

*THE PARISH OF
ST JAMES AND ST PAUL
COLCHESTER*

www.stjamesstpaulcolchester.org.uk

PARISH MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

THIRTY PENCE



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

9-00am The last Mass of Advent

**4-30pm Christingle Service followed
by Vigil Mass and the Blessing of the
Tree of Light**

**11-45pm Midnight Mass and Blessing
of the Christmas Crib.**

Christmas Day

8-00am Mass

**10-00am Parish Mass with carols for
families**

No Evening Prayer



Father Peter Writes

One of the great Christian imperatives is to spread the Good News of the love of God. We are **all** called upon to do this and have been since the Good News was first shared with Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel came to tell her she would bear the Word of God. The shepherds heard the news and came to worship. They returned from Jesus, *Glorifying and praising God*. The Wise Men saw the signs and came to worship. The Gospels are full of accounts of people coming to Jesus and then sharing their experience of Jesus often bringing others with them.

This mission, this outreach, is central to the life of each and every Christian. If the love of God has touched us, if Jesus' message has had an impact in our life, then we have the great responsibility to tell others too. This is not an optional extra; this is not something that *people in other churches* do. This is something for each and every one of us.

Perhaps we do not feel confident with this. Perhaps we do not feel comfortable with this. Many of those who saw Jesus then simply brought others to him. Andrew brought Peter; Andrew brought the boy with his five loaves and two fishes. Andrew brought them along with him, God did the rest.

Christmas is a time when we can all do this. We still have a great message to tell and it is shared by so many at Christmas time. If we bring someone with us, they may then learn more about the true meaning of Christmas and what Jesus could mean for them.

One of the greatest gifts we can share at Christmas is the love of God. Do not ask **shall** I bring someone with me to hear about that love? Ask rather, **who** shall I bring?

Wishing you every blessing for this Holy Season.

Fr Peter Walker

A Christmas Message from Bishop Stephen!

There is always some point in the Christmas season when I find my thoughts turning to the fearful anxiety of the Holy Family as they trudged the streets of Bethlehem on that first Christmas night trying to find somewhere to stay. Sometimes I think of this on a particularly cold night as I dash from the car to the front door and luxuriate in the warmth of a centrally heated house. Or else I see a homeless person on the street, or hear about the fears of the unemployed, or learn of a house re-possessed and a family moving into temporary accommodation. I have never known this sort of anxiety myself. I have had troubles in life. But I have never really doubted where my next meal was coming from, or where I would sleep at night. But it was these basic fears that gripped Joseph as he shepherded Mary around Bethlehem, drawn there by the unsympathetic requirements of an unfair tax. And these thoughts make the Christmas story very real. They mean that this story speaks to the stories of the world; that this God we follow knows about the sorrows and the challenges of human life.

And what a time to be without a home! Mary was about to give birth. This child, born in the outhouse at the back of a pub, is God come down to earth, God coming to share in and direct the world he has made. And when this happened the angels sang: Peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

The challenge of the Christmas story is to sing this same song of peace and good will amidst the sorrows, trials, inequalities and injustices of today's world. It means caring about those who are without a job, or without a home. It means trying to build a different world and trying to live by a different set of values. It means remembering those who are worse off, and doing something about it. It means providing jobs and homes and meals. It also means ensuring that people have jobs and homes and meals for life.

None of this will be easy. But the biggest danger of all is starting to believe that nothing can change and that our own contribution makes no difference. It does. Things can change. And if the Christian faith teaches us anything, it is that one person can make a difference. That person is Christ. He shows us a different way of living. He gives us a different set of values. What he brings is what the world so desperately needs. And he begins that life in solidarity with the poorest of the poor. We must listen to him. First of all it will be a cry of need. But soon it will be a way of life.

*+Stephen
Bishop of Chelmsford*

Monday Mass

Monday 5 th	December	St James	7-00pm
Monday 12 th	December	Colonia Court	11-00am
Monday 19 th	December	Cranmere Court	11-00am
Monday 26 th	December	St James	9-30am

Monday 2 nd	January	St James	9-30am
Monday 9 th	January	NO Monday Mass	
Monday 16 th	January	Colonia Court	11-00am
Monday 23 rd	January	Cranmere Court	11-00am
Monday 30 th	January	11 Wheatsheaf Court	8-00pm

House Mass

The January House Mass will take place on Monday 30th January 8-00pm at the home of Clare Walker, 11 Wheatsheaf Court, Kendall Road, everyone welcome, see Fr Peter if you need transport.

If you could host a House Mass for next year, all that is needed is some space, a small table and a home in the parish, or some neighbouring parishes, is always an advantage. If you can help with this please add your name to the list at the back of St James.

Saturday Mass

There will be no Saturday Mass on Saturday 14th January.

Holy Days during the Christmas Octave

During the Christmas Octave the Mass will be celebrated at the following times, which may be different to usual:

Monday 26 th	December	St Stephen Protomartyr	St James	9-30am
Tuesday 27 th	December	St John the Evangelist	No Mass	
Weds 28 th	December	The Holy Innocents	St James	9-30am
Thurs 29 th	December	St Thomas of Canterbury	St James	9-30am
Friday 30 th	December	The Holy Family	St James	9-30am
Sat 31 st	December	Feria of Christmas Octave	St James	9-00am
Monday 2 nd	January	Feria of Christmas	St James	9-30am

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th December

9-00am The last Mass of Advent

4-30pm Christingle service followed by Vigil Mass.

The Christingle will also include the blessing and lighting of the Tree of Light

11-45pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Christmas Crib.

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10-00am Parish Mass with carols for families

No Evening Prayer

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

23rd October 2011

Evie-Anna Smith

Felix William Theodore Partridge

Saints Days

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 8th December

Mass 12-30pm St James

The Conversion of St Paul

Wednesday 25th January

Mass 7-00pm St James

St James' School Carol Service

On Monday 13th December in St James' Church at 7-00pm. Everyone welcome.

Mass of Prayer and Healing

The Mass on Wednesday 21st December at 7-00pm, will be a Mass of prayer, the laying on of hands and anointing of the sick.

Lunchtime Outreach Carol Service

The lunch-time carol service aimed primarily at those who work in the Parish will take place on Wednesday 21st December at 12-30pm. Although it is for local workers everyone is very welcome to come along, you may know someone to invite or to bring along with you.

Some help on the day will be appreciated as we hope to offer tea or coffee and mince pies. Offers of mince pies to Fr Peter please.

We often wonder how we might engage in outreach and mission and this is one very real way we can.

Confession before Christmas

Fr Peter will be available in church at the following times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday	19 th	December	5-30pm	Fr Peter
Thursday	22 nd	December	5-30pm	Fr Peter
Friday	24 th	December	12-00noon	Fr Peter

Or at any other time by appointment with Fr Peter

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Wednesday 18th January. The usual pulpit exchange will take place on Sunday 22nd January. The Reverend David Beales, of DNA Networks, will preach at St James, we look forward to welcoming him to St James. Fr Taemin will preach at Castle Methodist Church. The united service will be at Colchester Baptist Church in Eld Lane on that Sunday. No Sunday evening service in St James that day. This is an important week in the life of the Church and you will note the Mass intention each day reflects this focus. Although it is a week of prayer and not a week of doing, please do join members of other Christian churches and come along to the evening service this year hosted by the Baptist Church as well as being in St James to give an appropriate welcome to Fr David Beales.

Advent Prayer Guide

For Advent there will be the usual small prayer guide, please look out for yours. This is an important but manageable extra discipline for us as we prepare for Christmas. Many people have found these to be very helpful and they are reasonably priced at only £1-00.

Tree of Light.

Dedication forms for the tree of Light can be found in church. Lights can be sponsored in memory of a loved one, an anniversary or a thanksgiving to God for the many blessings He gives us. Please hand your completed form to Sheila or Caroline.

Baby Hats

I recently read that the Special Care Baby Unit at Colchester Hospital uses over 4,000 hats for their babies throughout the course of a year. All babies in these units tend to wear hats to help maintain their body temperature. With such a need and knowing how some people do like to have some knitting on the go, I have two patterns for suitable hats. If anyone would like to buy or find some wool and knit some up for the Special Care Baby Unit, I can arrange to deliver them and I know they will be very much appreciated.

Fr Peter

Family Crisis Support

Many of you will remember we have been offering support to a family who were very much in need of some help from us as a Christian family. Many thanks to those of you who have been in a position to offer help; it has been very much appreciated. This need still is there and with Christmas coming perhaps our thoughts may once again turn to this young family, a mother on her own with three children seven and under. The list of things needed is still in the box at the back of St James and some people have been able to make a small and some not so small financial contribution, which I have managed on behalf of us all. Please, if you can, think about this family at this time of year. When there is so much going on, it would be a gesture very much in keeping with the season.

I commend this to your thoughts and prayers. Fr Peter.

Christmas Decorations in Church

St James will be decorated for Christmas from Monday 19th December. Everyone welcome to join the team to decorate the church or arrange flowers. Please see Diana Irven for exact times and arrangements.

Christingles will be prepared on Saturday 24th December at 9-30am. Help will be needed and everyone will be welcome so please come along. Morning Mass on Christmas Eve is at 9-00am so we can all start day with prayer.

Many people like to contribute towards the cost of Christmas Flowers; a collection jar will be available at the back of St James for any donations people might like to make.

Christmas Clean

Our Church always looks well cared for and this is down to the hard work of a few people. Cleaning is one of those things that people only really notice when it is left undone! To get us spruced up for Christmas there will be a working party on Saturday 17th December beginning at 9-30am. The Mass is at 9-00 so why not come along and worship before you help clean. There will also be coffee and mince pies during the morning. Please help if you can. Men, women, children are all welcome and there is always plenty to do so why not join us? Fr Peter

The Children's Society Boxes

Collection boxes for the Children's Society are now due to be emptied. Please return them to Joyce and Ralph Mays or leave them in St James' Church. If you would like a collection box, please speak with Ralph or Joyce or Fr Peter.

Precious Metals

Thank you to everyone who has searched out odd pieces of damaged, broken or unwanted precious metals. I have just taken what I imagine may be the last batch to the dealer and received £ 122-00. This makes a total of £1945-20, which has been added to the Restoration Fund, helping to keep our wonderful church building in a good state of repair. We are now just short of the £2,000 it seemed we might make; so if you have not searched yet, it is not too late. Fr Peter

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Beginnings

The Week of Prayer for began in 1908 as the **Octave of Christian Unity**, and focused on prayer for church unity. The dates of the week were proposed by Father Paul Wattson, cofounder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars. He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of Peter, the Protestant variant of the ancient Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, on 18 January, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January.

Pope Pius X officially blessed the concept, and Benedict XV "encouraged its observance throughout the entire Roman Catholic Church." For a while, the observance was re-named the "Chair of Unity Octave" by Wattson, in order to emphasise the relationship between Christian unity and the Petrine See (*i.e.*, the papacy).

Protestant leaders in the mid-1920s also proposed an annual octave of prayer for unity amongst Christians, leading up to Pentecost Sunday (the traditional commemoration of the establishment of the Church).

Evolution

Abbé Paul Couturier of Lyons, France, who has been called "the father of spiritual ecumenism", had a slightly different approach than that of Father Wattson, a convert to Roman Catholicism from Anglicanism. He advocated prayer "for the unity of the Church as Christ wills it, and in accordance with the means he wills", thereby enabling other Christians with differing views of the Petrine ministry to join in the prayer. In 1935, he proposed naming the observance "Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity", a proposal accepted by the Catholic Church in 1966. Father Couturier's message influenced a Sardinian nun, Blessed Sister Maria Gabriella of Unity, whose deep, prayerful, sacrificial devotion to the cause of unity is held up by Rome as an example to be followed.

In 1941, the Faith and Order Conference changed the date for observing the week of unity prayer to that observed by Catholics. In

1948, with the founding of the World Council of Churches, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity became increasingly recognised by different churches throughout the world.

In 1958, the French Catholic group Unité Chrétienne and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches (a body which includes, among others, most of the world's Orthodox churches as well as many Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed, United and Independent churches) begin co-operative preparation of materials for the Week of Prayer. The year 1968 saw the first official use of materials prepared jointly by the Faith and Order Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, representing the entire Roman church. Collaboration and cooperation between these two organisations has increased steadily since, resulting recently in joint publications in the same format.

Current observation

In the Southern Hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate the week of prayer, for example around Pentecost (as originally suggested by the Faith and Order movement in 1926, and Pope Leo XIII in 1894), which is also a symbolic date for the unity of the church. The 2008 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated as the centennial.

Blankets for the Homeless

I am sometimes approached by people, in church or at the Rectory door, for blankets to help keep them warm at night. Over time, the stock of old blankets at the Rectory has been exhausted and we are no longer able to help people in this way. Indeed, blankets are not as common as they once were as many more people now use duvets instead. Do you have any old blankets that might be available for me to give out if I am approached in the future? They would not need to be new but would need to be clean and in a reasonable condition. They would also need to be single bed size. If you think you might be able to help, please have a word with me. Fr Peter.

Fr. Taemin writes articles (referred to Tufton Tracts, but reconstructed in our perspective) in our Parish Magazine to deal with some tricky questions which some of us might have.

The six themes are; *Making the Sign of the Cross, Lighting a Candle, Genuflecting and Bowing, Burning Incense, Anointing with Oil, and Asking the Prayers of the Saints.* If you have any other questions apart from these six themes, please do not hesitate to speak to Fr. Taemin or Fr. Peter.

Do we need a BOAT to Burn Incense?



Boat and Thurible.

Incense is made from different types of aromatic resins, gums and oils, not from nasty chemicals! When burned, it releases fragrant smoke. Because it is difficult to burn on its own, and to create the full smoke, we use small charcoals within a small metal ‘smoke generator’ called a ‘**Thurible.**’ Also, we use a special box called a ‘**Boat**’ to carry incense.

Why Incense?

To understand the reason why we use incense in our liturgy, we need to understand the **symbolism** first. In Christian worship (or even in our ordinary life), we do certain actions to express special meanings; making a Sign of the Cross, lighting a candle, and genuflecting and bowing ... all these actions have their own meaning behind them. Burning incense too, it signifies particular things – **our prayer, veneration, and purification.** Through such Symbolism in our worship, we are able to explore more profound meanings and eventually, it helps us to be nurtured in our faith. (Of course, ‘just-doing-something’ does not make us sincere. Yet, it can be a very useful guidance for us!)

That’s why the tradition of using incense within Christian liturgy has such a long history. Although there is no clear evidence of its **Christian use** until the last quarter of the 4th century, the first record of the incensing of the altar, church, people, etc went back to the 5th century in the Eastern Church and 9th century in the Western Church. Still, in the Eastern Church, incense is used at most

services, whereas in the West, incense was long used only at solemn (it means 'the feast of great importance') services.*

Tell me more about the History of 'Incense and Prayer', Father!



We need to look at the Old Testament as a starter! Jewish people offered burnt offerings to God in their Temple. This is a typical way of worshipping God for his generosity and forgiveness. So, the smoke was a symbol of people's prayer (as an offering). Of course, as many scholars say, smoke also could get rid of all bad smell of blood from the animals they slaughtered to offer to God.

Also, there is another direct reference to incense in Psalm 141. As you can see, it is obviously clear that incense was used when David (Psalm 141 was written by David, the famous King who killed Goliath.) was praying to God. It says...

*I call upon you, O LORD; come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
Let my prayer be counted as **incense** before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.* (NRSV translation)

But this is not a 'Christian liturgy', but a Jewish way of using incense. Our Christian reference begins with our favourite Christmas story! Any idea?

When three Wise Men (or three Kings from the East, or Magi) visited baby Jesus, they brought three gifts to our Lord and one of the gifts was **Frankincense** which is a special type of incense. Frankincense was 'valuable perfume' and also a symbol of priesthood (and prayer). There are other Biblical references to incense. In the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, he says '*for we are the aroma (it means incense) of Christ to God among those who are being saved* (2 Cor. 2:15, RSV translation).' St. Paul says that we are the incense offered by Christ to God. Also, St. John also mentioned incense in the book of Revelation; '*and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints;* (Rev. 5:8, RSV translation).'

Having considered these references and historic evidences of using incense, it is pitiful for us to ignore the merits of using incense or simply forbid to use it. One might say it is a Roman tradition not Anglican, but to tell the exactly, it is a tradition of the faithful both Anglicans and Roman Catholics, as well as the Eastern Christians!

When and How to use Incense in our liturgy?

Incense is mainly used during; a) the Mass, b) Solemn Evensong, and c) Benediction.



Monstrance

First of all, during the Mass, we use incense at the beginning (for the altar and priest), during the Gospel reading (for Gospel book), during the Eucharistic prayer (for Bread and Wine, priest, deacon and servers, congregation, and during the Elevation of the Host and the Chalice).

Secondly, during the Solemn Evensong, we use incense to cense the altar during the *Magnificat* (song of Mary) which comes right after the Old Testament reading.

Thirdly, incense is used during a very special and devotional service called Benediction which is the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For Benediction, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the **Monstrance** which is censed by clergy.

Numbers, numbers, numbers!!!

It can be an extremely difficult and intricate business to remember HOW MANY TIMES we should swing the Thurible. So, Modern Catholic liturgy suggests following this instruction as a guide line;

Three double swings (2-2-2); The Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Cross, images of our Lord set up for veneration, the offerings on the altar, the Book of Gospel, the Easter candle, the celebrant (priest or bishop), congregation (the people), etc...

Two double swings (2-2); relics or images of our Lady and the saints set up for veneration.

Single swing (1); the altar.

However, there are other churches that use **three triple swings (3-3-3)** for the Blessed Sacrament (both during the Mass and the Benediction) and the Elevation of the Host and the Chalice (during the Mass).

It is complicated. Yet, the most important thing to remember is that burning incense is an act of worship as a sign of prayer, veneration and purification, not an esthetical behaviour. Leave the tricky businesses to your clergy and altar servers; just enjoy *the Smell of Heaven* while you are praying!!



*Let my prayer
be counted as incense
before you, O Lord.*

If you have any other burning questions, please feel free to speak to me or Fr. Peter at any time.

Fr. Taemin Oh

- There are many other occasions when incense is used. But it will not be examined in this article.
- All images from google.

* See Livingstone, E.A., *Oxford Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford, 2006, p. 292

Contact Centre

The St James Child Contact Centre meets every other Saturday and supports families that have broken down. It provides a safe environment in which the absent parent can meet with their children. It is run by a group of volunteers from St James and a few more are needed at the present time. If you could help with this, it would mean a commitment of a few hours on Saturday afternoon on a regular basis but not too often, please speak with Fr Peter.

Our Favourite Hymns

The third of the most popular hymns, as voted for in our summer survey, is the hymn, *I the Lord of Sea and Sky*. A modern hymn written by the American Roman Catholic hymn writer and writer of liturgical music Daniel Schutte. It was written in 1981 and can be found at hymn number 285 in our blue hymnbook, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*.

This hymn has its roots in the Old Testament and that is where it takes most of its inspiration. *I the Lord of sea and sky* and the other similar references remind us of the creation. How God made everything and everyone to be good and pure. To be His people, living their lives, for Him. It reminds us that we drifted from this vocation but still will be saved by the Grace and love of God, *All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save*. But who will partner God in this mission, *Whom shall I send?* The answer can be found in the 1st Book of Samuel, chapter 3, where the young Samuel, chosen before his birth to serve God hears God's call in the night. It also reflects the experiences of Elijah, 1 Kings chapter 19. God's call to Elijah takes him out into the desert, providing bread for Elijah to eat. Being the Lord of snow, rain, wind flame reminds us of Elijah's experience of God in the earthquake wind and fire, which was also reflected in the most popular of our hymns, *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*. The question, *Whom shall I send*, which marks the end of each verse also asks us to remember the vision of Isaiah, in the book of the prophet Isaiah 6:8, where God asks whom shall He send in His name. The Term Hearts of Stone is one used on many occasions by the Old Testament prophets.

The inspiration is largely from the Old Testament but has many resonances with the Gospels too. Jesus is the one who will bring the true light. He will also provide the finest bread in the form of His Body and Blood which we share in the Mass. Jesus gives His life for us and shares His Resurrection in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Perhaps the most telling part is the chorus, which reminds us very clearly that we too need to share in this calling and mission. Jesus shares it with us and calls us to share the Good News of the love of God with others too. This is a reflective hymn of praise and commitment to the service of God and ask us all to be faithful to that call.

This hymn was one of the hymns sung at the service in 1994 where Fr Peter was licensed as the parish priest for this parish.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

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As my series of articles on the background to the psalms ended last month I thought that the New Year would be an appropriate time to pursue a topic glanced at earlier, the Day of the Lord, with its possible roots in the Israelites' own New Year festival. As many psalms were written specifically for this significant occasion the psalter must still be the starting point for any exploration but I hope in the coming months to show how certain prophets adapted or refuted popular ideas associated with the festival to form a recurrent theme central to Israelite religion.

Rather than range widely across all the writings of the Old Testament canonical prophets listing quotation upon quotation I aim to concentrate primarily on a few shorter works each of which make a particular contribution to the subject, though as I tried to show with the psalms, the views may not always agree or in this case build up into a coherent vision of what might be described as an authoritative Old Testament version of the 'great and terrible day'. But that is a warning rather than a conclusion, for the time being 'let us begin at the beginning'.

An ancient Israelite equivalent of our wishing a happy and prosperous new year was to acclaim with enthusiasm 'He comes to judge the earth'. This belief that the Lord God's judgement of the nations would ensure a time of peace and prosperity to his chosen people stemmed from the period of the settlement in Canaan after the tribes had been reunited by Joshua at the council of Shechem. Lawyers were appointed to ensure that the tribes complied with the terms of the federal agreements and under the guidance of the Lord God seated on the cherubim throne of the Ark, judged any serious misdemeanour that might disturb the peaceful co-existence of the tribes. Their wise rulings could ensure a period of calm and subsequent well being. The Hebrew word for peace implies an accompanying prosperity.

New Year festivals were not held during the years of wandering or early settlement being intimately bound up with the role of a king in Middle Eastern culture of that time. The Israelite version was probably taken from the Jebusite model found in Jerusalem after the city had been conquered by King David. As David's empire grew, the judgement of the peoples which originally referred to the tribes became extended to neighbouring nations.

The most important day during these festivities in Jerusalem was when the king and tribal nobility together with the Ark processed through the streets before all re-ascending to the temple on Zion hill for a ritual enactment of the future judgements led by king and priests rather than lawyers. The latter stanzas of psalm 68 set the scene

'Your procession comes into view O God
the procession of my God, my King into the sanctuary
the singers in front, the musicians last
between them girls playing tambourines.
There is Benjamin the least of them in the lead
the princes of Judah in a body
the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtlai.
Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered
Let those who hate him flee before him
Let the wicked perish before God
But let the righteous be joyful.'

As in Hebrew thought such sacred enactments could help bring on and influence the form of the actual events there arose the idea of a day when all judgements would take place, a joyful occasion for the Lord God's chosen people when he would appear in their midst and all his enemies, their enemies, would be removed - the original Day of the Lord.

The Old Testament Prophets

In the New Year we are beginning a series of studies on the Old Testament Prophets, with the prophet Amos being the first one to receive John Thompson's attention. For some time now John has been writing a monthly article on the background to several of the Psalms. John, a member of our congregation who worships with us at the Thursday Mass, is an eminent Hebrew scholar. He was part of the team responsible for the translation from Hebrew of the Old Testament of the New English Bible.

The New English Bible was the first full translation of the bible into contemporary English in this country since the Reformation. It is true that the Revised Version and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible has been published earlier in the century. It is also true that the Revised Standard Version is considered by many scholars to be the best translation of the Bible from the original texts but it was translated in America and so

did not use the words and spelling that perhaps we are more familiar with in the United Kingdom.

The New English Bible began its journey in 1948 and the New Testament was first published in 1961 with the Old Testament and the Apocrypha published in 1970. It was a work that received support from many of the reformed churches of the United Kingdom. It is a very important document as it began a process that is still ongoing today, which seeks to keep the language of the Bible fresh and understandable.

I hope you find John's contributions helpful and we thank him for his hard work on our behalf. Fr Peter.

Italian Evening

A very happy and filling evening was held at the home of Jeff and Lucy Mason, where good food and convivial company helped raise a total of £ 156-25 for church funds.

Day of Prayer and Giving

A very successful day of Prayer and Giving was held on Saturday 1st October. The church was attended faithfully throughout the day with those who had committed themselves to pray. A very generous response was made to the appeal for gifts with the final total received being £ 4576-25. Many thanks to everyone who supported the day. Fr Peter.

Cycle Ride

The annual Ride and Stride on behalf of the Friends of Essex Churches raised a total of £374, to which Gift Aid has still to be added. Half of this amount will return to St James to help maintain our own church building. Thank you to all those who took part in the day, sponsored others or helped keep the church open for visitors.

Wednesday Study Group at Benson House

The Wednesday Study Group will resume in the New Year.

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Colchester
Essex
CO1 2QW**

**Tel: 01206 867551
Fax: 01206 865976
Email: info@lbgroupltd.com
Web: www.lbgroupltd.com**

School News

www.st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

We shall be starting our countdown to Christmas on Friday 25th November with our 'Blessing of the Crib' Eucharist in school at 9.00am. Once again, we shall have a life-size crib scene that is very different to our usual one. Do come in and have a look! Don't forget to come to our Christmas Fair on the same day, starting at 3.15pm.

Some of our pupils are going to be working on our 'Art on the Wall' Christmas panels that we display on the school walls. Pupils have been coming up with draft designs and it will be good to share some scenes from the Christmas story with the local community.



In the last week of term, our pupils will be putting on a Nativity production. Do contact the school for details and tickets if you would like to come.

Some of our pupils will be singing carols in a variety of locations around Colchester this year.

The school is looking forward to its annual Carol Service in church on Monday December 12th, to which all parishioners are invited.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

Exciting plans are underway and we shall be having an outdoor classroom installed in the coming months, to help with our commitment to outdoor learning. The hexagonal structure will

house a whole class and will be used throughout the school. Once installed, a large fence around our Garden of Eden area will be installed and then work will start on our raised borders. Some of our outdoor areas are looking wonderful, with murals created by the pupils, having been put up by our Site Manager A Gardener's Dream - the school has installed some artificial grass in two areas of the school, to help provide additional learning opportunities for pupils - these areas are proving to be very popular.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We have an exciting development coming up for Lent and Easter - the school has found some very colourful and child-centred Stations of the Cross, which it intends to purchase to aid our worship and assist with the re-telling of the Easter Story.

SCHOOL INSPECTION

We are awaiting the results of our church school inspection and I shall share the findings in the next magazine, combining it with the Ofsted report. Copies of both reports will be available in church, when published.

AND FINALLY.....,

What is the best Christmas present?
A broken drum - you can't beat it!



**Christmas Greetings to you all from all the staff, governors
and pupils of the school!**

Jeff Graham - Headteacher

The Hunnaball Family invite you to

'Name a Star'

On our Christmas Tree
of Remembrance

York House
41 Mersea Road
Colchester
CO2 7QT

01206 760049

Everyone is most welcome

www.hunnaball.co.uk



Hunnaball Family Funeral Group

DIARY DATES for 2012

Monday 2nd January

Friday 3rd February

Sunday 25th March

Good Friday 6th April

Friday 20th April

Monday 4th June

Saturday 7th July

Wednesday 25th July

Saturday 15th September

21st to 23rd September

Friday 28th September

Friday 13th October

Jubilee Tea Party 3-30pm, at the Rectory
Cheese and Wine Party, 7-00pm, at the Rectory

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Devotions at the Foot of the Cross

To be led by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

Quiz Night at St James' School

Church Open Day and Jubilee Street Party.

An International Day at the Rectory.

Food, activities and other experiences from members
of our congregation.

St James' Day. Bishop Norman to preside and preach.

Grand Cake Sale at Benson House

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Confirmation

Giftware Evening

Jubilee Tea Parties

There is nothing more English than a Tea Party ! To mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen we plan to hold a series of 60 Jubilee Tea Parties throughout her jubilee year, but to do this we will need your help. These might be large affairs or very small ones. The small ones might be just two or three of your friends being invited to tea at your home in return for a small donation. The large ones could be much more elaborate. All money raised will go to support church funds. A calendar is now in church soon to add your date to the Jubilee Tea Party list. Can you hold one or perhaps more?

The first of these will take place at the Rectory on Monday 2nd January 2012 at 3-30pm. This will be open to anyone who would like to come and the cost will be £10-00 per head. Tickets available from Caroline or Fr Peter,. Others during the year might be much smaller affairs and that could be reflected in the price. I am told that Afternoon Tea in a well-known department store in town is over £9-00. In top hotels in London it is over £40-00. We will strive to match their quality at a much better price.

Thai 1 Restaurant Wednesday 4th January 2011

Following the very enjoyable and successful evenings of the past, another evening has been organised at the Thai 1 restaurant on East Hill. Mass at 7-00pm and then we can move over to the restaurant for our meal. As before, the cost for two courses will be £ 15-00 and the bar will be open for anyone who would like to make use of it.

A list will be displayed in St James, please add your name if you wish to join us, everyone welcome. The evening will be in aid of Church funds.

Cheese and Wine Party

A Cheese and Wine Party will be held at the Rectory of Friday 3rd February beginning at 7-00pm. Tickets will be £10-00 each and will be available in the New Year.

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01206 760049 (24hrs)



Traditional Thai Cuisine

Restaurant and Take Away t: 01206 870770

www.thai-1.co.uk

We are the longest established Thai Restaurant in Colchester Essex, Britain's oldest recorded town.

We pride ourselves on serving only the best in truly authentic Thai dishes, all freshly prepared and cooked from locally sourced suppliers by our highly experienced Bangkok-trained Thai chefs.



Thai 1 can be found just a few hundred yards on the right hand side travelling up East Hill Colchester, going towards the Town and Castle Park. We are located directly beside

the pedestrian crossing and offer FREE parking to the rear of our premises, with on-road parking also available immediately in front of the building.



Thai 1 restaurant is bright and modern but still retains that real feel of Thai decor, our waitresses are both informed and attentive to your needs, offering genuine Thai hospitality.



Our exceptionally good value, low priced, authentic Thai menu will make your journey very much worthwhile.



Alternatively, we offer our Thai 1 take away menu for home delivery anywhere within the Colchester area, with FREE local delivery for orders over £10.00.

Thai 1 restaurant is available to hire for private functions and we also offer an excellent outside catering service. Please feel free to call us on 01206 870770 and we'd be happy to discuss with you.



Signature A selection of our 'House Special' dishes:

Starters

- Thai 1 Gung Pao (Our Speciality)** £9.95
Giant king prawns, marinated in garlic, pepper and butter then char grilled, served with hot sour sauce.
- Phed Sawang** £6.95
Specially prepared crispy duck pancakes served with hot sin dip.
- Tom Yum Gung** £5.50
The most popular of all Thai soups, a combination of tender king prawn sharp with lemon grass, lime juice, citrus leaves, chilli and mushrooms.

Thai 1 Restaurant
Tel: 01206 870011

82A East Hill, Colchester, Essex CO1 2QW

Main Courses

- Weeping Tiger** £11.95
Marinated sirloin steak, flame grilled with a spicy sauce.
- Gaeng Musaman Lamb** £8.95
Muslim lamb curry in medium Thai spice.
- Phed Yang** £9.95
Roast duck Thai style served with honey and tamarin sauce.
- Thai 1 Gung Pao (Our Speciality)** £19.95
Giant king prawns, marinated in garlic, pepper and butter then char grilled, served with hot sour sauce.
- Panang** £7.95
A choice of Beef, Chicken, Pork, Prawn or Fish served in rich coconut milk, panang gravy and fresh lemon grass.
- Gaeng Musaman Nuea** £8.95
A typical muslim curry from south of Thailand. Beef in medium Thai spice curry.
- Gaeng Musaman Gai** £7.95
A typical muslim curry from south of Thailand. Chicken in a medium spicy curry sauce.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: MONDAY - SATURDAY 6.00pm - 11.00pm, SUNDAY 6.00pm - 10.00pm

Mass and Prayer Intention for December

1 Thu	World Aids Day
2 Fri	The Children's Society
3 Sat	Local Shop Workers
4 SUN	Church and Parish
5 Mon	The PCC
6 Tue	The ACS
7 Wed	St James' School Governors
8 Thu	Thanksgiving
9 Fri	Andrew and Gaybrielle to marry tomorrow
10 Sat	The Soup Run
11 SUN	Church and Parish
12 Mon	St James' School
13 Tues	The Unemployed
14 Wed	St James' School Governors
15 Thu	North Primary School
16 Fri	Advent
17 Sat	Today's Working Party
18 SUN	Church and Parish
19 Mon	Emergency Workers
20 Tue	Our Families and Friends
21 Wed	Outreach
22 Thu	Healing
23 Fri	Emergency Workers
24 Sat	Spiritual Preparation
25 SUN	Church and Parish/Thanksgiving
26 Mon	Christian Martyrs
27 Tue	Thanksgiving
28 Wed	Victims of Abortion
29 Thu	Parish Priests
30 Fri	Thanksgiving for families
31 Sat	Thanksgiving

Mass and Prayer Intention for January

1 SUN	Church and Parish/Thanksgiving
2 Mon	Parish Finances
3 Tue	Local Hospitals
4 Wed	The St Paul Centre
5 Thu	Colchester Street Pastors
6 Fri	Thanksgiving
7 Sat	St James Child Contact Centre
8 SUN	Church and Parish
9 Mon	Parish Finances
10 Tues	Our Archdeacon
11 Wed	St Helena Hospice
12 Thu	<i>Relate</i>
13 Fri	Bob Russell MP
14 Sat	Baptism Candidates
15 SUN	Church and Parish
16 Mon	St James' Restoration Project
17 Tue	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 Wed	The Salvation Army
19 Thu	The Roman Catholic Church
20 Fri	The Orthodox Church
21 Sat	The Methodist Church
22 SUN	Church and Parish
23 Mon	The Baptist Church
24 Tue	United Reformed Church
25 Wed	Thanksgiving
26 Thu	Our Bishops
27 Fri	Colchester Night Shelter
28 Sat	Teachers of the Faith
29 SUN	Church and Parish
30 Mon	The Homeless
31 Tue	Beacon House

DIARY FOR DECEMBER

1	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
2	Fri	9-15	School Eucharist	St James
3	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
4	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening Prayer	
5	Mon	19-00	Mass	St James
6	Tues		NO MASS	
7	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James
8	Thurs Imm Conc BVM	12-30	Mass	St James
9	Fri	9-00	Mass	School
10	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
11	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening Prayer	
12	Mon	11-00	Mass	Colonia Crt
13	Tues	19-00	School Carol Service	St James
14	Wed	19-00	Mass	St James
15	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
16	Fri	9-00	Mass	School
17	Sat	9-00	Mass	St James
18	SUN	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	Sung Mass	
		18-30	Evening prayer	
19	Mon	11-00	Mass	Cranmere Crt
20	Tues		NO MASS	
21	Wed	12-30	Outreach Carols	St James
		19-00	Healing Mass	St James
22	Thurs	12-30	Mass	St James
23	Fri	9-00	Mass	St James
24	Sat Christmas Eve	9-00	Mass	St James
		16-30	Christingle	St James
		23-45	Midnight Mass	St James
25	SUN Christmas Day	8-00	Mass	
		10-00	ParishMass & Carols	
			NO Evening Prayer	
26	Mon St Stephen	9-30	Mass	St James
27	Tues St John the Evangelist		NO MASS	
28	Wed The Holy Innocents	9-30	Mass	St James
29	Thurs St Thomas	9-30	Mass	St James
30	Fri The Holy Family	9-30	Mass	St James
31	Sat Feria Christmas Oct.	9-00	Mass	St James

DIARY FOR JANUARY

1	SUN	8-00 Mass 10-00 Sung Mass 18-30 Evening Prayer	
2	Mon Feria of Christmas	9-30 Mass	St James
3	Tues	NO MASS	
4	Wed	19-00 Mass	St James
5	Thurs	12-30 Mass	St James
6	Fri	9-00 Mass	School
7	Sat	9-00 Mass	St James
8	SUN	8-00 Mass 10-00 Sung Mass 18-30 Evening Prayer	
9	Mon	NO MASS	
10	Tues	NO MASS	
11	Wed	19-00 Mass	St James
12	Thurs	12-30 Mass	St James
13	Fri	9-00 Mass	School
14	Sat	NO MASS	
15	SUN	8-00 Mass 10-00 Sung Mass 18-30 Evening prayer	
16	Mon	11-00 Mass	Colonia Crt
17	Tues	NO MASS	
18	Wed	19-00 Mass	St James
19	Thurs	12-30 Mass	St James
20	Fri	9-00 Mass	School
21	Sat	9-00 Mass	St James
22	SUN	8-00 Mass 10-00 Sung Mass 18-30 Evening Prayer	
23	Mon	11-00 Mass	Cranmere Crt
24	Tues	NO MASS	
25	Wed Cnv of St Paul	19-00 Mass	St James
26	Thurs	12-30 Mass	St James
27	Fri	9-00 Mass	School
28	Sat	9-00 Mass	St James
29	SUN	8-00 Mass 10-00 Sung Mass 18-30 Evening Prayer	
30	Mon	20-00 Mass	11 Wheatsheaf Crt
31	Tues	NO MASS	

Churchwardens of the Parish

Mr Paul Bareham 01206 210270
90 London Road
Copford CO6 1BJ

Mrs Janet Walker 01206 790448
38 Gladstone Road
Colchester CO1 2EA

Parochial Church Council Officers

Secretary Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766
2 The Anchorage
East Road
East Mersea CO5 8UJ

Treasurer Mr Tony Allen 01206570214
40 Wavell Avenue
Colchester CO2 7HP

**Electoral Roll
Officer** Mrs Sheila Sansom 07905516502
14 Greyfriars Court
The Secret Garden
Castle Road
Colchester CO1 1TL

**Child Protection
Officer** Mr Stephen Pawlak 01206 729810
Millbank
16 High Street
Rowhedge
Colchester CO5 7HQ

**Health & Safety
Officer** Mrs Janet Walker 01206 790448
38 Gladstone Road
Colchester CO1 2EA

St James' Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Headteacher	Mr Jeff Graham	01206 865747
Website	http://www.st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk	
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Madeline Bates	01206 364215
Childrens' Society	Mrs Joyce Mays	01206 841681
USPG (Mampong Babies Home)	Mrs Gill Scott	01206 867403
The Church Union (Local Contact)	Mrs Claire Epsom	01255 861202
Child Contact Centre stjamesccc@googlemail.com		07855 752421
Sidesmen	Mr Paul Bareham	01206 210270
Readers	Mrs Janet Walker	01206 790448
Intercessions	Fr Peter Walker	01206 866802
Stewardship	Mrs Kate Thurston	01206 793243
Organist	As arranged by rota	
Sacristan Team	Mr Brian Appleby	01206 852073
	Mr Paul Bareham	01206 210270
	Mr Stephen Pawlak	01206 729810
Children's' Liturgy & Flowers	Mrs Diana Irvén	01206 386393
Magazine Editor	Mrs Lucy Mason	01206 386766

Rector**Fr Peter Walker SSC**

Non Residentiary Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral

Assistant Rural Dean of Colchester

Surrogate for Marriage Licences.

The Rectory 01206 866802

76 East Hill 07867 972231

Colchester CO1 2QW 01206 799444 (fax)

fatherpeter@walkerssc.freemove.co.uk

Fr Peter and Caroline are always happy to welcome parishioners to the Rectory

Deacon**Fr Taemin Oh**

Benson House 07737161317

13 Roman Road 01206511598

Colchester CO1 1UR

taemin.oh@gmail.com**Hon Asst. Priest****Fr Alan Cross SSC****Services at *St James the Great, East Hill***

Sundays	Morning Prayer	07.25
	Said Mass	08:00
	Sung Mass	10:00
	Evening Worship	18.30
Weekdays	Morning Prayer	07.45
	Evening Prayer	18.00
Monday	Mass	See page 5
Tuesday	No Mass	
Wednesday	Mass	19:00
Thursday	Mass	12:30
Friday	Mass	09:00 In School during term
Saturday	Mass	09-00

*Festivals and Saints Days see monthly calendar.***Confession**

By appointment with the clergy

Holy Baptism

By arrangement after preparation

Ministry to the Sick

Names of the Sick to the clergy, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the communion of the Sick, and the Oil of the Sick for Anointing

*Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year
To
All our readers*

