Philip can point you in the right direction. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish know so that you can be invited to the **Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th July**.

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP, SUMMER 2026. Applications are now open for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. Details <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly – early applications are encouraged.

CHURCH CLEANING: Friday 08/05/26: **Team 5** / Thursday 14/05/26: **Team 1**

COFFEE MORNING: 03/05/26: SVP / **10/05/26:** Matthew + Mariamma