



St. James the Great Church & St Paul's Church
2nd Sunday of Lent – 1st March 2026



WELCOME! A warm welcome to visitors joining us today. Please stay for refreshments after Mass—we would love to meet you.

SUNDAY SERVICES TODAY

Today ☩ 8.00 a.m. Said Mass

🎵 10.00 a.m. Sung Parish Mass

4pm Stations of the Cross

This Week

Tue 3rd 9-10.30am Church Cleaning

9.00m Church School Assembly

7.15-8.45 Online Lent Course 'Simply Good News'

The Online course via Zoom (Tuesday evenings):

Time: 7:15 pm – 8:45 pm. **Dear friends, it is not too late to join this short course.**

☩ **Simply Good News: Short Lent Course**

Explore the message of Jesus with Professor N.T. Wright. This course explores the history and context of the "Good News," helping us move past common misunderstandings to see how this message changes our lives today.

Wed 4th Mass at Alderwood Care Home (Fr James)

Thur 5th 12.30pm Mass. (Fr James)

Fri 6th 9.00 am Church School Class Mass. (Fr Jeff)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Lent Course 'Simply Good News'

3.45-5pm Confirmation Course in the Pilgrim Centre for under-16s meets in the Pilgrim Centre, 5 East Hill. Course led by Fr Jeff Graham and assisted by leaders who have safeguarding permissions and DBS certificates.

Sunday 8th March (4 pm Evensong and Benediction)

Director of Music Philip Prior

Organist: Tim Patient

Choir: St James' singers

☩ **Please Pray For: The infirm and housebound:**

Adam, Ava Mills, Gaby, Christine & Emma, Clive French, David Beattie, Donna Canning, Joyce & Ralph, Jon Hawkings, Lubomira, Madeline Bates, Naomi & family, Noreen Cunliffe, Ronnie, Sheila Townsend, Sharon, Shirley.

☩ **Recently departed:** Lois Pertee, Colin Burwell.

📖 **Years' mind:** 1st Arthur Rand, John Howgego, 2nd Frederick Greenwood, 3rd Edward Richard Rose 4th John Luff, Harry Charles Starling. 5th Harriett Reynolds, Emily Harding, Charles Newman. Joan Eleanor Brown, 6th Diana Rawlinson 7th May Elizabeth Bristow

Blessed Sacrament Lamp — is sponsored by Catherine Keat in Blessed Memory of John and Hazel Howdego - Requiescat in Pace

Aumbry Lamp: is not sponsored this week. .

St James the Great Lamp is not sponsored this week.

My Invitation to YOU to Lead the Stations of the Cross. I warmly invite members of the church to sign up to lead the Stations of the Cross on Sundays at 4:00 pm (excepting March 8th)

This is a wonderful opportunity for lay involvement in this deeply prayerful devotion. We are looking for volunteers to fill two roles:

- **Leaders:** To lead the readings and meditations.
- **Crucifer:** A server to carry the Cross during the procession.

Participation is open to all over the age of 18, as well as those aged 14–18 provided a parent is present. Full instructions and guidance will be provided in advance to those who indicate their interest.

I encourage you to consider this as a meaningful way to journey with Christ in His Passion and to help lead our community in prayer. Please do take part.

Important: If you sign up to lead, please **speak directly to Fr James** for information, a very brief rehearsal, and your instructions on what Stations of the Cross booklet will be used and what hymns will be sung. **To Sign Up:** Please use the sheet on the notice board or speak with me directly. Thank you (Fr. James) *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."* — **Matthew 16:24**

Thanksgiving message

"Ulla and I would like to thank everyone for holding us in your prayers, especially since my unexpected emergency operation on 1 February. We have felt borne up by this wave of support. We are also very grateful to Father James for anointing me shortly before the operation, and to our many kind and helpful friends and neighbours."

David Beattie

☩ **MOTHERING SUNDAY – 15th MARCH** ☩

A Warm Invitation to All

We warmly invite all parishioners to extend a personal invitation to family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues to join us for Mass this **Mothering Sunday**.

Reach Out and Reconnect Please especially consider reaching out to those who may feel distant from church life. A simple, kind invitation could be the very encouragement someone needs to reconnect with God's love and the fellowship of His people.

On the Day

To celebrate the occasion, we are delighted to offer:

- **A small bouquet of flowers** for everyone present.
- **Refreshments** after Mass, featuring traditional **Simmel Cake**.

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'" — **John 19:26–27**

Special Young Church Day – Walsingham. Sat 21st March 11am – 2.15pm

Dear Parents, I want to make a particular appeal to all our families — especially those who joined us on the recent parish pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and equally to those who were unable to come. Please do **pencil in Saturday 21st March** for another wonderful Young Church Mission Day here at St James the Great. We are expecting Jane Southward to be with us once again. Jane's work with the Education Department at the Shrine is creative, rooted in prayer, and deeply Christ-centred. These days are never "just activities" — they are moments of formation, discovery, and joy in the life of faith. Bring friends. Invite other families. Let us continue to build something living and vibrant for our children at St James the Great. **Fr James**



✿ Easter Flowers Sponsorship / Dedications

Please consider sponsoring the lilies and flowers for the **Altar of Repose** and for **Easter Sunday**. Whether in memory of a loved one or as a gift of thanks for the Resurrection, your contribution helps us beautify the sanctuary for our greatest celebration.

To Sponsor: Please add your name and dedication message to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Donations: Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies/Flowers" and hand it to **Jean Hecker**.

Join the Flower Arranging. We invite volunteers to help prepare the church. It is a beautiful way to offer your time in service of the Liturgy:

- **Altar of Repose & Initial Easter Prep:** Wednesday, 1st April at 1:30 p.m.
- **Final Easter Displays:** Prepared after the Good Friday Liturgy (or by other arrangement).

Church Electoral Roll Revision 2026 This year's Electoral Roll update is a **Standard Revision**. This means we are simply making additions or deletions to the existing list rather than starting from scratch.

Church Lenten Service and Maintenance of the Church Help us prepare our sacred space for Easter. Whether you prefer quiet detail work or more active outdoor maintenance, there is a place for you! There is a sign-up sheet on the church notice board.

Our Mission and Leadership

St James the Great Church is a parish of The Society (under the patronage of S. Wilfrid and S. Hilda) and a member of Forward in Faith, under the pastoral and sacramental care of the Bishop of Richborough.

Together, we strive to proclaim the love of Christ, upholding the fullness of the catholic faith and fostering a community where Christian faith, tradition, and prayer flourish.



✂ HOLY WEEK SERVICES ✂

29th March 5th April

Palm Sunday – 29th March 9:30 a.m. – Mass starts with our Procession from our Church School in Guildford Road. **4:00 p.m.** – Stations of the Cross
Monday in Holy Week - Midday – Chrism Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral. The Rt Reverend Luke Irvine Capel – Bishop of Richborough will preside at this Mass: ♦ The priests renew their priestly promises ♦ The Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils used in the sacraments: – Oleum

- ♦ Infirorum (Oil of the Sick) – for anointing the sick and dying –
- ♦ Oleum Catechumenorum (Oil of Catechumens) – for those preparing for Baptism –
- ♦ Sacrum Chrisma (Sacred Chrism) – richly perfumed oil used in Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and the consecration of churches and altars

All are warmly encouraged to attend this powerful act of unity in the life of the Church

Tuesday in Holy Week

- 11:00 a.m. – Confession
- Midday – Mass

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- Midday – Mass

Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. – Mass with Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altars
- Vigil at the Altar of Repose until Midnight
- 11:45 p.m. – Night Prayer

Good Friday

- 2:00 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday

- 8:30–11:00 a.m. – Church Cleaning & Easter Preparation (*Hot Cross Buns provided*)

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." **Romans 4:25**

Easter Day

- **6:00 a.m. – Dawn Vigil & Holy Communion.**
- **10:00 a.m. – Sung Parish Mass**

Support Our Church

Bank: PCC of St James and St Paul, Colchester.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Clare

Moles ☎ 07751 329314

Diocesan Safeguarding Team ☎ 01245 294444

Parish Prayer Times 7.45 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Contact Information

Parish Priest: Fr McCluskey SSC — 01206 860419

Churchwarden/Treasurer: Lucy Mason 01206 386766

Churchwarden: Dr Desirée Campbell — 01206 617263

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