

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

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*SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)*

*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.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: **Please, wherever possible, arrange to make your offerings electronically.** If you are a taxpayer, you can gift aid the amount without any cost to yourself. This saves the work of our volunteer counters, increases our income, and greatly reduces our bank charges. 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:

Electronic Offerings £554.00 of which £421.00 was gift aided.

Collection £554.60 of which £85.00 was gift aided.

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

#### MATTHEW 5:38:48

In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells us that we are to 'offer the wicked man no resistance'. If we are hit on the right cheek, we are to offer our left cheek. If somebody takes our tunic, we are to give him our cloak as well. If anyone orders us to go one-mile, we must go two-miles. We are not to turn away those in need. Then comes the big ask: 'I say to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' We will, then, 'be children of our Father in heaven.

God is total and perfect love. There are no limits to God's mercy. There are no tests by which we are to limit our obligation of love. As St Paul tells us: 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.' All Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love. Jesus acknowledged the Ten Commandments but also showed the power of the Holy Spirit at work in every word of God's Commandments. Jesus unfolded all the demands of the Commandments through the central demand by God to love. On the cross on Calvary, at His crucifixion, Jesus rather than condemning those who tortured him, simply said 'forgive them for they do not know what they do'.

Jesus tells us to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect and to be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. He says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another'.

Is it possible to love as God loves? Is it possible to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect? We can only imitate God by entering the very life of God. We can only imitate God by participating in the very life of The Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity is the perfect relationship of love between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. How do we enter the life of The Blessed Trinity? We enter the life of The Blessed Trinity through prayer, through acts of love especially to those in need; and by listening to the Word of God. We enter the life of the Blessed Trinity through the reception of the sacraments, and most especially, the Holy Eucharist, the Bread of Heaven: the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

UNVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Two free copies available online. Go to website: [universecatholicweely.co.uk/subscribe](http://universecatholicweely.co.uk/subscribe).

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: Christchurch United Reformed Church, Carnarvon Road, Clacton on Sea. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 2.00pm. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION: Weekend 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 for Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund.

LENT FAST DAY: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 is Lent Fast Day. You are asked to give up a meal and give the money saved to CAFOD. There will be a collection at all Masses during the weekend 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

LENT LECTURE: By Baroness Caroline Cox on 'The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christian who are suffering persecution' on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7.00 pm at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall.

FR PATRICK: Will be on annual retreat from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Fr Gerald Gostling will be covering his absence.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE: See [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events) for latest events.

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.**

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| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 9.30 am.              | MASS: Calum Lee Intentions.  |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am to 12.00 pm. | SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:<br>Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy. |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.  | EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.                                       |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am.             | DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.  |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 12.00 pm.             | THE HOLY ROSARY.   |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.<br><i>Vigil of the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A).</i> | 6.00 pm.              | MASS: Vera Andrews RIP<br>Sydney, Sonya & Shane Andrews.                   |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.<br><i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A).</i>                | 8.30 am.              | MASS: Richard & Linda Madge. Wedding Anniversary. Brian.                   |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 10.30 am.             | MASS: Seamus Mulvenna Intentions. The Cotter Family.                       |

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| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023. <i>Ash Wednesday</i>                         | 9.00 am.              | MASS: Dixon Family Intentions.  |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023.  | 7.00 pm.              | MASS: Breda Cunningham RIP. Pat Murray.                                 |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023.   | 9.00 am.              | MASS: Holy Souls Parish Box.  |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 9.00 am.              | MASS: Breda Cunningham RIP. Breda Wright.                               |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 7.00 pm.              | STATIONS OF THE CROSS.  |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 9.30 am.              | MASS: Rob Skiba RIP Andrews Family.                                     |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am to 12.00 pm. | SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy. |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.  | EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.                                    |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 11.00 am.             | DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.   |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 12.00 pm.             | THE HOLY ROSARY.  |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023. <i>Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent (A).</i> | 6.00 pm.              | MASS: Joan Burman RIP Tara.   |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023. <i>First Sunday of Lent (A).</i>                | 8.30 am.              | MASS: Bernadette McManamon. Peter.                                      |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.   | 10.30 am.             | MASS: Bridie Staines Intentions. Catherine.                             |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023. <i>Lent Fast Day</i>                                | 9.00 am.              | MASS: Pat Hughes RIP May, Noel, Theresa & Pauline.                      |