

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

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

*(Expectant Mothers)*

*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: 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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This is your personal gift to the priest. Those using Gift Aid Envelopes should use the envelope marked 'Christmas Offering'. Offerings can be completed on the parish website.

**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: £562.86 of which £350.00 was gift aided.

Electronic Offerings £382.00 of which £282.00 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 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, should make a request in writing to Fr Patrick. To qualify for the 2021 programme, the young person should 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 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TICKETS:** Tickets for the Christmas Masses have now been issued. If you have not received a ticket, you have not been successful. I would like to invite you to the Sunday Masses on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate Christmas.

**DIOCESAN STUDENTS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD:** Please pray for our students who are returning home to their families for Christmas: Michael Barwick, Tony Grant, Alexander Johnson, Damien Wade, Jonathan Burden, Matus Meleg, Moses Itene, Frank Westcott & Alex Wyndham.

**BRENTWOOD DIOCESE YEAR BOOKS:** are available at the back of the Church. Cost £2.80. Please place the money in the Repository Books Box.

**FR GERALD GOSTLING:** will be visiting the parish at Christmas.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38**

In the Gospel from Luke, the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary. The angel exhorts Mary to 'Rejoice, highly favoured! The Lord is with you'. Mary is deeply disturbed and is unable to understand this greeting. Mary is told not to be afraid, that she has won God's favour and is to bear a son who is to be called Jesus. The angel tells Mary that the child will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. 'The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his reign will have no end'. Mary questions the messenger and asks, 'how can this come about, since I am a virgin'? The angel replies that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and the power of the Most High will cover her with its shadow. The child will be holy and will be called Son of God'. In an act of total faith in God, Mary consents to being the Mother of Jesus Christ with the words: 'let what you have said be done to me'.

Jesus is the promised Messiah from the line of David but he is greater than any other descendant of King David. Jesus is the Son of God, in whose conception and birth, the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High are at work. The archangel Gabriel had appeared to a simple girl of no status whatsoever. Mary was from the '*annawin*', who were the lowest and poorest community in Jewish society. The Archangel had been sent by God to announce the

incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity into humanity. God was to become human through the Virgin Mary. The entire salvation of humanity was dependent on the co-operation and consent of this simple girl. Mary did not understand the message fully; she was confused but was able to make a leap of faith and trust in God. Mary took a great risk. She risked her engagement to her future husband Joseph. She risked bringing disgrace to her family, and the personal threat of death by stoning. This is a wonder example of trust in God for us all. Jesus received his humanity from Mary and, therefore, Mary is central to the entire salvation of humanity. Mary gives God His humanity. Mary shows us that a human being can do God's will in their lives. She is our hope. She does it in a perfect way but in a very human way. This story is not, however, about Mary but it is about how she allowed God to work in her life. This is the essence of the teaching of the Gospel.

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

Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am.	MASS: Kathleen Diggins & Family Intentions Mary
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Church open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)	6.00 pm	MASS: Fr Jim McCormack RIP Mary
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) <i>Expectant Mothers</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Frances Kelly and Family Intentions Mary
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Noel & Anne Waters Intentions Parish
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.30 am.	MASS: Tim O'Donovan RIP Parish
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.30 am.	MASS: Pat & Des Mcquire Intentions Anon
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10.00 am Mass open to 30 invited guests only.	FUNERAL MASS: Tim O'Donovan Dec'd

**THE FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS MASSES ARE BY TICKET ONLY.**

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord.	5.00 pm. Children's Christmas Mass	MASS: Sr Carmel Brennan Intentions Jenny Keston
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am. Midnight Mass	MASS: Colm Donnelly RIP Pat & Sandra.
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December Solemnity of Christmas Day	8.30 am	MASS: Catherine, David, Daniel, David, and Thomas Hammond Intentions. Parish
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	MASS: Peter & Mary Tomlin & Family Intentions. Lindsey Abbachi

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

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of St Stephen, The First Martyr.	9.30 am.	MASS: Mary Peace & Family Intentions. Lindsey Abbachi
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December Vigil Mass of the Feast of The Holy Family (B)	6.00 pm	MASS: Matthew & Elaine Todd & Family Lindsey Abbachi
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December Feast of the Holy Family (B)	8.30 am.	MASS: Vera Jones Intentions Vera
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Jenny Bashford RIP Julie Lee

MESSAGE FROM FR PATRICK: I would like to wish everybody in the Parish a Happy and Blessed Christmas. Thank you for all your wonderful support and prayers.