

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)				
Saturday 25 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Ints: Hanna Kerridge	
Sunday 26 th	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	
Monday 27 th			Monday of Fourth week of Easter	
	Church	9.30 am	Souls in Purgatory (BR)	
Tuesday 28 th			Tuesday of Fourth week of Easter	
	Church	9.30 am	Rev. L. Matthews	
✠	Church	4.15 pm	Reception into Church: Angelo Sancassani RIP	
Wednesday 29 th			ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, v, D	
	Church	9.30 am	Bishop Michael RIP	
✠	Church	12.00 pm	Funeral Mass: Angelo Sancassani RIP	
Thursday 30 th			Thursday of Fourth week of Easter	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Roberts Family	
Friday 1 st May 2026			Friday of Fourth week of Easter	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Juliana Idris Onimowo	
Saturday 2 nd			St Atanasius, Bp, D	
	Church	9.30 am	Gary Williams + Keith Johnson RIP	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)				
Saturday 2 nd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	John Dolomore RIP	
Sunday 3 rd	Church	8.00 am	Ints: May Imbert	
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Maureen McElroy	
	Church	12.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Emilie Agyei RIP	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention	
	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@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

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Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
Fr Gervase Moo

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Week Commencing 26th April 2026

Dear friends, the readings for this Sunday show us the beginnings of Peter's preaching, surrounded by the other apostles. They came out from hiding to proclaim the good news of the Gospel: *"God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."* The response was immediate: "What should we do?" People were moved by Peter's preaching. Many were baptized. For them, it truly was *"the joy of the Gospel."* Once you have embraced it, nothing can ever be the same again. This Sunday is traditionally called **'Good Shepherd Sunday'**, because of the Gospel references to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is also the day of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. On this Sunday we hear one of the great *'I am'* statements of Jesus from Saint John's Gospel today *'I am the gate of the sheepfold'*. Through Jesus we enter into life and safety, and we *'go through Jesus, the gate'* by baptism. This image is implied in all today's readings: the people listening to Peter find this gateway and enter through it: Peter writes to remind us that we have come back to the Good Shepherd, who heals us by his wounds. 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
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, 36-41 1 Peter 2:20-25 John 10:1-10) **Feeding your sheep.** John 10:10 describes us as 'sheep'. God watches over and feeds us with his Word, and in the Eucharist. With God's help we have created a few more sheep, so we pray for His help, read books, use the internet to protect our children from the harm done by the 'media' and many of today 'addictions'. That's being good shepherds.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION: World Day of Prayer for Vocations. 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 after all Masses this weekend.

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. Can all those who have reserved seats and not yet paid – please use envelopes and pay ASAP.**

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.

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.**

GIFT-AID AWARENESS DRIVE will be held on 2nd & 3rd May 2026.

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 £379.00 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.

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.

20TH ANNUAL MASS FOR MIGRANTS on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May 2026, at St Antony of Padua Catholic Church: This year, the Mass is hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood. Celebrated for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the Mass is prepared by the Caritas and Ethnic Chaplaincies of the three dioceses and gives thanks for the contributions made to faith, life and work in the UK by all those who have come from other countries to make their home here. Please do come along and bring the family, whether you are from a migrant background or not; **all are welcome!** It is a joyful and celebratory occasion, providing a wonderful chance to embrace our communities. Everyone is invited to wear their national dress.

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 Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) from **11.00am until 1.00pm on Sat 2nd May.** All welcome www.whatgoodnews.org

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. Details <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly – early applications are encouraged.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA): Be part of something extraordinary at World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world, gathered with Pope Leo for this global celebration of faith. Open to those currently in Year 13 and above. Details + applications: www.bcys.net/events/wyd27

CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 27/04/26: **Team 4** / Friday 08/05/26: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING: 26/04/26: Yolande + 1 / 03/05/26: SVP