



ST. JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH & ST PAUL'S CHURCH
FEAST OF ST JAMES THE GREAT 2026
GOSPEL YEAR A (SUNDAYS) – WEEKDAY II (2)



✦ TODAY AT ST JAMES:

08:00 — Low Mass

10:00 Patronal Festival Mass of St James the Great, Apostle and Martyr

Dates For the Diary

Tue 28 9- 10.30 am Church Cleaning

Thur. 30th 12.30 Said Mass

Fri 31st Midday Rosary Prayers



PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

The Recently Departed:

The Years Mind: 26th.George Clarke. 28th Michael

Maurice Martin. 29th.Eileen Mary Goldthorpe.

John Lowrie. 30th Esther Anne Butler.31st Roy Cornell.

1st August Charles Glenn, Anne Phillips

Key Dates for 2026

16th August, Sunday Sung Parish Mass at 10.00 am

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sunday 18th October, 4:00 pm Choral Evensong

with Bradley Smith, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society as our guest preacher. As this is a significant

event for our City and the Colchester Deanery, please spread the word widely to family, friends, and colleagues. Let us fill the church with people we invite for this wonderful worship.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

• **Blessed Sacrament lamp:** Is sponsored by Jean in Loving Memory of David.

• **St James the Great lamp:** Is sponsored by Lucy Mason in thanksgiving for 45 years of marriage.

• **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.

Sponsoring Our Sanctuary & Shrine Lamps

If you would like to sponsor one of our weekly seven-day candles, you are warmly invited to do so

How to Sponsor a Lamp

1. **Sign the List:** Locate the sign-up sheet on the notice board. Write your name alongside the candle you wish to sponsor, stating your intention (e.g. *In Thanksgiving, In Blessed Memory, or Requiescat in Pace etc.*).
2. **Prepare Your Contribution:** Take one of the envelopes available on the courtesy board or as you enter the church.

3. **Provide Your Details:** On the envelope, clearly write:
4. The specific candle you are sponsoring
5. Your name and any dedication details
6. **Gift Aid:** If you pay tax and are happy to Gift Aid your contribution, please mark the envelope accordingly.
7. **Submit Your Envelope:** Place your contribution in the collection or hand it in.
8. Or use the QR Code or scan the payment at the back of the church to pay and complete the details on the sign-up sheet.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please speak to **Jean** (Deputy Churchwarden) or any member of the team who will be glad to help.

Caring for the Body of Christ: A Note on Our Sign-Up Sheets:

Our parish ministry sign-up sheets are now up on the noticeboards at the back of the church!

As the early Church Father **St. Clement of Rome** wrote regarding our life together:

"The head is nothing without the feet, and the feet are nothing without the head; the very smallest members of our body are necessary and useful to the whole body. All work harmoniously together."

A parish is not a mere venue, but the living **Body of Christ** in this place. We are deeply grateful for all who quietly serve behind the scenes. Our aim is not to bureaucratised parish life, but to share light loads and practice faithful, sacred stewardship so that every member can contribute:

- **Stewardship of Our Heritage:** To prudently manage church funds, we have reduced professional high-level maintenance contracts to once a year. While we will never ask parishioners to undertake hazardous high-level work, everything we *can* safely maintain ourselves, we must. Caring for the physical beauty of God's house is an act of visible prayer.
- **Shared Hospitality:** Simple ministries like Sunday tea and coffee foster true Christian fellowship, but they require a slightly more organised team so the burden does not fall indefinitely on a generous few.

Everyone is welcome—whether you have been here for thirty years or thirty minutes, your hands and gifts are needed. Please take a moment after Mass to visit the noticeboard and sign up.

AN INVITATION TO SERVE GOD'S HOLY

CHURCH A flourishing parish is not a mere social club of volunteers; it is the organic, living Body of Christ. As St Augustine reminds us, we "receive what you are" at the altar. Our service within the parish is a Christocentric, sacrificial response to His love.

By stepping forward, we exercise our Christian Charism—spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to build up the Church (1 Corinthians 12: 4). For our community to thrive, every generation must deepen their discipleship through prayer and active commitment. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to respond.

A Note on Our Common Life

These invitations to help out at the church have been before the congregation in the church notices for four months. With 113 faithful souls on our Electoral Roll and 190 within our wider parish directory, we are blessed with an abundance of talent, wisdom, and capability.

However, the maintenance of our liturgical and community life cannot rest indefinitely upon a generous few; a parish of our size requires a shared lifting of the load.

If you have been hesitating, or assuming others will step forward, please accept this as a direct encouragement to offer your hands to the work of God's house.

The Joy of Sanctuary Ministry

Serving within the sanctuary is an ancient, holy calling at the heart of our worship. We appeal to children, youth, and adults to join our sanctuary team. This is a joy-filled ministry (Psalm 43: 4) requiring sacred responsibility and absolute reliability. Every movement—from carrying candles to preparing vessels—is an act of visible prayer that draws the congregation into the mystery of Christ.

- **Who can serve:** Anyone who feels a stir in their heart. Full guidance is given; no prior experience is necessary.
- **How to respond:** Speak directly to Fr James or to Grace Sharp.

Our ministries need you: Please sign up to help:

Our weekly ministries sustain our hospitality and community life (Hebrews 13: 2), offering a small amount of time that yields a great spiritual harvest.

Sign-up sheets on the notice board

Tuesday Cleaning Team

- **Time:** 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- **The Ministry:** Caring for the beauty, cleanliness, and sanctity of God's house (Psalm 26: 8).

Sunday Morning Refreshments Team

- **Time:** Following the morning service.
- **The Ministry:** Offering warm hospitality and fellowship to newcomers and parishioners alike.
- **Current Team:** Sarah Westera, Maarten Westera
(Further helpers urgently needed)

Leadership & Mission Roles

We seek individuals to join our leadership teams to help shape the future, stewardship, and strategic mission of our parish.

Fundraising & Development Team

- **The Ministry:** Working alongside Fr James and Fr Jeff to sustain our heritage and resource local mission through scriptural stewardship (2 Corinthians 9: 7).

We seek three individuals with a heart for organisational growth.

- **Current list:** Fr James, Fr Jeff, Maarten Westera (3 vacancies remaining).

📅 PARISH CALENDAR & THE DAILY OFFICE

You are invited to us in church Tuesday–Saturday.

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

This week: PSALTER [Divine Office Week 1](#)

📞 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 07759832760

Treasurer: Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766

🏠 Support Our Church Financially, please. . .

Scan the QR Code.

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