

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

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SVP contact number: 07799104874 Linda Swinbourne President

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

'Laetare 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.*

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 £570.00 of which £427.00 was gift aided.

Collection £449.00 of which £117.00 was gift aided.

Second Collection CAFOD: £171.90

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

JOHN 9:1-41

In the Gospel from John, Jesus meets a man who was blind from birth. Scriptural scholars tell us that the common belief at the time was that sickness, disability or misfortune were a result of sinfulness. Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Rabbi who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind'? Jesus corrected them and said, 'Neither he nor his parents sinned'. Jesus continued, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him'. 'As long as the day lasts, I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the World'.

Jesus spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam". The word Siloam means 'sent'. The blind man did as Jesus said and was cured of his blindness.

How are we to interpret this miraculous healing by Jesus? Christian baptism was called 'enlightenment' in the early Church. As the blind man was anointed by the paste from Jesus and washed with water from the pool of Siloam, so we are anointed by the Holy Spirit and washed in the Baptismal pool at our Baptism. As the Blind man was given the gift of light to see, we are given the gift of faith to believe. As the Blind man was sent to the Pool of Siloam, we are sent out into the world to be the light of the world, and the salt of the earth. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'. He commands us to be a light to this world. How are we to be a light to the world? We are to be a light to the world through our love of God and the love of our neighbour. We can give no greater gift to a fellow human being than the gift of faith. In the words of St Paul, 'You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth'.

FUNERAL: The funeral of Mark Lanario Dec'd takes place on Monday 20th March 2023. Please pray for the repose of his soul and his grieving family.

TALK ON THE EUCHARIST: On Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 7.00 pm at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Talk is in person and can also be followed live stream: www.whatgoodnews.org

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Join Bishop Alan and the other parishes in the Diocese on 27th May 2023. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. A coach has been booked for the Parish. The cost per seat is £25.00. If you would like to come, please write your name, and telephone number on an envelope containing the money for your seats, and give it to a Church Steward at the back of the Church. Further information: Paultwyford@btinternet.com or phone 01255 688213.

LENTEN LECTURE: 'The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution' given by Baroness Caroline Cox. Go to Threshold of Hope YouTube <https://youtu.be/Ohb5G1aYdtc>

CALLING ALL RED BOXES: Please bring in any full Missio Red Boxes and hand them to a Church Steward. Thank you.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE: See www.bcys.net/events for latest events.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 18 th March 2023.	9.30 am.	MASS: Estelle Moss RIP Theresa & Family.
Saturday 18 th March 2023.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 18 th March 2023.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 18 th March 2023.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 18 th March 2023.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 18 th March 2023. <i>Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent (A).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Grace Cooper Intentions Catherine.
Sunday 19 th March 2023. <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent (A). (Laetare Sunday)</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Antoni & Matylda Delikator RIP. Family.
Sunday 19 th March 2023.	10.30 am.	MASS: Linda Swinbourne & Family. Parish.

Monday 20 th March 2023. <i>Solemnity of St Joseph.</i>	9.00 am	MASS: Ruphina & Family Intentions.
Tuesday 21 st March 2023.	9.00 am.	MASS: Ann Harper RIP Brian Madge.
Friday 24 th March 2023.	9.00 am.	MASS: Tom Whelan RIP Lee Family.
Friday 24 th March 2023.	7.00 pm.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS.
Saturday 25 th March 2023. <i>Solemnity of The Annunciation of The Lord.</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Fr Patrick Daly Intentions. Andrews Family.
Saturday 25 th March 2023.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 25 th March 2023.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 25 th March 2023.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 25 th March 2023.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 25 th March 2023. <i>Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent (A).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Fr John Cairns RIP John & Sheila Fox.
Sunday 26 th March 2023. <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent (A).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Dominic & Mary Henley RIP. John Henley.
Sunday 26 th March 2023.	10.30 am.	MASS: Peter McManamon & Family Intentions. Caroline Daly.