

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)			Divine Mercy Sunday
Saturday 11 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ray O'Neill RIP
Sunday 12 th	Church	8.00 am	Private Intention
	Church	10.30 am	In Thanksgiving for all Parish volunteers
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Birthday Ints: Donat, Dominica, Rafal
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Bernard Wilson RIP
Monday 13 th			Monday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Deceased Relatives of Bell's Family
Tuesday 14 th			Tuesday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Anniversary: Teresa Farrugia RIP
Wednesday 15 th			Wednesday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Mrs Osita B. Brusola
Thursday 16 th			Thursday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Unborn Children
Friday 17 th			Friday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: John + Elizabeth Winthrop
Saturday 18 th			Saturday of Second week of Easter
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Debbie Shales RIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)			
Saturday 18 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Monica Wood RIP
Sunday 19 th	Church	8.00 am	Int: Maria Wilczak
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	12.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	George Downes RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Tony Weekes RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Private Intention
❖ 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 <u>6 months' notice</u> 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@brocdt.org ➤ SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society): Tel: 07493 439427/email: colchestersvp@gmail.com			
 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 <u>like</u> and <u>follow</u> 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Week Commencing 12th April 2026

Dear friends, today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives us a glimpse of how the early Christian communities lived – everything was held in common for the good of all. This Sunday has also been designated “*Divine Mercy Sunday*”, a special day when we give thanks to God for all that we have received from him. St Peter reminds us that in ***His Great Mercy, God*** has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters through the death and resurrection of Christ. The Gospel concludes with Jesus appearing to His disciples and then coming back a second time when Thomas was present. In his doubt, Thomas represents each of us, he represents all those who have ***not physically seen the Lord***. His great acclamation – “*My Lord and my God*” – is the confirmation which we all need that what we have been told did in fact take place. Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead – he is our Lord and God. Often people forget that Easter is not just a day, but a season - the longest in the Church's year, in fact! We are given fifty glorious days of Spring and Summer to prolong our baptismal joy, fifty glorious days of basking in the light of the risen Saviour. This Sunday we are with the disciples in the Upper Room, where eight days after the Resurrection Jesus comes among them - as he comes among us. 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 APRIL: FOR PRIESTS IN CRISIS
Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31) **Together.** Our 'togetherness' in what we do and say is a 'sign' of our love and a source of joy for us. Sometimes, like Thomas, we can be stubborn, with an attitude of 'I'll believe it when I see it' creating a sense of separation and distance. But together we have the power to stop, reflect, be forgiven, and begin again.

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 and Steven Richard Rogers who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers Angelo's + Steven's, family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Angelo's funeral service will held at St James the Less & St Helen Church on Wednesday 29th April at 12.00pm with reception into church on Tuesday 28th at 4.15pm. Steven's funeral service will be held here on Thursday 23rd April at 11.30am with reception into church on Wednesday 22nd April at 4.00pm. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER is celebrated throughout the Universal Church as Divine Mercy Sunday. This Feast was instituted by St Pope John Paul II in 2000. The Feast is a recognition of the greatness of God's Mercy as told to the world by Our Lord through a young Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905 –1938).

MESSAGE FROM FR PHILIP & FR GERVASE: We hope you enjoyed the Easter break and spending time with your loved ones. Please accept our thanks for your kind generosity by way of the clergy collection and cards, chocolate received. Our gratitude to all of you who, in any way, made our Easter celebrations run so smoothly. Thank you.



THANK YOU: Thanks to all our volunteers who have contributed generously with the preparation of the church and grounds for Easter and throughout the year. This includes welcomers, readers, altar servers, extraordinary ministers, organists, choir, counters, cleaners, floral teams, altar linen, garden maintenance and everyone who has helped. May the peace of Christ be with you and your families.

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 add your name to the list in church porch - Coach Tickets will cost £23.00 per seat and this is **payable in advance!**

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

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.**

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

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 10.00am. Bishop Alan will preside at the Mass at 11.00am. 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.

THE LEGACY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: As we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis (3rd October 1226), Fr Alban McCoy OFM Con will speak about how Francis changed the Church of his day and can help us to renew the Church in our own times. The event will take place in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from 11.00am until 1.00pm on Saturday 2nd May. Everyone welcome to this free event, in person or by live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org No booking necessary.

NEXT SESSION OF MARANATHA will be in the parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury, 16 East Thurrock Road, Grays, RM17 6SR on Thursday 16th April at 7pm Led by Fr. Paschal Uche. Join us for a joyful evening of praise and worship followed by Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards.

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. Activities include archery, fishing, Aquapark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details are at <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly – early applications are encouraged.

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. Thank you.



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

GIFT- AID SUBSCRIBERS: Box sets are laid out in alphabetical order by church entrance.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CHURCH CLEANING: Mon 13/04/26: **Team 2** / Monday 20/04/26: **Team 3**

COFFEE MORNING: 12/04/26: The O'Sullivan's / 19/04/26: Peggy & Anne