

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) World Communications Day

Saturday 16th	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 17th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	1st Anniversary: Antonio Jo RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Joseph, C.T RIP
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Amanda Louise Harris RIP
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Private Intention

Monday 18th			Monday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ginette Pasnin RIP

Tuesday 19th			Tuesday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Dora Omize Onimowo

Wednesday 20th			Wednesday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Ints: Paul Borow

Thursday 21st			Thursday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Augustine Robinson RIP

Friday 22nd			Friday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Augustine Robinson RIP

Saturday 23rd			Saturday of Seventh Week of Easter
	<i>Church</i>	9.30 am	Rimantas Masaiis RIP

PENTECOST (A)

Saturday 23rd	<i>Monkwick</i>	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 24th	<i>Church</i>	8.00 am	Maria Nila Tavera + Anna Liza Cagadas RIP
	<i>Church</i>	10.30 am	Ints: James O'Toole
	<i>Church</i>	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	<i>Church</i>	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	<i>West Mersea</i>	8.30 am	Parishioners
	<i>Mile End</i>	9.30 am	Vivien Clancy RIP



- ❖ 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 you need help, 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



St James the Less & St Helen

Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
Fr Gervase Moo

Address: 51 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)



World Communications Day
Week Commencing 17th May 2026

As we stand between the Ascension we celebrated on Thursday and the Pentecost, the Church places us in a special moment of waiting and prayer. Like the first disciples gathered in the upper room, we too are invited to wait with hope, trusting that God is preparing our hearts for something greater. The disciples stayed together in prayer after Jesus returned to the Father. In that time of waiting, they discovered strength being together and confidence in God's presence. The same invitation is given to us today. These days call us to grow closer to God and closer to one another. Sometimes we may not fully understand where God is leading us, but the Ascension reminds us that Christ has not abandoned His Church. He remains with us and continues to guide us through the Holy Spirit. As we move towards Pentecost, let us open our hearts in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to renew our faith, deepen our unity, and fill us with courage and peace.

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	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: *The Ascension (Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matt 28:16-20)* Filled with hope. Today's readings tell us of the end and the beginning of something new and exciting in the life of the young Church. When we married, we were filled with both excitement and trepidation for our future together. But like the disciples, the Spirit of the risen Lord has been with us since we became "Little Church" on our wedding day.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Margaret E, Jimmy Clarin, Edwina Pastor, J Brian Critchley, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irlen, 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 Frances Vivenne Fergus who recently passed away. The parish community offers France's family & friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Frances's funeral service will take place at St Cedd + St Gregory Church, W. Mersea on Monday 1st June at 11.00am.

SECOND COLLECTION: A second collection will be taken for World Communications Day at all Masses this weekend. 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 3 seats remaining! – the cost is £23.00 per seat, please use the envelope to put in your fare asap. Please tick the list by your name, if you are unable to walk the Holy Mile and a seat will be reserved for you on the mobility bus.**

BENEFIT CONCERT ON SATURDAY 23rd MAY from 7.30pm to 10.00pm: 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 10.15am (*after the 9.30am Mass*). The next group meeting will be held on 3rd June followed by 1st July etc. Further info. Valerie 07941903227.

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 £755.00 towards the £1,495.00 cost of books.*** Our thanks to those who have kindly donated so far.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION: Our Confirmation candidates will be making their Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 24th May (*Pentecost Sunday*) during the 10.30am Mass. God bless you on your Confirmation Day and may the Holy Spirit guide you.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA: The next Procession is on Saturday 13th June at 4.00pm followed by mass in Polish + Rosary.

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.

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

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. **17th May - St James the Less and St Helen Priory Street (10:30am)**, 24th May - St John Payne Greenstead (9am), 31st May - St Teresas Lexden (9am). For more details please contact Michael on 07592 031588 or see the poster in the Church Porch.

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.

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**.

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, emptied boxes also collected from here.

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.

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CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 18/05/26: Team 2 / Monday 25/05/26: Team 3

COFFEE MORNING: 17/05/26: African Community / 24/05/26: Diane + Adrian