

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Saturday 18th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Monica Wood RIP
Sunday 19th	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
Monday 20th	Church	9.30 am	Monday of Third week of Easter Margaret Murray
Tuesday 21st	Church	9.30 am	Tuesday of Third week of Easter Ints: John + Elizabeth Winthrop
Wednesday 22nd	Church	9.30 am	Wednesday of Third week of Easter Brian McKeeney RIP
	Church	4.00 pm	RECEPTION INTO CHURCH: Steven Rogers RIP
Thursday 23rd	Church	9.30 am	ST GEORGE, M Sidney Finch Castell + Rose Jane Castell
	Church	11.30 am	Funeral Mass: Steven Richard Rogers RIP
Friday 24th	Church	9.30 am	St Mellitus, Bp Engr D-V. Onimowo RIP
Saturday 25th	Church	9.30 am	ST MARK, Ev The Souls in Purgatory (Anna)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)			
Saturday 25th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Hanna Kerridge
Sunday 26th	Church	8.00 am	Bernard Kelly RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Angelo Sancassani RIP
	Church	12.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Int: Thanksgiving Pauline Onojobi

- ❖ 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



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



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Week Commencing 19th April 2026

The disciples were walking away from Jerusalem with heavy hearts, trying to make sense of a world that felt like it had fallen apart. They were wrestling with disappointment, talking in circles about the "what ifs" of Jesus' death. Then, a stranger joins them and enters into their conversation. As they walk, Jesus gently begins to retell their own story through the lens of the Scriptures, showing them that their greatest heartbreak was actually the beginning of God's greatest victory. Suddenly, their hearts start to glow; they feel a warmth they can't quite explain. It isn't until the "breaking of the bread" that the scales finally fall from their eyes. They realize that the Word they heard prepared them for the Presence they now see. It's a beautiful reminder for us: when we let the Word of God truly stir our hearts, we don't just see bread on the altar, we see Jesus. And if we let our hearts open to God's prompting, we will recognise him in our daily life.

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 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 2:14, 22-28 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35) **How well do we listen to each other?** As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief. An important part of our relationship is listening. We may disagree with our partner's thoughts and judgments but they are part of who this person is. We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.

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.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Angelo Sancassani who has recently passed away. The parish community offers Angelo'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. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

NEXT SECOND COLLECTION: World Day of Prayer for Vocations (April 26, 2026): Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Easter (*Good Shepherd Sunday*). Pope Leo XIV's theme focuses on *"The interior discovery of God's gift"* and encourages returning to interiority in vocational ministry. Vocations Sunday is a gentle invitation to pause and listen for God's voice. We believe that God calls each and every one of us, and that deep peace, contentment, and joy are found in responding to that call. There will be a 2nd collection taken for Promotion of Vocations next Sunday 26th April.

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!**

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.



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

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 £347.00 towards the £1,495.00 cost of books. **Our thanks to those who have kindly donated so far.**

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.

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.

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.

TREE SURGEON: if any parishioners are tree surgeons or know of any reputable Tree Surgeons - can you contact us at colchester@brcdt.org or pass their contact details to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.

PARISH INTERNATIONAL DAY: Thank you to the SVP for organising this event and to everyone who attended – it was a great success with good food and company enjoyed by all. Photo's are on our Facebook page.

GIFT-AID SUBSCRIBERS: Please can you collect your new box sets from the church.

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: Monday 20/04/26: **Team 3** / Monday 27/04/26: **Team 4**

COFFEE MORNING: 19/04/26: Peggy & Anne / 26/04/26: Yolande + 1