

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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)			Education Sunday
Saturday 5 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Tony Dixon RIP
Sunday 6 th	Church	8.00 am	Ints: Helen Treby
	Church	10.30 am	Ginette Pasnin RIP (Jacqueline)
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Ints: Mr. & Mrs Oyego (Birthday Blessings)
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Private Intention
	Mile End	9.30 am	Parishioners
Monday 7 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
Tuesday 8 th			The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Joyce Wrobel
Wednesday 9 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Ints- God's Protection –Oyego + Okezie Famili
Thursday 10 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas
Friday 11 th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Saturday 12 th			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Dr Matthew Thalanany
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)			
Saturday 12 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Private Intention
Sunday 13 th	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

- ❖ 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!

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Education Sunday

Week Commencing 6th September 2026

Love is the only sure foundation for every action: when done in love, you cannot go wrong. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to respond when a brother or sister falls short: go first to them alone, speak gently, seek understanding, and aim always to restore rather than condemn. This is not about proving who is right or winning an argument. It is about caring enough to help one another grow, preserving both truth and charity. Saint Augustine puts it beautifully: "Correct what needs correcting, but do so with love. Seek not to hurt, but to help amendment." This matches exactly what we read in the second reading: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another... Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." True love does not pretend there is no fault, nor does it speak harshly. It speaks honestly, yet kindly, because we want the very best for the person we approach. When we act this way, even difficult conversations become acts of service, strengthening our bond in God, and building up the whole community in faith.

Fr Philip

PLEASE SEE MASS SCHEDULE FOR ALL CHANGES

DAILY (Mon-Fri)	Rosary/Divine Mercy	at 8.45am
DAILY	Morning Prayer	at 9.15am
CHRISTIAN MEDITATION	Wednesdays (Cardinal Bourne Hall)	at 8.00pm
LECTIO DIVINA- In Church Crypt	1 st Wednesday of Month – 2 nd Sept	at 10.15am



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.

MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Ezek 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20) **To listen is to Love.** Matthew reminds us of Jesus' promise "...where two or more meet in my name I will be with them". In all the practical ways we look after each other, we are saying; 'your concerns are my concerns'. Nothing is too small or insignificant in our marriage, and my beloved is beside me to call me back to our life together.

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 Irven, 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.

DIOCESAN COLLECTION: Education Day (CES) 06/09/26. Education Sunday offers an opportunity for us to pray to Almighty God for all people involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the year ahead. **A 2nd collection will be taken at all Masses this 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 7.00pm in the Crypt and will continue at 7pm 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.

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.



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. Amen

PARISH EVENT: (Organised by the SVP) Come and watch "**The Last Night of the Proms**" on the big screen in the hall on **Saturday 12th September at 7.30pm!** Free entry, tea and coffee. (*Bring own drinks and a snack to share if wished*) All Welcome!

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 10.30am Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall and will continue until approx. 2.30pm. 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!

ENGLISH HERITAGE OPEN DAY: The Church will be open for this event on **Saturday 19th September 11.00am-3.00pm.** Free booklets in church porch listing all venues/free entry..



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

CAFOD EMERGENCY APPEALS: Our thoughts and prayers are with all the displaced, suffering and bereaved people of Nepal, 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

URGENT: STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - POSTCARDS AVAILABLE: The vote on assisted suicide is on 11 September. *Not Dead Yet UK* have provided postcards you can send to your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September. **Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details, add a stamp and post it to your MP today!**

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA on Saturday 12th September at St Mary and St Helen in Brentwood. The Diocese will host the visitation of the national pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco. This will be a day of prayer and devotions, with the opportunity for veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan will concelebrate Holy Mass followed by the consecration prayer. Please bring a packed lunch. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 07/09/26: **Team 3** / Monday 14/09/26: **Team 4**

COFFEE MORNING: 06/09/26: The O'Sullivan's / 13/09/26: Peggy & Anne