

PENTECOST (A)

Saturday 23rd	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 24th	Church	8.00 am	Maria Nila Tavera + Anna Liza Cagadas RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: James O'Toole
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Vivien Clancy RIP
Monday 25th			Mary, Mother of the Church
	Church	9.30 am	Int: Val Joseph
Tuesday 26th			St Philip Neri, Pr
	Church	9.30 am	Mr. K V Augustine RIP
Wednesday 27th			ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
	Church	9.30 am	Int: Josie
Thursday 28th			OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNALHIGH PRIEST
	Church	9.30 am	Catherine Lee RIP
Friday 29th			Friday of Week Eight in Ordinary Time
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Ms. Sally Power
Saturday 30th			THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	Church	9.30 am	Debbie Shales + Carole Conway
			THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A) Day for Life
Saturday 30th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Giovanni Eugenia Demeck RIP
Sunday 31st	Church	8.00 am	Ginette Pasnin RIP
	Church	10.30 am	Ints: Thushyantha
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Barry Fitzgerald 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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Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester



PENTECOST (A)

Week Commencing 24th May 2026

Dear friends, we have arrived at the fiftieth day - the completion of the Easter Season, and the completion of the Paschal Mystery: the Lord has died, is risen, has ascended to heaven and now gives birth to his Church, by sending the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and of the effect it had on them. For the second reading, there are many gifts given by this Holy Spirit but that we are all one in Christ and must continue his work now that we have received the Holy Spirit. This feast of the gift of the Spirit is so significant for us, because it marks the handing on of Jesus's ministry to the Church - in the Church we are guaranteed the presence of the Lord, in his sacraments, in his ministers, in the Blessed Sacrament and in his Celebrated Word. It also marks the fulfilment of our thoughts about baptism throughout this season: the gift of the Spirit which we receive in Confirmation is the 'seal' of our baptism, guaranteeing and confirming all that baptism achieves. 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 Month – 3 rd June	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 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23) *The Spirit works in all sorts of different ways.* Years ago, on a Marriage Encounter weekend, we had a real experience of the Spirit working "in all sorts of different ways in different people", not in Church documents, but in real life. We were like the disciples at Pentecost, "filled with joy when they saw the Lord", and we heard our own native language, deep inside each of us.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Margaret E, Margaret Brooks, Jimmy Clarin, Edwina Pastor, J Brian Critchley, Ron & Margaret Griffin, Margaret Hawkins, Valerie Thurston, Grace McCartney, Diana Irven, 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 Isobel "*Bel*" Teresa Healy & Frances Vivienne Fergus who have both recently passed away. The parish community offers their respective family & friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Isobel's reception into church will be on Wednesday 24th June at 4.00_{pm} and funeral service on Thursday 25th June at 11.30_{am} at St James the Less. Frances's funeral service will take place at St Cedd + St Gregory Church, W. Mersea on Monday 1st June at 11.00_{am}. May they rest in peace, Amen.

NEXT DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS: Sick & Retired Clergy Fund on 7th June and Day for Life on 21st June.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to all the candidates who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation today and to all their families who continue to nurture and guide them on their faith and life journey! Thank you to our catechists for your support in guiding our children to this beautiful sacrament and for all your hard work.



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 these books.** Our thanks to those who have kindly donated so far.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROCESSION: The next Procession will take place on Saturday 13th June at 4.00_{pm} followed by mass in Polish + Rosary. **POLISH MASS:** Please note that on Sunday 7th June (*Corpus Christi*) there will be no Polish Mass at Priory Street – Mass will be at Ipswich only.

FILIPINO MASS: The next Filipino Mass will take place here on **Sunday 7th June at 4.00_{pm}** and in Cardinal Bourne Hall afterwards.



SAVE THE DATE: AFTERNOON STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY on **Sunday 12th July 2026 from 3.00_{pm}** in Cardinal Bourne Hall. Sandwiches, scones, cakes, strawberries and cream, Tea, Coffee, Soft Drink, Pimm's, Wine available. Tickets: Adults £6, Children £3, Under 5s free, Family ticket £15 (2 adults + up to 3 children). NB. We will also be screening the Wimbledon Tennis Final for anyone keen not to miss this!

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.

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK BY DAVID NEUHAUS SJ (JERUSALEM): MUST WE STILL HOPE? Wednesday 3rd June at 6_{pm} (*via ZOOM from Jerusalem.*) We are deeply grateful to David Neuhaus SJ for agreeing to share his reflections on the topic of '*hope*' in the midst of the Israel/Gaza conflict. For more details go to www.canonesses.co.uk.



OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM 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

REPOSITORY: There is a good selection of rosaries, cards including Confirmation + First Holy Communion cards, books and assorted items available for sale in the church porch. Please leave money for purchases in the Repository wall box. Thank you.

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 Fr Philip can point you in the right direction. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let us know so that you can be invited to the **Mass of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral on Saturday 11th July**.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY invites you to a wonderful charity two-course luncheon at the beautiful Grade II listed Georgian house, The Lawn in Rochford. **Friday June 19th - 13:00-15:30** - Tickets are £38.50 per person. Please scan the QR code to book or go to <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/>



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>.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, GRAYS: In October this year St. Thomas' Church and school here in Grays will be celebrating 140 years of serving the community. We invite people to come along for Mass with the Bishop on the **10th October at 5:00_{pm}**. In addition if people have images or memories that they would like to share please email them to grays@brcdt.org

MISSION MASS WITH MISSIO AND THE MILL HILL MISSIONARIES on **Saturday 20th June at 11.00_{am}** (Clacton-on-Sea) Fr. Patrick Daly (Missio Diocesan Director) invites all Missio Red Box holders and the Parish community to a special Mission Mass at Our Lady of Light in Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea (CO15 6AG). This is followed by a shared lunch. Please email redbox@missio.org.uk if you wish to attend.

CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 25/05/26: **Team 3** / Monday 01/06/26: **Team 4**
COFFEE MORNING: 24/05/26: Diane + Adrian / 31/05/26: The O'Sullivan's