

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (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 GUIDELINES: The wearing of face masks is suggested in crowded, enclosed spaces. You should continue to protect yourself and others.

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 at the Church exit doors; 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. Electronic offerings greatly reduce our bank charges. 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 £124.73 of which £90.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £522.34 of which £148.48 was gift aided.

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

JOHN 8:1-11

In the Gospel from John, we have the dramatic story of the woman dragged before Jesus to be stoned for the act of adultery. The Gospel commences with the statement, 'Jesus went to the Mount of Olives'. I believe that this sentence is the key to this Gospel. This Gospel is about sin and God's mercy. God sent His only Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, into the world to be the means of our salvation. Jesus Christ, God made man, the Word through which the whole of the Cosmos was created, became a man in order that we may have forgiveness from sin and eternal life. Jesus Christ through His death on the Cross at Calvary is the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son.

Jesus would shortly return to the Mount of Olives at the beginning of His Passion. On this second occasion, Jesus took His disciples to the Mount of Olives to pray. He instructed His disciples, 'Pray not to be put to the test'. Jesus prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine'. In His anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood'. Why was Jesus sweating great drops of blood? It was not just the thought of the horrendous death He was about to endure. At that moment, Jesus was taking upon Himself all the sins of humanity from Adam and Eve to the end of time. At that moment, Jesus was taking upon Himself our sins.

As the woman was dragged before Jesus, on that very same Mount of Olives, to be stoned for the sin of adultery, Jesus knew that He would shortly take upon Himself that very sin. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In an action of total love and mercy, Jesus disarms her accusers. He says to them, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her". In Jewish law, the witnesses to the crime must be the first to throw the stones. Her accusers dropped their stones and left her in peace. Jesus was shortly to take their sin upon Himself as well! To the woman, He said "Woman, where are they? Has not one condemned you"? "No one Sir", she replied. "Neither do I condemn you", said Jesus "go away, and don't sin anymore".

Jesus will never condemn us for our sins. He loves us totally and has already paid the price for our redemption. We simply must approach Jesus Christ in repentance and ask for His forgiveness. The most perfect way to seek repentance and forgiveness of our

sins is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a Reconciliation Service on Monday 11th April at 7.00 pm with visiting priests.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening at 7.00 pm in the church. Please bring your children or grandchildren. It is very important that they experience this devotion.

VACANCY WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Assistant Manager to begin in late summer. This is a residential role and involves working alongside the existing staff team helping to form the volunteer team and lead retreats for schools and parishes across the diocese. See: <https://bcys.net/news/vacancies/> The closing date Friday 22nd April 2022.

THE PASSAGE: Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online by 12.00 noon on Tuesday 19 April makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/BigGiveMarch22> to support the campaign.

VOCATION ENQUIRERS MEETINGS: The next evening for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 5 April at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. The speaker will be Mgr Kevin Hale. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

FR PATRICK: will be away next week. Fr Gerald Gosling will be providing cover.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday 11 th April 2022.	7.00 pm.	RECONCILIATION SERVICE – with visiting priests.
Thursday 14 th April 2022.	7.00 pm.	MAUNDY THURSDAY MASS.
Friday 15 th April 2022.	10.00 am. (Parish Choir supporting event)	CHURCHES TOGETHER ACT OF WITNESS & WORSHIP – Meeting on Christmas Tree Island in the Town
Saturday 16 th April 2022	8.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL MASS.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	9.30 am.	MASS: Eileen Morley Intentions Parish.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

		Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022. <i>Vigil of The Fifth Sunday in Lent. (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Gina McDonal RIP Theresa, May, Noel & Pauline.
Sunday 3 rd April 2022. <i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent. (C). 'Laetare' Sunday.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Peter O'Connor RIP Denis & Christine Brown.
Sunday 3 rd April 2022.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Dominic, John & Mary Henley Parish.
Friday 8 th April 2022.	7.00 pm.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 9 th April 2022.	9.30 am.	MASS: Anne Hyde & Family Intentions Parish.
Saturday 9 th April 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 9 th 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 9 th April 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 9 th April 2022. <i>Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Joe Byrne RIP May, Noel, Theresa & Pauline.
Sunday 10 th April 2022 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. (C).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Robert Amstead RIP Ann.
Sunday 10 th April 2022.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Marie Born & Family Intentions Parish.