

ST. JAMES THE LESS AND ST. HELEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH, COLCHESTER

WITH MERSEA, MILE END AND MONKWICK

1 PARISH, 4 CHURCHES, 1 COMMUNITY



Parish Priest:
Assistant Priest:

Fr. Philip Okoli
Fr Gervase Moo

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Week Commencing 13th September 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus tells a dramatic story in the Gospel, to make a very important point: the desperate need in our world for forgiveness and reconciliation. How many chances do we give each other? As many as seven? How often do we shut doors on people, even family and friends, saying *“That’s it; you’ve just gone too far this time: never again!”* When Jesus says that we must forgive ‘seventy-seven’ times, he implies that we never stop forgiving, whatever happens. He doesn’t just say this, however: even when they do the worst thing that could be done to him, nailing him to a cross, Jesus puts these words into practice: *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing...”* As his disciples, we must do likewise. Peace be with you.

Fr Gervase

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 12th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 13th	Church	8.00 am	Carole Conway + Gary Williams
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass + Our Lady of Fatima procession
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Ashcroft Family

Monday 14th	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS		
	Church	9.30 am	Lewis E. Lee RIP

Tuesday 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows		
STM yr 6	Church	9.30 am	Birthday Ints: Tadeusz (A)

Wednesday 16th	Ss Cornelius, Pr and Cyprian, Bp, M		
	Church	9.30 am	Lewis E. Lee RIP

Thursday 17th	Feria		
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas

Friday 18th	Feria		
	Church	9.30 am	All Souls

Saturday 19th	St Theodore of Canterbury, Bp		
	Church	9.30 am	Carole Conway + Gary Williams

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Home Mission Sunday(Evangeli Gaudium)

Saturday 19th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Fr. Brian McGilloway RIP
Sunday 20th	Church	8.00 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Church	10.30 am	Private Intention
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Sandor + Livia Kiss RIP
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Celia Hill RIP
	Mile End	9.30 am	Birthday Intention: Maya + Maciek

- ❖ 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. At least one parent should be a practising Catholic (*sight of a copy of baptism certificate may be required*)
- ❖ 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.

- **Cardinal Bourne Hall Enquiries/Bookings:** colchester@brcdt.org
- **SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society):** email: colchestersvp@gmail.com
- **KSC (COLCHESTER270)**-Tel:07476781885/Email grand-knight-council270@ksc.org.uk



- **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!

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 – 2 nd Sept	at 10.15^{am}



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: *For the care of water.* Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE: Lord, we ask for your divine intervention and for peace to prevail in Ukraine, Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Nigeria & Sudan and in every land wounded by war. We pray for all those suffering or afraid that you will be close to them and protect them. We ask that you guide leaders and nations to work toward lasting peace & stability around the world.



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Eccles 27:30-28:7 Rom 14:7-9 Matt 18: 21- 35) ***The call to forgive.*** How can I love my spouse and bring life? We are called to set aside resentment, to listen gently to our beloved, seeking understanding. In today's gospel the servant who is forgiven refuses to forgive the man who owes him. God forgives us everything, but are we willing to let go of the hurts we have experienced via our spouse?

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray for those parishioners we know who are sick and housebound especially Helen Treby, Nora Mascurine, Denise McCarthy, Margaret E, Margaret Brooks, 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 & Adam Campbell-Vencarto. We also pray for all people who are ill or are in need of our prayers.

NEXT DIOCESAN COLLECTION: *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday/Home Mission Sunday (19/09/26).* Those with long memories will be familiar with *Home Mission Sunday*. It is the title given to the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a 2nd collection. A few years ago, this day was re-named *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation the '*Joy of the Gospel*'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name – *Home Mission Sunday*. If you can, please be generous in supporting the work of the Mission team. We know there are many demands on your time and on your purse, but we remain truly grateful to you for any support you can give. The greatest support remains your prayers and your own dedication to sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. **A second collection will be taken at all Masses next weekend.**

NEXT RCIA COURSE (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*): Journey in Faith or RCIA is the process developed by the Catholic Church for those who are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith, teachings and practices with a view to becoming Catholics, or for those who have not been confirmed. **The course will start Monday 5th October at 7.00^{pm} in the Crypt and will continue at 7^{pm} each Monday thereafter.** If anyone is interested in joining this course, please send us an email colchester@brcdt.org as soon as possible.

REPOSITORY: Various cards, rosaries, Holy water bottles, booklets and assorted items are available in the Repository. Please leave money for purchases in the Repository wall box or pay using the Donation Box (*Other/Reference Repository*). Thank you.

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! Maximum x2 Godparents (1 Male + 1 Female). Any more than this and they will be witnesses and their details will **NOT** be entered in the Baptism Register or on the Baptism Certificates.



SAVE THE DATE – PARISH EVENT: FR PHILIP'S 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION on Sunday 11th October. Fr Philip's Birthday celebration will take place after the 10.30^{am} Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall and will continue until approx. 2.30^{pm}. A list of suggested plates ideas are on the church entrance notice board along with the poster for this event. We welcome anyone who would like to bake or bring foods from their country of origin and anyone who can bake and decorate a Birthday cake(s). All parishioners are warmly invited to join in the celebration so we can share this joyful moment together!

MASS INTENTIONS: Anyone may request a Mass to be offered for various reasons. These may include thanksgiving, praying for someone's intentions (*such as on a birthday*), for the repose of the soul of a deceased person, for the well-being of someone who is ill, or any other intention. To book a Mass intention, simply fill out a Mass intention envelope, which can be found in the church porch either side of central doors. If you prefer to keep the intention private, you can write "*private intention*" on the envelope. We will do our best to accommodate your preferred dates and times, but please understand that this may not always be possible. Completed envelopes to be returned via the presbytery letterbox (red door) or by giving your envelope to the clergy. A suggested mass stipend is £10.00 per mass. 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 add your name + contact details to the list in the Church porch or email colchester@brcdt.org

ENGLISH HERITAGE CHURCH OPEN DAY: Next **Saturday 19th September 11^{am}-3^{pm}.**

CAFOD EMERGENCY APPEALS: Our thoughts and prayers are with all the displaced, suffering and bereaved people of Nepal, Tibet, Venezuela, Columbia, Gaza, Lebanon. Ukraine, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. From earthquakes, floods, war or famine, we work with local experts to get food, water and shelter to survivors of emergencies as quickly as possible. Emergencies can hit anywhere in the world, but in spite of the dangers, CAFOD working alongside Caritas and local experts continue to help with the practical support that the Emergency services in these counties urgently need before, during and after emergencies. You can give urgent, practical help today by visiting CAFOD's website and donating at cafod.org.uk/donate-to-emergencies

SACRAMENTS: Please note that the dates for the next courses for Sacrament of Confirmation + Sacrament of Reconciliation/First Holy Communion will be advised in October/November when details will be widely published and application forms will be available in Church.

FLAME 2027 – Saturday 6th March: Join thousands of young Catholics from across England and Wales at Wembley Arena for a huge day of inspiring speakers, live worship, prayer, Adoration and celebration. Open to young people in **Year 9 and above**, with BCYS group places available from £30. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - 04/10/26; Prisoner's Sunday - 11/10/26; World Mission Sunday - 18/10/26; World Youth Sunday – 22/11/26.

SVP (St Vincent De Paul Society): We are always on the lookout for people who are passionate about making a difference by supporting our local community! Join now to meet new people and be part of a friendly team, whilst spending quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle. If you want to play a part in helping others, then we want to hear from you, to volunteer please email colchestersvp@gmail.com

MISSIO MAGAZINES FOR AUTUMN 2026: These are available free in the Church Porch.

CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 14/09/26: **Team 4** / Friday 25/09/26: **Team 5**

COFFEE MORNING: 13/09/26: Peggy & Anne / 20/09/26: Yolande + 1 / 27/09/26: SVP