

- Collection Offering £492.34 of which £106.00 was gift aided.

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

Luke 1:39-45 In the Gospel from Luke, we are told of the visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. There are five people in this beautiful scene. The first character is Mary, who in her great act of faith said Yes to the Archangel Gabrielle and agreed to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. In this one great act of perfect faith, Mary co-operated completely with God's plan for the salvation of humanity. She agreed to be the mother of the Messiah. The second person in this scene is Elizabeth. The Archangel Gabrielle had also appeared to Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth, to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Elizabeth was barren and childless. They were both getting on in years. Elizabeth was now with child. The third person in the scene is Jesus Christ – Mary's unborn child: The 2nd person of the Holy Trinity and the Son of God. The fourth person in the scene is John the Baptist – the last of the great prophets of God. John was Elizabeth's unborn child. John would be born to prepare the way for Jesus Christ and to announce the coming of the Messiah. The fifth person in the scene is the Holy Spirit, the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity. It was through the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived the Son of God. It was through the action of the Holy Spirit that Elizabeth became fertile and conceived her son – John the Baptist.

We are told that the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy on hearing Mary's greeting, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth sings out, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?' God the Father through the incarnation of the Son of God and the action of the Holy Spirit had commenced His great plan for our salvation.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE: I invite you to attend the Christmas Reconciliation Service which takes place on Monday evening at 7.00pm, with visiting priests. There is no better way to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Fr Patick.

SVP SENIORS NEW YEAR MEAL: Will be held on 12th January 2025 in St Charles Hall at 1.00pm. All elderly and housebound are welcome. There will be a full Christmas Dinner at a cost of £5.00. If you would like to attend, please put £5.00 in an envelope and put it in the box at the back of the church, with your name, address, telephone number and any dietary requirements. Lifts are available. Donations for raffle would be welcomed. Kevin Norton.

NEW YEAR EVES PARTY: 31st December 2024 at 7.30pm in St Charles Hall. Ticket only event £10.00. You need to bring your own food and drink. Children are free. Buy from Peter McManamon, Julie Lee Or Tracy Wyatt.

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.

ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Applications for 2025 intake must be submitted to Essex County Council between 4th November 2024 and 15th January 2025. You no longer require a Certificate of Catholic Practice. You will need to supply the child's baptism certificate to the School. If your child has not been baptised, speak to Fr Patrick as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Monday 23rd December 7.00 pm Christmas Reconciliation Service with visiting priests.

Tuesday 24th December 6.00 pm Children's Vigil Mass

Tuesday 24th December 8.00 pm Christmas Carols

Tuesday 24th December 9.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday 25th December 8.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday 25th December 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS: Wishing everybody a peace and joyful Christmas. Thank you for all your wonderful support during the year.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Saturday 21st December 2024.	9.30am.	MASS: Maureen Hughes RIP. Harry.
Saturday 21st December 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 21st December 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 21st December 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 21st December 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 21st December 2024. Vigil of The Fourth Sunday in Advent (C).	6.00pm.	MASS: Tim Lancaster & Family Intentions. Joe.
Sunday 22nd December 2024. Fourth Sunday in Advent (C).	8.30am.	MASS: Tim Donovan RIP Catherine.
Sunday 22nd December 2024.	10.30am.	MASS: Peter Coyned & Colette Walker Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.
Monday 23rd December 2024.	9.00am.	MASS: V J Joseph RIP Deepa Jose.

Monday 23rd December 2024.	7.00pm.	CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SERVICE.
Tuesday 24th December 2024.	6.00pm.	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS: Chris & Julie Lee & Family. Catherine.
Tuesday 24th December 2024.	8.00pm.	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE.
Tuesday 24th December 2024.	9.00pm.	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS: The People of the Parish Intentions
Wednesday 25th December 2024.	8.30am.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: Paul & Emma & Family Intentions. Catherine.
Wednesday 25th December 2024.	10.30am.	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: The Choir Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.
Saturday 28th December 2024. <i>The Holy Innocents, Mm.</i>	9.30am.	MASS: Rev'd Anthony Spooner RIP. Alison Spooner.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 28th December 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 28th December 2024. <i>Vigil of The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Sharon & Tom, Andrew & Mark McKurkie Intentions. Angela Cook
Sunday 29th December 2024. <i>Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.</i>	8.30am.	MASS: Michael Palmer Intentions. Catherine.
Sunday 29th December 2024.	10.30am.	MASS: Mary Tomlin Intentions. Lindsey Abbarchi.