

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

“We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour His Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour Him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek – Jesus, her Son. ... The greatest saints, those richest in grace and virtue will be the most assiduous in praying to the most Blessed Virgin, looking up to her as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist them.”

~ *Saint Louis Marie de Montfort* ~

+++

“Before, by yourself, you couldn't. Now, you've turned to our Lady, and with her, how easy!”

~ *St Josemaría Escrivá* ~



“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.” ~ *Saint Maximilian Kolbe*

+++

“To give worthy praise to the Lord's mercy, we unite ourselves with Your Immaculate Mother, for then our hymn will be more pleasing to You, because She is chosen from among men and angels. Through her, as through a pure crystal, Your mercy was passed on to us. Through her, man became pleasing to God; through her, streams of grace flowed down upon us.”

~ *St Faustina (#1746)* ~

National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Connor OFS

Parish Priest Email: ClactonCatholicChurch@gmail.com

Parish website: www.ourladyoflight.uk ~ Diocesan website: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net

1 Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6AG, Tel: 01255 423319, Office email: clacton@dioceseofbrentwood.org

NINETEENTH SUNDAY ~ 12TH AUGUST, 2018

Canon Peter Writes...

Pope Francis' catechesis on the Sacrament of Baptism continued:

“Today we conclude the series of catechesis on Baptism. The spiritual effects of this sacrament, invisible to the eye but active in the heart of one who has become a new creature, are clearly seen in the consignment of the white garment and of the lighted candle. After the washing of regeneration, capable of recreating the person in the likeness of God in true holiness, since the first centuries, it has seemed natural to clothe the baptised in a new white garment, reflecting the splendour of life received in Christ and in the Holy Spirit. The white garment, while symbolically expressing what has occurred in the sacrament, announces the condition of having been transfigured in divine glory. Saint Paul recalls what it means to be clothed in Christ, when he explains the virtues that the baptised must cultivate: ‘put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and forgiving each other. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony’.

“Even the ritual consignment of the flame drawn from the Easter candle, recalls the effect of Baptism: ‘Receive the light of Christ’ says the priest. These words recall that we are not the light, but rather, the light is Jesus Christ, who, Risen from the dead, overcame the shadows of evil. We are called to receive His splendour! As the flame of the Easter candle gives light to each single candle, so the love of the Risen Lord enflames the hearts of the baptised, filling them with light and warmth. And this is why, since the first centuries, Baptism has also been called ‘enlightenment’, and the one who was baptised is called ‘enlightened’.

“This is indeed the Christian vocation: ‘Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts’. If children are involved, it is the duty of the parents, together with the godfathers and godmothers, to take care to nurture the flame of baptismal grace in their little ones, helping them persevere in the faith. Children have the *right* to Christian formation, which seeks to lead them gradually to learn God's plan in Christ, so that they may ultimately accept for themselves the faith in which they have been baptised.

“Christ's living presence, which is to be safeguarded, defended and expanded in us, is the lamp which lights our steps, the light which directs our choices, the flame which warms hearts on the journey to encounter the Lord, making us

Children have the right to Christian formation.

capable of helping those who journey with us, until the inseparable communion with Him. From that day forth, Revelation also states, 'night shall be no more; and they shall need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever' (cf. Revelation 22:5).

"The celebration of Baptism concludes with the prayer of the Our Father, which belongs to the community of the Children of God. Indeed, children reborn in Baptism will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit fulfilled in Confirmation and will participate in the Eucharist, learning what it means to address God by calling him 'Father'.

"At the conclusion of this catechesis on Baptism, I invite you to let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to Him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life."

+++

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted: all they did was to bring it out into the open, to explain its meaning and substance in other terms. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.



Thus St John Damascene, who is the greatest exponent of this tradition, compares the bodily Assumption of the revered Mother of God with her other gifts and privileges: It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and to be honoured by every creature as the God's Mother and handmaid.

St Germanus of Constantinople considered that the preservation from decay of the body of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, and its elevation to heaven as being not only appropriate to her Motherhood but also to the peculiar sanctity of its virgin state: It is written, that you appear in beauty, and your virginal body is altogether holy, altogether chaste, altogether the dwelling-place of God; from which it follows that it is not in its nature to decay into dust, but that it is transformed, being human, into a glorious and incorruptible life, the same body, living and glorious, unharmed, sharing in perfect life.

Another very ancient author asserts: Being the most glorious Mother of Christ our saviour and our God, the giver of life and immortality, she is given life by him and shares bodily incorruptibility for all eternity with him who raised her from the grave and drew her up to him in a way that only he can understand. All that the holy fathers say refers ultimately to Scripture as a foundation, which gives us the vivid image of the great Mother of God as being closely attached to her divine Son and always sharing his lot.

It is important to remember that from the second century onwards the holy fathers have been talking of the Virgin Mary as the new Eve for the new Adam: not equal to him, of course, but closely joined with him in the battle against the enemy, which ended in the triumph over sin and death that had been promised even in Paradise. The glorious resurrection of Christ is essential to this victory and its final prize, but the blessed Virgin's share in that fight must also have ended in the glorification of her body. For as the Apostle says: When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the scripture will be fulfilled that says "Death is swallowed up in victory".

So then, the great Mother of God, so mysteriously united to Jesus Christ from all eternity by the same decree of predestination, immaculately conceived, an intact virgin throughout her divine motherhood, a noble associate of our Redeemer as he defeated sin and its consequences, received, as it were, the final crowning privilege of being preserved from the corruption of the grave and, following her Son in his victory over death, was brought, body and soul, to the highest glory of heaven, to shine as Queen at the right hand of that same Son, the immortal King of Ages.

from The Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayer of St Francis to Our Lady
Hail, O Lady, holy Queen, Mary, Holy Mother of God, who are the Virgin made Church, chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, in whom there was and is all fullness of grace and every good. Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe! Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother! And hail all you holy virtues which are poured into the hearts of the faithful through grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, that from being unbelievers, You may make them faithful to God.

Saturday, 11 th August <i>St Clare of Assisi</i>	9.45am-10.40am 9.45am 11.00am	CONFESSIONS Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer Mass ~ Rose Williamson Intentions (Mary & Tony Lance)
	4.00pm-4.40pm 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Vigil Mass ~ All Parishioners
Sunday, 12 th August <i>Nineteenth Sunday of Year B</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Mass ~ Patrick Byrne RIP (Vera) Mass ~ George Rathe (Mary Rathe)
Monday, 13 th August <i>Ss Pontian & Hyppolytus</i>	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Gordon Errol Tucker
Tuesday, 14 th August	7.00pm	Vigil Mass ~ Jim Gogarty RIP (Lee Family)
Wednesday, 15 th August <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.45am 11.00am	Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer Mass ~ Elizabeth Rowley RIP (Tina & Harry)
Thursday, 16 th August ~ <i>St Stephen of Hungary</i>	<i>No Mass or Exposition</i>	
Friday, 17 th August	<i>No Mass or Exposition</i>	
Saturday, 18 th August <i>St Helen</i>	9.45am-10.40am 9.45am 11.00am 1.30pm	CONFESSIONS Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer Mass ~ Sister Carmel Intentions (Mary & Tony Lance) Mass in Malayalam preceded by the Rosary
	4.00pm-4.40pm 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Vigil Mass ~ Stanislaw Zieba (Zieba Family)
Sunday, 19 th August <i>Twentieth Sunday of Year B</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Mass ~ Pat Killen RIP (Ann Killen & Family) Mass ~ Patrick Williams RIP (Eleanor Williams) & All Parishioners

TEA AND COFFEE are available after the Sunday morning Masses. Everyone is welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF GORDON TUCKER who died recently. Remember his family, too, in your prayers.

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, 15TH AUGUST, IS A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION which means we have the same grave obligation to come to Mass as we have on a Sunday. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday, 14th August at 7.00pm, and 11.00am on Wednesday, 15th August. There will be the usual Offertory Collection at these Masses.

COFFEE MORNING 3 ladies from our parish are planning to hold a fundraising coffee morning in our hall on Wednesday, 22nd August at 10.00am and ask if there is anyone willing to help. There will be lovely homemade cakes and scones, a raffle and a jewellery stall. If you can help in any way please contact Julie Fitzgerald, Tel: 431885.

PARISH RENOVATION FUND Our **Second Collection** this weekend is for our Parish Renovation Fund. Do remember that if you are in the Gift Aid Scheme you can put your donation in any envelope with your personal Gift Aid number on and the parish will then claim back another 25% from 'the tax man' on your contribution.

IF YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED JEWELLERY, no matter how battered and broken, please help the parish boost its funds by giving it to Julie Fitzgerald or the parish priest.

PARISH LOTTERY Bonus Ball No 7. Winners: Carole Corrington & Léda.

BCYS YOUTH GATHER 20TH - 21ST OCTOBER 2018, ESSEX OUTDOORS, EAST MERSEA This event is open to those in school year 9 and above. We are delighted to be back at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island for our annual Youth Gather, where there is new cabin accommodation and a brilliant range of outward bound activities. We will combine opportunities for climbing high ropes, abseiling, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, with guest speakers and workshops which will give you fresh insights into yourself, and your faith, by telling their stories. One of our speakers for this Autumn will be the lively, humorous and engaging speaker Fr Paul Keane, Vice Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott. **The cost includes lunch and dinner on Saturday 20th, breakfast and lunch on Sunday 21st, two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, and a night in a Mersea log cabin** – all of this for just **£50**. This price is thanks to National Youth Sunday parish collections, to help us subsidise such opportunities. Applications for this year's Youth Gather on Mersea Island **are now open!** You can apply by creating an account at www.bcys.net and applying on the Events page.

+++++

Useful Local Contacts: SVP telephone 07955203405 **HALL BOOKINGS** 01255 429032/SaintCharlesHall@gmail.com

St Clare's Catholic Primary School Cloes Lane, Clacton CO16 8AG, 01255 425344, www.st-clares.essex.sch.uk

St Benedict's Catholic College Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US, 01206 549222, www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk

~ Items for the Newsletter to be delivered to the presbytery or by email by 10.00am on Wednesday ~

Diocesan registered charity number 234092. For private circulation only.