

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
Tel: 01206 866317
E-Mail: colchester@brcdt.org
Website: www.stjamesthelessandsthelen.org



St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)				
Saturday 10 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Frederick, Elizabeth + Angelo Lucas	
Sunday 11 th	Church	8.00 am	Anniversary: Teresa Ferrugia ^{RIP}	
	Church	10.30 am	Adollorata Cagnazzo ^{RIP}	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Noah Woods ^{RIP}	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Bryn Smart ^{RIP} (K. Fitzgerald)	
Monday 12 th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Jerek	
Tuesday 13 th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Ginette Pasnin ^{RIP}	
	Church	6.30 pm	Polish Mass ⁺ Rosary + Our Lady of Fatima procession	
Wednesday 14 th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	Ros (<i>Rosalie</i>) Sutcliffe ^{RIP}	
Thursday 15 th			St Teresa of Jesus, V, D (Ávila)	
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Nancy Hever ^{RIP}	
Friday 16 th			Feria	
	Church	9.30 am	John & Theresa Sales ^{RIP} (B.R.)	
Saturday 17 th			St Ignatius of Antioch, Bp, M	
	Church	9.30 am	Mrs Joyce Wrobel ^{RIP}	
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)			World Mission Sunday	
Saturday 17 th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	Mary McGilloway ^{RIP}	
Sunday 18 th	Church	8.00 am	Alphonse Knapp ^{RIP}	
	Church	10.30 am	James, Mary, John Galvin ^{RIP}	
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass	
	Church	6.30 pm	Parishioners	
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Pat Linscott ^{RIP} (D+J Hopgood)	
	Mile End	9.30 am	Bryn Smart ^{RIP}	

Next Filipino Mass on Sunday 1st November at 4.00pm.

- ❖ 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 cent 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



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!

In the first reading, Isaiah describes the Lord preparing a feast for all peoples, with rich food and fine wine, where tears are wiped away and death is swallowed up for ever. Jesus picks up the same picture in the Gospel, where the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet. But notice what happens. The invitation goes out to everyone, and some simply do not come. They are too busy with their fields and their businesses. Their minds are on other things, and the call goes unanswered. And even among those who do come, one man is found without a wedding garment, and he has nothing to say for himself. The invitation costs us nothing, but it does ask something of us. God calls every one of us, just as we are. He also hopes we will answer Him properly, by putting on faith and love and living each day as people who have been welcomed to His table. When the invitation reaches us this week, may we not be too busy to answer.

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 - 4 th November	at 10.15am



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER: *For mental health ministry.* Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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*



MARRIAGE MATTERS: (Isaiah 25:6-10 Phil 4:12-14 Matt 22:1-4) **Add another stitch.** God our Father invites us all to His great wedding feast in heaven! In living out our married life, we have been making our wedding garments! It is woven, sewn and stitched with all the little acts of loving kindness, long forgotten, the courtesies in every little action we show toward each other, our children, family and friends.

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.



DIOCESAN 2nd COLLECTION: Prisoners' Sunday (PACT) takes place on 11th October and is the Catholic Church's National Day of Prayer and action for prisoners, their children and families, and all those affected by imprisonment. It is an opportunity to reflect on Christ's call, "*I was in prison and you visited me*" and to respond with prayer, compassion and practical support. A 2nd collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend.



RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bernard Michael Walsh who has recently passed away. The parish community offers Bernard's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Bernard's funeral service will take place here on Tuesday 20th October at 11.30am. May he rest in peace.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PROCESSION (October procession): The Polish community warmly invite **all** Parishioners to join them for Our Lady of Fatima procession and Rosary after the 6.30pm Mass on **Tuesday 13th October.**

UPCOMING 2ND COLLECTIONS: World Mission Sunday - 18/10/26; World Youth Sunday - 22/11/26.

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL [ADMISSIONS FOR 2027/2028]: (Local Authority Closing Date 15/01/27). The signing of the "**Certificate of Catholic Practice**" forms will take place in the Church Crypt on the following dates: -

NOVEMBER 2026	DECEMBER 2026
Tuesday 10/11/26 at 11.15am – 1.00pm	Saturday 05/12/26 at 11.15am – 12.00pm
Saturday 14/11/26 at 11.15am – 12.00pm	



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Registration forms are available in the church porch (*by the entrance doors*). Please complete a form for each eligible child + post completed forms through presbytery door **by 31st December.** Any forms received after this date will be added to the year after. **3 Volunteers needed to assist on this course, please speak to Fr Philip.**



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: The Registration forms are now situated in the church porch by the entrance doors (*Please write clearly in block capitals so we can read them*). Parents evening will take place on Sunday 13th December at 4.00pm and the course will commence in January 2027 for those who have registered. Please remember to take your child's Baptism certificate to the parents meeting.



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 or drop into the SVP Cuppa Club which takes place every Thursday after morning Mass in Cardinal Bourne Hall.

BAPTISMS: Baptism is a Sacrament of faith, and the Church asks for a serious and loving commitment by the parents and godparents of a child to live the life of the Sacraments. For children aged 7 and below:

- ❖ At least one parent should be a practising Catholic (*sight of a copy of baptism certificate may be required*)
- ❖ Parent(s) must attend Infant Baptism preparation sessions with the priest
- ❖ Required: either one godparent, or two (*one male + one female*), who is a confirmed Catholic over the age of 16



(KSC) KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA - YOUTH COMPETITIONS - CHRISTMAS 2026. Annual National Youth Competitions are just one way we put this commitment into practice, offering young people opportunities to express themselves, explore Christian values and have their talents recognised. Please see posters in Church and on our Facebook page with information on how to enter. We look forward to what we hope will be a lot of entries!

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on **Sat 7th November** from 9.45am to 5.00pm. The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Mass on that day. Info <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY! NEXT LECTIO DIVINA MEETING: You are warmly invited to reflect on the Sunday Gospel at the next Lectio Divina session on **Wednesday 4th November 10.15am** in the Crypt. Everyone is welcome to attend!

VACANCY – ST BENEDICTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE Higher Level Teacher Assistant (HLTA): We are seeking a dynamic and highly IT-literate Higher Level Teaching Assistant to join our dedicated team. The successful candidate will play a key role in supporting students through tailored interventions in subject areas such as English, Maths, and Social Communication, and will be instrumental in customising digital and physical learning resources to meet individual learning needs. For further info www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk.

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: *What has religion to do with morality?* A talk to be given by Fr Martin Boland. **Wednesday 14th October 7.00 – 8.00pm.** in the parish centre of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. www.ourladyoflourdes.com All welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING: Monday 12/10/26: Team 3 / Monday 19/10/26: Team 4
COFFEE MORNING: 11/10/26: African Community / 18/10/26: Diane & Adrian