

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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 weekly 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 £319.00 of which 258.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £412.43 of which £83.00 was gift aided.

Second Collection BCYS £272.49 of which 29.50 was gift aided.

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

MATTHEW 24:37-44

We celebrate the First Sunday in Advent this weekend. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells us to 'stay awake, because we do not know the day when your master is coming'. He tells us that we 'must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect'. Jesus is speaking of the *Parousia*: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Only at the Second Coming will the Kingdom of God be fully completed on earth. At the Second Coming, death and sin will be destroyed forever.

We may not be alive at the Second Coming, but we cannot avoid our personal judgement at the time of our own death. We should not fear judgement from Jesus Christ because He is both our Saviour and Judge. He endured the perfect sacrifice of the Cross in order that we may be forgiven our sins and granted eternal life.

The priest wears purple vestments for the season of Advent. Purple is the sign of repentance. We will light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The first Advent candle is known as the 'candle of hope'. The hope that we have in a God that loves us.

Amidst the activity of Christmas Day preparations, let us not forget Our God who loves us. Let us respond to the invitation for repentance in preparation for our personal judgement. The Parish Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday 12th December at 7.00 pm. There is no better way of responding to the call for repentance or to prepare for the celebrations of Christmas than the Sacrament of Reconciliation – to be fully reconciled to Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2023. Any young person wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Pentecost on 28th May 2023 should make a request in writing to Fr Patrick. To qualify for the 2023 programme, the young person must be currently in Year 9 or above. The family should complete a Parish Registration Form available on our website or at the back of the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, learn about your faith, and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. **Closing date for applications is 1st December 2022.**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24th to Saturday 29th July 2023. All welcome including those who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

ST CLARES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Friday 2nd December 2022, immediately after school. All welcome.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: Will take place on Monday 12th December 2022 at 7.00 pm with visiting priests. There is no better way to prepare for Christmas.

MGR ARTHUR BARROW: Has requested prayers on the death of his brother Fr Bob Barrow – a Jesuit missionary priest.

FRANCISAN SECULAR ORDER FRATERNITY: Monthly prayer meeting in the Presbytery at 6.00 pm on Friday 2nd December. All welcome.

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

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 26 th November 2022.	9.30 am.	MASS: Rose Twyford RIP Paul Twyford.
Saturday 26 th November 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 26 th November 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 26 th November 2022.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
Saturday 26 th November 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 26 th November 2022. <i>Vigil of the First Sunday in Advent (A).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: November Dead List
Sunday 27 th November 2022. <i>The First Sunday in Advent (A).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: November Dead List
Sunday 27 th November 2022.	10.30 am.	MASS: John O'Hara Intentions. Parish.
Wednesday 30 th November 2022. <i>Feast of St Andrew, Ap, Patron of Scotland.</i>	9.00 am.	MASS: Anna Verzola RIP Alexandro.

Wednesday 30 th November 2022.	10.30 am.	FUNERAL: David Stevens RIP.
Thursday 1 st December 2022.	9.00 am.	MASS: Maria Pia Alfano RIP Alexsandro.
Friday 2 nd December 2022.	9.00 am.	MASS: Holy Souls J E Murphy
Saturday 3 rd December 2022. Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Pr.	9.30 am.	MASS: Miriam Fry RIP Parish.
Saturday 3 rd December 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 3 rd December 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 3 rd December 2022.	11.00 am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
Saturday 3 rd December 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 3 rd December 2022. <i>Vigil of the Second Sunday in Advent (A).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Mary Flanagan Intentions Daughter.
Sunday 4 th December 2022. <i>The Second Sunday in Advent (A).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Anna McMenemy RIP Parish.
Sunday 4 th December 2022.	10.30 am.	MASS: Jim Reid RIP Mary.
Sunday 4 th December 2022.	2.00 pm.	BAPTISM: Penelope Connors