



ST. JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH & ST PAUL'S CHURCH
23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY PEOPLE – 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2026
GOSPEL YEAR A (SUNDAYS) – WEEKDAY II (2)



✦ TODAY AT ST JAMES:

08:00 — Low Mass

10:00 Sung Parish Mass

Dates For the Diary

Tue 8th: 9.00 am School Assembly

9- 10.30 am Church Cleaning

7 pm Sung Mass for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – drinks served afterwards.

Wed 9th Sep. 11 am Mass at Blomfield House

2.15 pm Mass at Paxman House.

Thu 10th 12.30 pm Said Mass

Fri 11th Mass at the Church School

Midday Rosary Prayers

Heritage Open Days: St James the Great Church

This event is part of our church's Divine Renovation mission to grow out into the community. England's largest festival of history and culture.

Saturday 12 Sept. - 0930-1600

Sunday 13 Sept. 1200-1600



PLEASE PRAY FOR

The Infirm and Housebound: Adam,

Fr. Clive French, David Beattie, Jackie Bliss, Joyce & Ralph, Lubomira, Madeline Bates, Noreen Cunliffe, Peggy Lewis, Sheila Townsend, Sharon.

The Recently Departed: Karen Cracknell,

The Years Mind: 6th Barbara Raffe, Lillian Went, Edna Clarke, Florence Ethel Carter. 8th Stanley Clough 9th Graham West. 11th Herbert Humm,

Nevil Beedon. 12th Percy Nicholls, Shelagh Joan Mettrick, Diana George, Maureen Julian, Michael Bacon

Key Dates for 2026

16th Sept, 7 pm PCC meeting in the Pilgrim Centre

Tues 29th Sept. Mass at Midday for the Feast of St Michael & All Angels.

29th September at 7pm Fr James invites all members of the PCC and church members to join him at the LaunchPad Celebration service, which will take place at St Mary's Church, Bocking (CM7 5SR), on Tuesday 29th September – see his letter – A Defining Moment.

Sun. 4th Oct. 10 am Harvest Thanksgiving
 With harvest supper at Midday.

Sat. 10th Oct. Deanery Day at St John's, Ipswich Rd.

18th October Time: 4:00 pm Choral Evensong:
Guest Preacher: Bradley Smith, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society

Heritage Open Days: St James the Great Church

This event is part of our church's Divine Renovation, Primacy of Evangelism to grow out into the community. England's largest festival of history and culture. **Saturday 12 Sept. - 0930-1600**
Sunday 13 Sept. 1200-1600



Young Church Is Back!

Term Time Young Church resumes

For children aged 3+ Today *during the 10:00 a.m.*

Parish Mass We are delighted to welcome children and families back as Young Church begins for the new term! Children start in church with their families, then head to the Pilgrim Centre for their own time of story, prayer, and activity, before rejoining the congregation for the rest of the Mass.



Fun, faith-filled teaching rooted in the Gospel
 † Helping children feel at home in the worshipping life of the Church.



Supporting families to grow in faith together

Our Leaders and Safeguarding

All Young Church leaders are DBS-checked and highly experienced supported by a trusted team, deeply involved in the formation of toddlers, children, young people, and adults.

Parents are welcome to accompany their children until they're confident. If you're new or visiting – we'd love to welcome you!

"Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."
 (Mark 10:14)

Launchpad — A Youth Ministry Strategy for St James the Great: This month Church Council will be looking at a new strategy for youth ministry, called Launchpad, based on a course run by Youthscape. A booklet setting out the strategy has been prepared, and copies will be available for anyone who would like to read it.



The booklet looks at three different ways a church can grow youth work, sets out some case studies from other parishes, and asks Council to decide on a way forward, along with who might help lead it.

There will also be a Commissioning and Celebration event at 7pm on 29th September at St Mary's Church, Boking, Braintree. This is open to everyone, not just those on Church Council, and I would encourage as many of you as possible to come along and hear more about it.

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 8th September, 7pm.

Join us for the Sung Mass as we mark this great feast — a day of joy not only for Mary, but for the whole Church. In celebrating her birth, we celebrate the beginning of the unfolding of God's plan for our salvation.

Born to **Saint Joachim and Saint Anne** (*see Protoevangelium of James, c. AD 150*), Mary is the dawn before the rising Sun, the child prepared by grace to become the Mother of the Saviour. Her birth is a sign of hope — the first light before Christ, the Light of the world.

"From her He took flesh, by whom all things were made." — *Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Come and give thanks for Mary's life, her "yes" to God, and for the love and faith of her parents, who trusted in God's promise.

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### **God's mission in this place.**

Dear friends, We write to you, as your parish priest and PCC Secretary, on behalf of the whole PCC, to express our sincere gratitude for the faithful and generous response we have seen to our focus on giving this year. As you will know, stewardship can be a contentious subject. As a church, we need to balance the needs of our individual parishioners and our crucial focus on worship, with the very real responsibility to maintain the church building and pay for our annual Parish Share, without which we cannot guarantee our future.

In May, 2026, we undertook a Pentecost Gift Day. We are delighted to tell you that £6,930 was raised on this day, which will be a vital contribution to our ongoing mission and to maintaining the

beautiful building that we have the privilege and responsibility of looking after.

There has also been an increase in those people giving via the Parish Giving Scheme, which is also very encouraging. This means that we are more able to predict our income and work to plug gaps in income vs. expenditure.

As King David prayed when the people of Israel gave so willingly for the building of the Temple: "Who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee" (1 Chronicles 29:14).

Everything we have is God's already; in giving, we are only giving back. In practical terms, this steadier picture matters enormously. It is precisely what allows Lucy Mason, our Church Treasurer, and the wider PCC to plan with confidence rather than anxiety – meeting our Parish Share in full, and keeping this building safe, warm, and open for generations still to come. We know that many people are under significant financial strain currently, and this makes your generosity even more remarkable. Whether you contributed financially, prayed for the success of the stewardship campaign, or both, we are extremely grateful. Please be assured of our constant prayers for you as we work out God's mission in this place.

**With our thanks and very best wishes.**

In the Cross of Christ.

**Fr James McCluskey, Rector**

**Claire Moles, PCC Secretary**

on behalf of the PCC of St James the Great with St Paul, Colchester

### **📅 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 3**

### **☎ CONTACTS & SAFEGUARDING**

**Safeguarding:** Mrs Clare Moles 07751 329314

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**Churchwarden** Dr Desirée Campbell 07356276968

**Churchwarden:** Michael Sheehan 07759832760

**Treasurer:** Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766

🙏 **Support Our Church Financially, please.**

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