

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth
National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

(Gaudete Sunday)

Come Holy Spirit, by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your well-beloved spouse. Amen.



Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, I give thee my whole self, soul and body, all that I have or may have, to keep for Jesus, that I may be His for evermore. Amen.

COVID 19 REGULATIONS: England has moved to Plan B measures in the response to the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. HM Government has made the wearing of face coverings mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December 2021.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets or at the Sunday Mass collection, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by 1. Standing order; 2. Using the Smart Bar Codes; or 3. Via the donation button on the website. This will reduce the level of risk to our collection counters and those who will need to visit the bank. The bank details are:

Bank Title: Catholic Church Clacton-on-Sea, Sort Code 401322, Account Number: 41020463. Members of the gift-aid scheme should quote their name and gift aid number in the Reference. Funds received last week:

Electronic Offerings £1515.00 of which £1182.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £435.00 of which £144.00 was gift aided.

Thank you for your generosity, for Gift Aiding your offerings, and for your support of the Parish. Fr Patrick.

GIVE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE: You can now give to the Parish with your smartphone using the bar codes displayed at the entrance and exit doors of the church. You can give from £3 to £20 with or without Giftaid. Simply scan the chosen bar code.

LUKE 3:10-18

‘Rejoice in the Lord; again, I say rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near’. This is the entrance antiphon for Gaudete Sunday – which we celebrate today. Gaudete means joy in Latin. Advent is a period of repentance and preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Today we simply rejoice in the gift of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, and the Son of God. We rejoice that we are saved from death and sin by Our Lord Jesus Christ: This is the Good News!

In the Gospel from Luke, the people asked John the Baptist, “What must I do? He told them that they must treat people fairly and share their possessions with those in need. John declared, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Water signifies birth and the life given in the Holy Spirit. Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost. Each one of us has been given the Holy Spirit at our Baptism – we are ‘Temples of the Holy Spirit’.

This great gift of grace must have a transforming effect on our lives and on those we meet. We are to be people of joy and love. We are to rejoice! We are to tell others of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are to show love to those less privileged than ourselves: the old, the lonely, the homeless, those without jobs. We must share with those who have nothing. We are to live our lives in the knowledge that we have been saved by Jesus Christ. The same Jesus Christ, we receive in the Holy Eucharist: The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL CONCERT: Please join me and the Parish Choir at the Carol Concert at 2 pm outside of Morrison’s in the Waterglade Retail Park on Saturday 11th December. There will be a full brass band. This is an important witness to the Christian meaning of Christmas, and an opportunity to stand together with the other Christians in the town. Fr Patrick.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING. You are invited to coffee, cakes, savories, and a chat in the Parish Hall immediately after the 9.00 Mass until 12.00 on Friday 17th December. There will be a raffle. All proceeds to the 'Soup Kitchen'.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND MINCE PIES: You are invited by the Parish Choir to join them for mince pies and coffee, followed by carols immediately after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 19th December. Please note that masks must be worn for singing.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend for Christmas flowers in the Church.

YOUTH 2000 RETREAT: Friday 31st December to Sunday 2nd January 2022 at Trinity Catholic High School, Woodford Green. Open to 16- to 35-year-olds. See www.youth2000.org/new

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will be held in the Church at 7.00 pm on Monday 20th December with visiting priests. This is a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

MASS INTENTIONS. I am very grateful for your Mass intentions and generous stipends. If you wish to secure a specific date for a Mass, it is sensible to give 3 months' notice. I will always do my best to give the requested date.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 11 th December 2021.	9.30 am.	MASS: Mary Powell RIP Parish.
Saturday 11 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 11 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 11 th December 2021.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 11 th December 2021. <i>Vigil of The Third Sunday of Advent (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Steve Andrews & Family Intentions Shane Andrews.

Sunday 12 th December 2021. <i>The Third Sunday of Advent (C). (Gaudete' Sunday)</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Joseph Doc Marquis & Family RIP.
Sunday 12 th December 2021.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Ray Bagnall RIP Parish.
Monday 13 th December 2021. <i>Memorial of St Lucy, V, M.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: James Arthur Salmon & Family Intentions Andrews Family.
Tuesday 14 th December 2021. <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross, Pr, D.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: Rose Lindsay Intentions Tara.
Friday 17 th December 2021.	9.00 am.	Mary Powell RIP Joe Powell.
Saturday 18 th December 2021.	9.30 am.	MASS: Thomas Ropohan RIP Margaret & John.
Saturday 18 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 18 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 18 th December 2021.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 18 th December 2021. <i>Vigil of The Fourth Sunday of Advent (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Gary Bottrill & Family Intentions Shane Andrews.
Sunday 19 th December 2021. <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent (C). (Expectant Mothers)</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: John Todd & Family RIP
Sunday 19 th December 2021.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Marian Lewis & Barbara de la Nougerede Intentions Kathleen Tibbs.