

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

Parish Priest: Fr Patrick Daly

Parish Priest Email: ClactonCatholicChurch@gmail.com

Steward of the Gospel: Paul Twyford ~ email: paultwyford@btinternet.com

Hall enquiries: saintcharleshall@gmail.com

Parish website: www.ourladyoflight.uk ~ Diocesan website: +www.dioceseofbrentwood.net

1 Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6AG, Tel: 01255 423319, Office email:

clacton@dioceseofbrentwood.org

SVP contact number: 07955203405 Linda Swinbourne President

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)

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: England has moved to Plan B measures in the response to the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. HM Government has made the wearing of face coverings mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December 2021.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets or at the Sunday Mass collection, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by 1. Standing order; 2. Using the Smart Bar Codes; or 3. 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:

Electronic Offerings £360.00 of which £272.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £622.92 of which £249.00 was gift aided.

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

GIVE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE: You can now give to the Parish with your smartphone using the bar codes displayed at the entrance and exit doors of the church. You can give from £3 to £20 with or without Giftaid. Simply scan the chosen bar code.

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 orange buckets at the Christmas Masses. Thank you for your generosity. Fr Patrick.

LUKE 2:22-40

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The celebration is in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His foster father, Blessed Joseph, as a family. The Holy Family is presented to us by the Church as a model for all Christian families. The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary went to the temple to present the baby Jesus to God and for their own purification. It was the law at the time, that every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord. The normal sacrificial offering would have been a year-old lamb in accordance with Mosaic Law. Joseph and Mary were unable to provide a lamb due to their poverty and, therefore, gave a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. The young couple were offering back to God, what had been given to them by God. Every child is a gift from God.

This was a family of great faith that had already suffered great difficulty and hardship. Joseph, who had initially been traumatized by the news that Mary, his betrothed in marriage, was expecting a child, and who through faith learned to accept the will of God in his life. Who accepted and committed his life to Mary and the child Jesus. Mary, who was initially confused by the message of the archangel, who through an act of total faith and through her love of God, accepted to be the Mother of God. The baby Jesus was the promised Messiah to the world. A king, who was not born in a palace with servants to wait on him but born in a stable and laid in a manger – normally used for feeding animals. The child who was to become the Bread of Life for humanity. This Holy Family that had been forced to flee its home and possessions for the fear of persecution. The

story tells us of a young family tested by very difficult circumstances but a family with a complete trust and faith in God.

The Gospel speaks of two witnesses to the events in the temple. These witnesses were the man Simeon and the prophetess Anna. The Gospel tells us that the Holy Spirit rested on Simeon. He was a man of great faith. Simeon recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah sent for the salvation of all nations and to be a light to the world. He warns Mary that a sword will pierce her very own soul. Anna was a woman of great prayer and faith. She also recognizes Jesus as the child sent for the deliverance of Jerusalem. How is the Holy Family a model for all Christian families? This Gospel tells us that the family is a sacred institution established by God. God Himself chose to enter humanity through a poor and simple family. God obtained His humanity through the Blessed Virgin Mary. We obtain our humanity and the foundations of our faith through our families. The Holy family as a reflection of the Blessed Trinity shows us how we are to live in families of love. The Holy family expresses the joy of a life lived for the other rather than for oneself. The Holy family teaches us the joy of a life surrendered completely to God in total faith and trust. At the heart of the Holy Family is found Jesus Christ – our Lord and redeemer. We have no better model for a Christian family.

SYNOD LISTENING JOURNEY: Please complete and return the Parish Christmas Questionnaire. A copy will be given to you at every Mass over Christmas. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: There are some places available for any young person in year 9 or above on the programme, which is due to commence shortly. Please email Fr Patrick if you would like to be Confirmed in 2022.

SVP SOUP KITCHEN RAFFLE: Winning numbers are: 412 (599215), 192 (477860), 686 (599215), 603 (599215), 753 (599215), 648 (599215), 42 (477860), 388 (599215), 318 (599215), 359 (599215), 184 (477860), 99 (477860). Please contact Linda on: 07955203405 to arrange collection.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 25 th December 2021. <i>Solemnity of Christmas Day.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Thomas Ropohan RIP Brendon Herlihy.
Saturday 25 th December 2021.	10.30 am.	MASS: Terry Lewis RIP Marian Lewis.
Sunday 26 th December 2021. <i>Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Tina Killen RIP Harry Killen.

Sunday 26 th December 2021.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: MASS: Family & Friends Intentions Deirdre & John.
Wednesday 29 th December 2021. <i>Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp, M.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: Fred & Rose Ellingform RIP Andrew Family.
Thursday 30 th December 2021.	9.00 am.	MASS: Thomas Ropohan RIP Barry Michael.
Thursday 30 th December 2021.	1.30 pm.	WEDDING: Liam Fairy & Frances Bourne.
Friday 31 st December 2021.	9.00 am.	MASS: Thanksgiving Brian Madge.
Saturday 1 st January 2022. <i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Joe Rodohan RIP Lorraine & Brendan Herlihy.
Saturday 1 st January 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 1 st January 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 1 st January 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 1 st January 2022. <i>Vigil of the Second Sunday after the Nativity.</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Amy Lyh Lee & Family Intentions. Shane.
Sunday 2 nd January 2022. <i>Second Sunday after the Nativity.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: John & Anne Lavey Intentions. Mrs C Pratt.
Sunday 2 nd January 2022.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Mary Gilgallon RIP Lee Family.