

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday 24th	Monkwick	5.00 pm	3 rd Anniversary: Roger Kemp RIP (Mary F)
Sunday 25th	Church	8.00 am	Ints: Family Thanksgiving + Health (Ushi Family)
	Church	10.30 am	Mary Awne RIP
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Parishioners
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Richard Wilden
Monday 26th			SS Cedd & Chad, Bpp
	Church	9.30 am	Like Brennan RIP
Tuesday 27th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Mr. T. M. Sebastian RIP (Dr. M.T.)
Wednesday 28th			SS SIMON AND JUDE, App
	Church	9.30 am	Family Intentions: Regin & Christine Joseph
Thursday 29th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Melicen Rodel, Manuel Carpela RIP
Friday 30th			Feria
	Church	9.30 am	Seamus McDonnell RIP (Elizabeth & Family)
Saturday 31st			Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Church	9.30 am	Ints: Birthday Thanksgiving – John Prince

ALL SAINTS (A)

Saturday 31st	Monkwick	5.00 pm	1 st Anniversary: Mary Davies RIP (Grace M)
Sunday 1st November	Church	8.00 am	Parishioners
	Church	10.30 am	Melissa (Nee Kelly) RIP (F. Galvin)
	Church	2.00 pm	Polish Mass
	Church	4.00 pm	Filipino Mass
	Church	6.30 pm	Private Intention
	West Mersea	8.30 am	Canon John Bloomfield
	Mile End	9.30 am	Ints: Pauline, Theresa, Gladys Onojobi

- Commissioning of the New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 1st November 2026
- All Souls Day - Monday 2nd November

- 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@brocdt.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!

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

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St James the Less and St Helen RC Church, Colchester

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Week Commencing 25th October 2026

What does it truly mean to love? At its heart, love is simple: caring for one another, showing patience, and stepping forward when someone is in need. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the two greatest commandments: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Exodus, we see what this looks like in practice-reaching out to the stranger, protecting the vulnerable, and helping those in difficulty. Our love for God is proved by how we treat those around us. Love always starts close to home, with our families, our neighbours, and the people we meet every day. This week, let us choose one simple action each day: check in on someone living alone, offer extra patience when it's hard, or lend a hand before being asked. We don't need to transform the entire world overnight. We simply need to start with the people God has placed in our lives today. Our love for God becomes real in the love we show our neighbour.

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.

† **NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS.** During this month, prayers and Masses are said for the Faithful Departed. *November Altar Lists of dead & Envelopes* are available in the Church Porch. Please put the names of your deceased family and friends on the list and place this in the envelope along with your donation and either hand the envelope to a priest or drop the envelope through the presbytery letterbox.

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE: Lord, we ask for your divine intervention and for peace to prevail in all war-torn countries, we pray for all people whose lives have been torn apart by emergencies and help for all those who are facing or recovering in countries that have suffered natural disasters. 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: (Exodus 22:20-26 1 Thess 1:5-10 Matt 22:34-40) *How can I best love you today?* In today's gospel Jesus says love should be at the centre of our lives, so we must ask 'How can I best love my partner today?' To know how our partner experiences our love best, we need to explore together whether it is through compliments, special time together, presents or acts of service, or simple hugging and kissing.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherin Ann Doble (k/a Ann) who has recently passed away. The parish community offers Ann's family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers at this most difficult time. Ann's service will take place at Colchester Crematorium on Wednesday 4th November at 3.15pm. May Ann rest in peace

- **NEXT DIOCESE 2ND COLLECTIONS:** 15/11/26 - World Day of the Poor; 22/11/26 - World Youth Sunday.
- **MISSIO APPEAL:** A Missio appeal will take place on 14th + 15th & 21st + 22nd November
- **ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL (THE SPIRITAN'S):** The annual Mission Appeal will take place on 29/10/26.

NEW MASS BOOKS FOR THE CHURCH (Year B, Part 1): 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 350 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 is - it all helps towards these costs! Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE! DAY OF MERCY: On Friday 11th December 2026, the Church will be open all day with Exposition & Confession all day; to finish with Benediction. Further details to follow in due course. Please do try to attend at some point during the day.

ST. THOMAS MORE'S 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.

JOSIE'S KITCHEN: Josie is looking for donations of various items to make her Food + Care packages for the Homeless at Christmas. If you can spare any of the following items: - Care Packages: general toiletries: shower gels, shampoo, deodorants + body sprays, toothpaste, razors, shaving foam, Thermal underwear, socks, scarfs, hats + gloves; Food Packages: Cup-a-soups, sachets of coffee drinks, hot chocolate, long life milk. Tins of ready meals e.g. Chilli-con-carne, casserole, minced beef, baked beans, tuna, corned beef or ham, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit + puddings, custard powder, mini boxes of cereal, pot noodles, crisps, biscuits, small multipack snacks. These items make a big difference to their lives and show them that they are cared for in our community. Please drop your Donations into the Presbytery. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. *"God loves those who find joy in giving"* John Paul II



CUPPA CLUB SPECIAL: Thursday 12th November from 10.30am-11.15am Come and listen to a talk and slideshow from Patrick (Pat) de Burca "*Flying as an RAF Navigator before GPS*". All welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits.

- **KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA COUNCIL 270:** Meetings take place on 1st Tuesday of the Month in the Fr. Saurin Hall at St Teresa's Lexden. 7:30pm Rosary for an 8pm Meeting.
- **KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA YOUTH COMPETITIONS:** Please see the poster in the porch & Parish Facebook page or email grand-knight-council270@ksc.org.uk

READING THE BIBLE THROUGH ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has just published *Reading the Bible through Advent and Christmas*. This new book includes commentary on all the Scripture readings for Mass throughout these two seasons. Full information about the book can be found on the homepage of the website www.whatgodnews.org

170TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR HISTORY OF ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR Catholic Church, Romford. This new booklet is full of facts and insights about one of the oldest parish churches in the Diocese. The cost is £7 including postage. If you would like a copy, please email romford@brcdt.org

CHURCH CLEANING: Friday 30/10/26: **Team 5** / Thursday 05/11/26: **Team 1**

COFFEE MORNING: 25/10/26: The O'Sullivan's / 01/11/26: Peggy & Anne