

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)
(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.*

SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS: This week:

- ❖ *Our Lady of Light Chapel: Mary & Paul Fuschillo RIP*
- ❖ *Blessed Sacrament Chapel: Carmen Bobb & Semple Alley Intentions.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: Please make your weekly offerings by standing order. If you are a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid the amount without any cost to yourself.

The parish 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:

Standing Order Offerings £620.00 of which £547.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £460.00 of which £56.00 was gift aided.

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

JOHN (1:6-8,19-28)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near! This is Gaudette Sunday. Gaudette means rejoice in Latin. The priest wears rose coloured vestments rather than the purple of Advent this Sunday. We light the 'rose' coloured candle on the Advent Wreath.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, the Prophet exclaims: 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God.' In the second reading from St Paul to the Thessalonians, Paul tells us to 'be happy at all times, to pray constantly, and for giving thanks to God.'

The focus of this Sunday's Gospel is John the Baptist. We are told that John was sent by God to be a witness for the Light, so that everyone might believe through him. The Jewish authorities asked John, 'Who are you?' John tells them that he is not the Christ and quotes the Prophet Isaiah.

The ministry of John the Baptist completed the long line of prophets through ancient history prophesizing the Day of the Lord: the time when God and man 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 begins the restoration to humanity of our 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. He calls us to be His adopted Sons and Daughters. In this busy and demanding time of year, we need to find 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 offences against Him. This is an excellent opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The service will take place on Monday evening at 7.00 pm with visiting priests. This is a wonderful way of preparing to celebrate Our Lord's birthday.

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER: Please note that there is no 8.30 am Mass.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: The children are invited to dress in nativity costumes and to join Fr Patrick on the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: The Christmas offerings are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. Only the following qualifies for the personal offering: Electronic payments with the word 'Christmas' included in the reference details, the 'Christmas Offering' gift-aid envelopes, and cash placed in the collection at the Christmas Masses. Private gifts welcome. Thank you for your generosity. Fr Patrick.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Saturday 16 th December 2023.	9.30 am.	MASS: Cyril Avery RIP Barbara Nunn.
Saturday 16 th December 2023.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 16 th December 2023.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 16 th December 2023.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 16 th December 2023.	12.00 pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 16 th December 2023. <i>Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent (B).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Reeves Family Intentions. Andrews Family.
Sunday 17 th December 2023. <i>Third Sunday of Advent (B).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Serena & Anna Maria McMahon Intentions. Pat Cunningham.
Sunday 17 th December 2023.	10.30 am.	MASS: Tom McCarthy RIP Herlihy Family.
Monday 18 th December 2023.	9.00 am.	MASS: Dominic & Mary Henley RIP. John Henley.
Monday 18 th December 2023.	7.00 pm.	CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE.
Tuesday 19 th December 2023.	9.00 am.	MASS: Archie Campbell RIP Maureen.
Wednesday 20 th December 2023.	9.00 am.	MASS: Greg Staunton Intentions. Margaret Geale.

Saturday 23 rd December 2023.	9.30 am.	MASS: Pat & Des McGuire Intentions. Joe.
Saturday 23 rd December 2023.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 23 rd December 2023.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 23 rd December 2023.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 23 rd December 2023.	12.00 pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 23 rd December 2023. <i>Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent (B).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Betty Austin RIP Angela & Gordon Cook.
Sunday 24 th December 2023. <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B).</i>	10.30 am.	MASS: Ava Syme-Reeves RIP Andrews Family.
Sunday 24 th December 2023. <i>Children's Christmas Vigil.</i>	5.00 pm.	MASS: Seamus & Christine Freeney RIP. Lorraine Herlihy.
Sunday 24 th December 2023.	8.00 pm.	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE.
Sunday 24 th December 2023. <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.</i>	9.00 pm.	MASS: Joe & Janina Buda Intentions.
Monday 25 th December 2023. <i>Solemnity of Christmas Day.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Mary Coyne RIP Teresa Coyne.
Monday 25 th December 2023.	10.30 am	MASS: Harry Killen Intentions Lee Family.