



ST. JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH & ST PAUL'S CHURCH  
12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY – 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2026



✦ **TODAY AT ST JAMES:**

**08:00** — Low Mass **10 am** Sung Parish Mass

This week

**Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> 9- 10.30 am** Church Cleaning

**9.00am** School Assembly

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist Sung Mass at Midday

**7pm PCC at the Pilgrim Centre**

**PCC Meeting & Preparation Notice**

Please note that the first **PCC Meeting** of the new term will take place at **7:00 pm**.

It is incumbent upon all PCC members to arrive fully equipped, thoughtful, and ready to participate actively in our discussions. While the day of the meeting itself can often take on a life force of its own and keep us all incredibly busy, fruitful discernment relies on preparation that begins well before we sit down together. Please ensure you have read through all the documentation ahead of time—including the previous minutes (which have been sent electronically) and the forthcoming agenda. Thank you for taking the time to be fully across the details so that we can converse purposefully and share in this governance in its totality.

**Thur. 25<sup>th</sup> 12.30 pm** Said Mass

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> 9am** Class MassL

Midday: Rosary Prayers

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup>** at Midday Baptism of Catia Cristina, Victoria and Ayden (Fr James)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**The Infirm and Housebound:** Adam, Ava Mills, Gaby, Fr. Clive French, Charlotte Hefferman, David Beattie, Donna Canning, Marilyn Mary Canning, Flavianne, Joyce & Ralph, Jackie Bliss, Lubomira, Madeline Bates, Noreen Cunliffe, Naomi & family, Peggy Lewis, Sheila Townsend, Sharon

**The Recently Departed:** Ronnie Cunliffe, Shirley Ann Raynes, Kelly McMahon

**The Years Mind:** 21<sup>st</sup> Edith Ethel Bull, 22<sup>nd</sup> Frances Robinson, Joyce Traxler, Mary Evered. 24<sup>th</sup> Cecil Durrant, Lucy Mizen. 25<sup>th</sup> Ronald Newton, George Ware, Magtanggol Veloria 29<sup>th</sup> June Betty Frost 27<sup>th</sup> Douglas Imray, William Wilding, Eric Charles Edgson. 28<sup>th</sup> Mary Baldwin, Ethel Warren, Elsie Mary Newman, Dorothy Turner.



**SANCTUARY LAMPS**

- Blessed Sacrament lamp: is sponsored by Grace for Grace of the Servers of the Sanctuary.
- St James the Great lamp: not sponsored this week.
- The Aumbry Lamp: not sponsored this week.

- The Lamp for Iran is sponsored: dedicated to the people of Iran, especially the faithful diaspora within our church and city.

## Celebrating Confirmation at St James the Great:

What a glorious evening it was last Sunday, as our parish family gathered to witness thirteen of our candidates take a profound step forward in their journey of faith. We were delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Luke Irvine-Capel, Bishop of Richborough, who administered the sacrament of Confirmation. Our warmest congratulations and prayers go out to **Eloise, Eliza, Adele, Thea, Lilly, Millie, George, Georgia, Hedy, Eshan, Ayo, Lucy, and Amade**.

It was a beautiful reflection of the life of our church to see such a wonderfully diverse group standing together—six of our candidates are under the age of sixteen, whilst seven are very much older. Each of them answered God's call in their own time, proving that the Holy Spirit works across every generation.

As Bishop Luke beautifully shared following the service:

"Send forth your spirit O Lord and renew the face of the earth! The Lord continues to add to the number of the faithful with thirteen confirmed in St James The Great Colchester this evening. These candidates, called by God and made his own, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and compelled by the love of Christ, will go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News!"

Please continue to keep these thirteen newly confirmed members of our congregation in your daily prayers as they go out to witness to Christ's love.



## A Joyful Convergence: The Visit of the Diocese of Singapore

A profound moment in the life of our parish occurred this past week when we opened our doors to a delegation of forty clergy and lay leaders from the Diocese of Singapore, representing vibrant Anglican communities across Singapore, Thailand, Nepal, and Indonesia. The group, on an intensive eight-day pilgrimage exploring their historical roots across the United Kingdom, included the former Assistant Bishop of Singapore, Bishop Kaun Kim Seng, who joined the tour fresh from his ministry as an advisor to the Province of Ethiopia.

Following visits to foundational sites like St Albans, Oxford, and Cambridge, Colchester held a central place in their journey. The day began with the celebration of Mass here at St James the Great, introducing our guests to the beauty of the Anglo-Catholic tradition, before walking them through the deep, complex history of the Reformation and the Civil War in our historic borough.

Despite contemporary structural tensions and real differences of thought within the wider Anglican Communion regarding ecclesiology and holy orders, this visit demonstrated that our shared convictions remain strong. We proved that our differences can be discussed around a shared table, and that we can unite around the objective realities of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion—which is precisely what we did.

The entire visit beautifully illustrated how the two ends of the Church—the Protestant evangelical tradition with its magnificent missional zeal, and the Catholic tradition with its sacramental focus—meet in perfect harmony. This unity found its ultimate expression at the altar during the celebration of Holy Communion, a privileged moment of theological formation for our entire community.

We extend our immense thanks to the Reverend Peter Cook, whose tireless dedication and decades of ministry in Asia made this logistically demanding pilgrimage possible, and who concluded the day with an insightful lecture at St John's, Ipswich Road. This historic visit marks a true milestone for St James the Great, and we give heartfelt thanks to God for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit in binding our churches together.



**Church Notice: School Summer Fair Volunteers:** The summer fair at St James the Great Primary School (Guildford Road) is taking place on **Friday, 3 July 2026 from 3:15 pm to 5:30 pm.**

Mrs Freeman, who runs the Parent School Association, would be immensely grateful for our assistance. There is already a strong representation from the Free Church leaders who meet at the school, and it would be wonderful if our own CofE community could offer robust support for the afternoon.

Father Jeff Graham is helping out with the coordination. Please note that whilst Jeff is a point of contact, he will not be able to liaise and organise the full volunteer roster himself. My understanding is they are looking for volunteers to assist on the stalls. If you cannot commit to the entire afternoon, offering just an hour to swap over with someone else would be a tremendous help. Please speak to Father Jeff Graham to offer your time and ensure we turn out with some excellent support for the school.

## June & July 2026

### Holy Baptism

**Saturday 27th June at 12:00 pm (Midday)** We look forward with great joy to welcoming a new family into the Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Father James will be baptising Christina, along with her daughter Victoria and her son Aidan.

To help ensure the service runs smoothly, we would be incredibly grateful for a **sidesperson** and a **server** who might be free to assist on this wonderful occasion. If you are able to help, please speak to Father James as soon as possible.

## **The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**

**Sunday 28th June** Looking ahead to next week, we will gather on Sunday 28th June to celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Please keep these two great apostles and pillars of the Church at the forefront of your minds and prayers as we honour their foundational witness and enduring legacy.

## **Summer Lunchtime Concerts**

**Tuesday 7th July at 1:00 pm** We are delighted to host our Summer Lunchtime Concerts here at St James the Great. Please join us for our first performance featuring the **Amoroso Choir**. It promises to be a wonderful hour of music, so do bring your lunch, invite a friend, and come along to support them.

## **General Synod**

**Friday 10th July – Tuesday 14th July** The General Synod of the Church of England will be meeting mid-month in York. As the national assembly of our Church, the Synod brings together bishops, clergy, and laity to deliberate, discern, and legislate on matters of profound significance for the governance, mission, and wider life of our global family.

Father James will be attending these sessions, serving alongside the other elected and structural representatives who give their time to this vital work. Please keep Father James and all members of the General Synod in your prayers during these days, asking that they may be granted wisdom, clarity, and steadfast guidance in all their deliberations.

## **Year 6 Leavers' Mass**

**Friday 17th July at 9:00 am** This is a major milestone in the life of our school and community as we prepare to say farewell to our Year 6 pupils. The Leavers' Mass is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements and wish them well for the future. Parents of Year 6 pupils will be joining us, and all members of the congregation are warmly encouraged to turn out in force to show their support for our young people at this special service.

## **Patronal Festival: St James the Great**

**Sunday 26th July** We close the month with our Patronal Festival, celebrating our patron, St James the Great. Although this falls at the very start of the academic summer break, it remains a time of great celebration and joy.

We are currently awaiting confirmation regarding a guest preacher for the day. Regardless, we shall be celebrating in our usual vibrant tradition: **please do wear red** to mark the occasion, and we hope to arrange a special patronal festival cake for the

fellowship afterwards. Please mark this key date in your diaries.

## **WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE FEBRUARY 2027**

We are delighted to announce that Clare Moles has been appointed as our Walsingham Pilgrimage Coordinator for 2027.

**Why Join Us?** Our parish pilgrimages to Walsingham are always beautiful, profound times of fellowship and renewal. Many of our church family have shared powerful testimonies of their experiences there, speaking of the immense measure of God's grace, peace, mercy, and healing received in response to prayer. Please pray about joining us for this wonderful weekend, sign up swiftly, and secure your place.

### **The Details**

- **Dates:** Friday 19th February to Sunday 21st February 2027.
- **Arrival:** Friday afternoon, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, arriving in good time for supper.
- **Accommodation:** Full board. Claire has provisionally secured 30 places.

**Deposits and Booking** To secure your place, a one-off, non-refundable deposit of £40 per person is required as soon as possible. **The main sign-up sheet for the 30 available pilgrimage places is located at the back of the church.**

Payments should be made via our usual methods. However, to ensure proper tracking, **every payment must be clearly marked "Walsingham Pilgrimage Deposit."**

If you are paying by cash or cheque, please place it in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the same details. Crucially, you must also write a brief note to both Claire Moles and Lucy to confirm that your £40 deposit has been paid and to ensure your name is on the list. Claire's contact details can be found at the back of the notice sheet.

**Travel Arrangements** A minibus will be available, which I am prepared to drive. This will accommodate 15 people in total, allowing for luggage space. **A separate sign-up sheet specifically for the 15 seats on the minibus is also available at the back of the church.**

Please remember that we are only going for the weekend, not a full week. It is essential that everyone minimises their luggage and packs light. Overpacking creates a genuine health and safety hazard for all of us if bags cannot be stowed safely and properly.

Travelling this way is vastly more economical than driving individually, and the cost of the minibus will be shared amongst those who use it. As we have 30 places available in total, we could potentially hire a second minibus—provided we have another volunteer with the necessary driving credentials and licence. Otherwise, pilgrims will need to make their own travel

arrangements, which many may naturally prefer to do. Clare will confirm the final, total cost of the accommodation. Fr James will confirm the cost of the Minibus in due course.

## Parish Notices and Thanksgiving

### Thanksgiving for the Family of Rance:

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving to God for the family of Shirly Ann Raynes, who gathered with us at St James for the Requiem Vigil Mass on Tuesday 16th June. We give thanks for the comfort of the Holy Souls, for all who attended to offer their respects ahead of the funeral rites on Wednesday 17th June, and for the ministry of Jeff who presided over the service. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Standing Committee and Pastoral

**Discernment:** Thanksgiving is offered for the members of the Standing Committee who met on Tuesday 16th June. We give thanks for their dedication during a lengthy and detailed conversation, as we navigate the complexity of the current situations facing us. We pray for continued clarity and wisdom under God as we seek to discern the right path forward in all our upcoming decisions.

### The Deanery Synod: Mutual Flourishing

It was a distinct joy for St James to host the recent Deanery Synod within the Deanery of Colchester. As a parish under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Richborough, we rejoice in our hosting ministry. We give thanks for this opportunity to reaffirm our Catholicity within the Church of England, holding firmly to our Anglican distinctive journey.

We pray that we may continue to be a blessing within the Diocese of Chelmsford, working fully within the framework of mutual flourishing and the Five Guiding Principles as we grow together in faith

## PARISH MINISTRY & VOLUNTEERS

### "An Invitation to Serve Together

Dear friends, As we look at sustaining our shared life, we are reminded that our service is fundamentally Christocentric—an extension of our worship and a direct response to the unconditional love we have received in Christ. We are making a heartfelt appeal for new volunteers of all ages to step forward. Every generation brings a unique gift to the altar of community life, and your presence is vital. Whether you are young, putting down roots, or carrying the wisdom of many years, there is a place for you to minister alongside us. Please consider how you might respond to His call to serve.

### 1. Weekly Rotas

- **Tuesday Cleaning Team (9:00 am – 10:30 am):**
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  -
- **Sunday Morning Refreshments Team:**
  - Sarah Westera
  - Maarten Westera
  -

### 3. Leadership Roles

- **Fundraising Team (3 people required to join Fr James and Fr Jeff):**
  - Maarten Westera
  -

### PARISH CALENDAR & THE DAILY OFFICE

You are invited to join Jean and Fr James in church Tuesday–Saturday.

Morning Prayer: 07:45  Evening Prayer: 18:00 

### CONTACTS & SAFEGUARDING

**Safeguarding:** Mrs Clare Moles 07751 329314

**Fr James McCluskey SSC:** 01206 860419 |  
infostjamesthegreat@gmail.com

**Churchwarden:** Dr Desirée Campbell 01206 617263

**Churchwarden:** Michael Sheehan

**Treasurer:** Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766

### Support Our Church

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