

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.

SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS: This week:

- ❖ *Our Lady of Light Chapel: Eileen & George Adams RIP*
- ❖ *Blessed Sacrament Chapel: John & Mary Coyne 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 £441.00 of which £273.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £479.06 of which £130.00 was gift aided.

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

LUKE 1:26-38

In the Gospel from Luke, the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary. He 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 questioned the messenger and asked, 'how can this come about, since I am a virgin'? The angel replied that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of the Most-High will cover her with its shadow.' In an act of total faith in God, Mary consented to be the Mother of Jesus Christ with the words: 'let what you have said be done to me'. By this consent, Mary became the New Ark of the Covenant. She became the Mother of God – it is in her body that Jesus Christ is conceived and held in safety until birth. It is through Mary, that Jesus received His humanity.

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 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 is our teacher in faith. She is a wonderful 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 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. Mary shows us how we can allow God to work in our lives. This is the essence of the teaching of the Gospel.

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024: Are available at the back of the church. Please put the £2.95 into the Repository Books Box.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS: Wishing all parishioners, a happy and peaceful Christmas. Fr Patrick.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

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 CAROLS

Sunday 24 th December 2023	9.00 pm.	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS: People of the Parish Intentions.
Monday 25 th December 2023. Solemnity of <i>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.
Tuesday 26 th December 2023. <i>Feast of St Stephen, Martyr.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: Dominic & Mary Henley RIP. John Henley.
Friday 29 th December 2023. <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp, M.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: Tony Lance RIP Loise Littlefield.
Saturday 30 th December 2023.	9.30 am.	MASS: Kathy Morrison RIP Deirdre.
Saturday 30 th December 2023.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 30 th December 2023.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 30 th December 2023.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 30 th December 2023.	12.00 pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 30 th December 2023. <i>Vigil of the Feast of The Holy Family. (B).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Vera Andrews RIP Sydney, Sonya, Shane & family.
Sunday 31 st December 2023. <i>Feast of The Holy Family (B).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: All Dec'd Family Members. Deirdre.
Sunday 31 st December 2023.	10.30 am	MASS: Veronica Law RIP Joan Ross.