

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 (B)

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.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS: Please follow the instructions of the Church Stewards and allow plenty of time before Mass starts to sanitize your hands and complete registration. Attendance at Mass is restricted to 50 people. **I would, therefore, ask that those who are able to attend Mass in the week to refrain from attending Mass at the weekends to allow others the opportunity.** Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. Fr Patrick.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS

Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by standing order or 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:
Collection and donations: £270.50 of which £45.00 was gift aided.

Electronic Offerings £675.00 of which £475.00 was gift aided.

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

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2021. Any young person wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Pentecost on 23rd May 2021, should make a request in writing to Fr Patrick. To qualify for the 2021 programme, the young person must be currently in Year 9 or above. We are proposing five Zoom sessions and one mini retreat led by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. The closing date for applications is 24th December.

CHRISTMAS MASS TICKETS: Receipt of applications is now closed. You will be contacted directly once the tickets have been allocated to each Mass. Please do not ring the Presbytery.

JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

This is the third Sunday of Advent and is called the Sunday “of joy” or Gaudete Sunday and reminds us that, even amid many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists; has come to visit us; and comes to be with us always. This Sunday we light the rose-coloured Advent Candle and the priest wears the rose-coloured vestment.

The Gospel from John focuses on the person of John the Baptist. We are told that John the Baptist was sent by God to be a witness for the Light, so that everyone might believe through him. The Jewish authorities wanted to know who John was and sent their representatives to him. They asked, ‘Who are you?’ John tells them that he is not the Christ and quotes the Prophet Isaiah. They question why he was baptising if he is not the Christ and not a prophet? John replies that he baptised with water. The one, who would follow him, would baptise with the Holy Spirit.

What does this Gospel mean to us at this point in Advent?

The ministry of John the Baptist completed the long line of prophets through ancient history prophesizing the Day of Lord: the time when God and mankind would be reconciled through the arrival of the Messiah to His chosen people. John identified Jesus as ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world’. John gave witness to Jesus as the Messiah through his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion and finally, by his martyrdom. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit began the restoration of humanity’s relationship with God through His Son Our Lord Jesus Christ. God intervenes in history to bring about the salvation of humanity. God calls us to Himself out of total love, and calls us to be His Adopted Sons and Daughters.

In accordance with the prophecy of Isaiah, John the Baptist lived in the wilderness and showed us the path to Jesus Christ through his message of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. In this busy and demanding time of year, we need to find a some quiet and stillness to consider our relationship with God; to appreciate the great gift He has given us; to consider the great price paid by His Son for our salvation; and to put right our relationship with Him. We need to enter the wilderness of stillness and peace to listen to God.

In the words of Pope Francis: 'In this time that leads up to the feast of Jesus' birth, let us give ourselves to silence, to listen, not focusing on ourselves but leaving a space for the beauty of God, the source of truth.

MASSES WILL BE OPEN TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

Saturday 12 th December	9.30 am.	MASS: Brenda & Steven Millson Intentions Parish
Saturday 12 th December	11.00 am to 12.00 am	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy. Please tell the Steward that you wish to go to confession.
Saturday 12 th December	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Church open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 12 th December Vigil Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent (B)	6.00 pm	MASS: Matthew Clarke RIP Paul Clarke
Sunday 13 th December Third Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Edward Cox RIP D Lane
Sunday 13 th December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Willow & Ena Taylor RIP Ashley & Elaine Cox
Monday 14 th December <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross, Pr, D.</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Fr Stewart Foster Intentions Parish

Tuesday 15 th December	9.30 am.	MASS: Danny & Julie Fitzgerald Intentions Parish
Friday 18 th December	9.30 am.	MASS: Jean Fromhold Intentions Jean
Saturday 19 th December	9.30 am.	MASS: Kathleen Diggins & Family Intentions Mary
Saturday 19 th December	11.00 am to 12.00 am	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy. Please tell the Steward that you wish to go to confession.
Saturday 19 th December	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Church open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 19 th December Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)	6.00 pm	MASS: Fr Jim McCormack RIP Mary
Sunday 20 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Expectant Mothers</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Frances Kelly and Family Intentions Mary
Sunday 20 th December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Noel & Anne Waters Intentions Parish

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.

Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit pray for us.

Amen.