

# Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

“If we really understood how much God loves us, we would die from joy.”

~ St John Vianney ~

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“O Name of Jesus, key of all gifts, open up for me the great door of Your treasure house so that I may enter and offer You heartfelt praise in return for Your mercies which I have experienced in latter days; for You came and renewed me with an awareness of the new world.”

~ St Isaac the Syrian ~

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“Put up willingly with the faults of others, if you wish others to put up with yours.”

~ St John Bosco

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“Do not say, after spending a long time in prayer, that nothing has been gained; for you have already gained something. And what higher good is there than to cling to the Lord and persevere in unceasing union with Him?”

~ St John Climacus ~

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“God can save the sinner you are, but not the saint you pretend to be.”

~ Metropolitan Anthony Bloom ~

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

Parish Priest: Canon Peter Connor OFS

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## FIFTH SUNDAY ~ 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019

### Canon Peter Writes...

**Pope Francis' catechesis on The Commandments/The Ten Words of God continued:** “In today’s catechesis we will address the Eighth Word of the Decalogue: ‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour’. This Commandment, the Catechism says, ‘forbids misrepresenting the truth in our relations with others’. To live with false communication is serious because it impedes relationships and, therefore, impedes love. Where there are lies there is no love; there can be no love. And when we speak about interpersonal communication we do not mean words alone, but also gestures, attitudes, even silence and absence. A person speaks with all that he is and does. We are always communicating. We all live by communicating and we are always poised between truth and lies.

“But what does it mean to *tell the truth*? Does it mean being sincere? Or precise? In fact, this is not enough, because one can be genuinely mistaken, or one can be precise in the details but not grasp the overall sense. At times we justify ourselves by saying: ‘But I said what I felt!’ Yes, but you have presented your point of view as an absolute. Or: ‘I only told the truth!’ Perhaps, but you revealed personal or private matters. How much gossip destroys communion by inopportune comments or lack of sensitivity! Indeed, gossip kills, and James the Apostle said this in his Letter. Those who gossip are people who kill: they kill others because the tongue kills as much as a knife. ***Be careful! Those who gossip are like terrorists because their tongues throw a bomb and then they calmly walk away, but what they say with that bomb destroys the reputation of others.***

“So: what is truth? This is the question Pilate asked, just as Jesus, standing before him, fulfilled the eighth Commandment. Indeed, the words ‘you shall not bear false witness against your neighbour’ pertain to forensic language. The Gospels culminate in the narrative of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection; and this is the narrative of a process, of the execution of the sentence and of an unprecedented consequence.

“As He is interrogated by Pilate, Jesus says: ‘For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, *to bear witness to the truth*’. And Jesus bears this ‘witness’ through His passion and through His death. The Evangelist Mark recounts that ‘the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that He thus breathed His last, and said: “Truly this man was the Son of

God!'" . Yes, because He was consistent. He was consistent: in the way that He dies, Jesus manifests the Father, His merciful and steadfast love.

"Truth is fully realised in the very person of Jesus, in His *way* of living and of dying, fruit of His relationship with the Father. This existence as children of God, He, the Risen One, gives it to us too, sending the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth, who attests to our heart that God is our Father.

"In every action people either affirm or deny this truth. From the little everyday situations to the most binding choices. But the logic is always the same: what our parents and grandparents teach us when they tell us not to tell lies.

"Let us ask ourselves: to what truths do we Christians, our deeds, our words, our choices, attest? Everyone can ask themselves: am I a witness of truth, or am I more or less a liar disguised as truth? We Christians are not exceptional men and women. However, we are children of the heavenly Father, who is good and does not disappoint us, and instills in our hearts love for our brothers and sisters. This truth is not expressed so much in speech; it is a way of life, a way of living, and is seen in every single action. This man is a *true* man, that woman is a *true* woman: one can see it. But how, if they do not open their mouths? But they behave like *true* men and women. They tell the truth, they act with truth. It is a good way for us to live.

"The truth is the marvellous revelation of God, of His Fatherly face; it is His boundless love. This truth corresponds to human reason, but infinitely transcends it, because it is a gift descended to the earth and embodied in Christ crucified and Risen; it is made visible by those who belong to Him and demonstrate His same disposition.

"*Not bearing false witness* means living as children of God, who never, ever contradict themselves, never tell lies; living as children of God, letting shine forth in every deed the supreme truth: that God is Father and that we can trust in Him. I trust God: this is the great truth. From our trust in God, who is Father and who loves me, loves us, springs *my* truth, being truthful and not a liar.

*To be continued.*

**"Repentance  
is the beginning, middle  
and end of the Christian  
way of life."**

~ St Gregory of Palamas ~

Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00am 9.45am 10.10am-10.40am <b>11.00am</b> <b>1.30pm</b>	First Holy Communion Session beginning in the church Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer CONFESSIONS <b>Mass ~ Kevin Gummett Intentions</b> <b>Mass in Malayalam</b> preceded by the Rosary
	4.00pm-4.40pm <b>5.00pm</b>	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>Vigil Mass ~ Julie Lee Intentions (Altar Servers)</b>
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Fifth Sunday of Year C</i>	<b>8.30am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass ~ Mary Hyde RIP (Breda) &amp; All Parishioners</b> <b>Mass ~ Maggie &amp; Family Intentions (Kathleen &amp; Ron)</b>
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i> <i>World Day for the Sick</i>	9.45am <b>11.00am</b>	Novena to Our Lady, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer <b>Mass ~ Elizabeth (Bernie) Michael RIP</b>
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>*9.30am</b>	<b>Class Mass at St Clare's ~ Mary Hyde RIP (Vera Jones)</b> <i>Parishioners are welcome</i>
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February		<i>No Mass or Exposition</i>
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February ~ <i>Ss Cyril &amp; Methodius</i>		
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February		
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> February	9.45am-10.40am 9.45am <b>11.00am</b>	CONFESSIONS Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer <b>Mass ~ Fr David McGary RIP (Tim Freyne)</b>
	4.00pm-4.40pm <b>5.00pm</b>	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>Vigil Mass ~ Mary Hyde RIP (Morley Family) &amp; All Parishioners</b>
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Sixth Sunday of Year C</i> <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	<b>8.30am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass ~ Liz Dearman RIP</b> <b>Mass ~ Eileen Hand RIP</b>

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

**PARISH LOTTERY** Jan 26/27: Bonus Ball No 2. Winner: Roy Young.

**PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** We are planning to organise a parish coach trip on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May to join with our Bishop as he leads the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham. Paul Twyford, our Steward of the Gospel, has kindly agreed to be responsible for taking names and fare money. If you wish to book a seat please let Paul know: Tel: 01255 688213 or email paultwyford@btinternet.com as soon as possible as we shall also be offering places to other members of our Colchester and Tendring Parish Partnership. Details of cost and times will be published later and the Pilgrimage is open to all ages.

**The January Bulletin** of the Vision Document can be viewed at:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/stewards-of-the-gospel/current-e-bulletin/>

**A DAY OF FORMATION – WORKING WITH AND FOR OUR YOUTH** The Vicariate for Evangelisation are organising a formation day with Fr Dominic Howarth. They will be joining us on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March in Hornchurch. Please put this date in your diary and pass it on. If you or anyone else in your parish are either actively working with youth or you are interested employing a youth co-ordinator, in line with the new Diocesan Vision, this day is for you. The content of the day will help inform the plan for your Parish Partnership, and it would be ideal if at least two Stewards from each Partnership group could attend. To sign up please use the Doodle link below or email [adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org). <https://doodle.com/poll/n9ptqbmggvhhmbm7c> Time: 10.00am-3.00pm. **Please bring a packed lunch**, tea & coffee will be provided. Location: English Martyrs, 240 Alma Ave, Hornchurch RM12 6BJ.

**IS THIS FOR YOU OR FOR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?** St Scholastica’s Retreat – Open Day – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February. The Retreat offers sheltered housing to practising Catholics aged 60 or over in 36 self-contained flats at £491pcm – more information on the poster at the back of the church and from The Warden: Deacon Seán Duffy – Princes Risborough (01844) 344437. Email: [info@stscholasticas.co.uk](mailto:info@stscholasticas.co.uk), [www.stscholasticas.co.uk](http://www.stscholasticas.co.uk).

**TO ALL COUPLES WHO MARRIED IN ST HELEN’S CHURCH, WESTCLIFF ON SEA** St Helen’s will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and we are asking any couples who married in the church to please contact the Parish Office 01702 342324 with date of marriage, full names and a wedding photo. These will be displayed and the couples invited to attend a Mass for a special blessing. *(Please advise if you do not wish for the photos to be added to the Parish Facebook page).*

**HEADTEACHER VACANCY** Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford CM2 0RG. Applications are invited for this post. Closing date: Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. For further information please refer to TES online or Essex Jobs scene. Visits to the school are strongly encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office for an appointment on: 01245 353755. Completed application forms must only be returned to the Chair of Governors, Sr Sheila Sumner OSM, at [recruitment@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk) or personally addressed to her at the school.

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## LANDINGS

On Saturday, 23rd February, 11:00–15:00 we will be holding a workshop to explain what Landings is and to see what it would look like in your parish. Location: Conference Centre at Brentwood Cathedral, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. The day will be led by: Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and Sr Dorothy Perrott OSU.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landings-welcoming-back-catholics-tickets-55639104058?aff=affiliate1> Click to register or email [adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

*Landings* is a series of relaxed, informal, lay-led meetings, based on faith-sharing within a small group, that offer a safe and supported “landing place” for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are thinking about coming back. There are many reasons why people stop practising their faith: Some may have had unpleasant or painful experiences in their church community, others feel uncomfortable with certain teachings of the church, others will simply have drifted away, whilst others may have been baptised but never had any experience of church.

*Landings* is not for everyone and many people looking to reconnect with their faith and the church will do so in other ways. However, many people looking to reconnect welcome the opportunity to reflect on their questions, concerns and experiences with others and to get to know a few other people before venturing into the wider parish community.

*Landings* offers Catholics wanting to reconnect a supportive community within which they can ask questions, discuss issues, deal with difficulties; an opportunity to be with other, ordinary Catholics who are trying to live their faith; and a safe environment in which to come to terms with recent changes within the Church and themselves. *Landings* offers already active Catholics an opportunity to share their faith; to participate in the Church’s mission to welcome those who have been away; and a chance to grow and learn from each other’s spiritual journeys. *Landings* offers Catholic parishes and communities a simple process for reaching out and supporting Catholics who have been away from the Church or who struggle in their relationship with God and the Church. Landings is usually parish-based and led by lay people within the parish community.

While *Landings* is NOT: the “saved” welcoming the “sinners”; people pressurising others to return; full of answers to teach the unenlightened; blind to the hurt the Church may have caused some; It IS: People in solidarity with the returning, who in their own lives have “returned”, and continue to do so. *Landings* is founded on the belief that we do not have to be trained theologians to share what we believe, and to speak honestly about our faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit.

*Background to Landings:* *Landings* was founded by the Paulist Fathers in the USA during the 1980s and continues to be a reconciliation ministry of the Paulists. It has since developed an international presence and, in 2001, Landings was introduced to the UK. It is estimated that over the last 30 years Landings has helped around 100,000 people who have left or drifted away from the Catholic Church and who would like to explore the possibility of rejoining the Catholic community. When run in your parish *Landings* is a series of relaxed, informal, lay-led meetings, based on faith-sharing within a small group, that offer a safe and supported “landing place” for Catholics who have been away from the Church and are thinking about coming back.

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**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](http://www.st-clares.essex.sch.uk)

**St Benedict’s Catholic College** Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US, 01206 549222, [www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk](http://www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk)

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

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