

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 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.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: On the instructions of Bishop Alan, and in compliance with Government Guidelines, all Catholic Churches in the Brentwood Diocese are now closed until further notice. The Church will not be open at the weekend.

SUNDAY GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

In John's Gospel, Jesus hears of the illness of His friend Lazarus. The message sent by Martha and Mary was, "Lord, the man you love is ill". Jesus says to His disciples, "This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and though it the Son of God will be glorified". Jesus waits for 2 days before saying to His disciples, "Let us go to Judea". He added, "Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him up". Jesus continued, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him".

On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for 4 days. Jesus meets Martha and tells her, "I AM the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die, do you believe this"? In an act of total faith, Martha responds, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world". By using the term 'I AM', Jesus claimed the divine name revealed to Moses.

Together with the sisters Martha and Mary, Jesus arrived at the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus commanded: "Take the stone away". He lifted His eyes and said: "Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I know indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for all these who stand around me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me".

Jesus then cried out, "Lazarus here! Come out"! Lazarus came out of the tomb. Jesus told them to, "Unbind him, let him go free".

We are told that, 'many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and Martha had seen what he did and believed in him'. The raising of Lazarus would lead directly to the decision by the Jewish authorities to kill Jesus. Through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we who believe are all granted the gift of eternal life. Jesus tells us that 'He is the resurrection'. 'If we believe in Jesus Christ, even though we may die, we shall live. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ will never die'. We all must face the inescapable reality of our own death. We have mortal bodies and will all die. Our faith in Jesus Christ gives us hope.

Hope in the reality that we are loved totally by God. God, who sent His Only Son into the world to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins and to grant us eternal life. As Jesus called out Lazarus's name, he will also call out our name. Lazarus rose from the dead simply to face death all over again at the end of his mortal life. When we are raised from the dead in body and in soul, we will be raised for eternity. We will never have to face the prospect of any further death. We will look forward to eternal life, together with our love ones, in the presence of the all loving and merciful God.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: You may wish to continue to support the parish by paying your offering by standing order. The parish bank details are: Catholic Church Clacton-on-Sea Montfort, sort code 401322, acct 41020463. Members of the gift-aid scheme should quote their name and gift aid number. Thank you for your support. Fr Patrick

NATIONAL DAY OF REDEDICATION: Sunday 29th March 2020. You are invited to join the National Rededication of England to Our Lady:

***Prayer:** O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee.*

***Response:** We your faithful people assembled here offer you this country in which we live. Once it was yours, all its children were your children and you were honoured throughout England as its Protectress and its Queen. Again, do we consecrate it as your Dowry, and entrust it to your maternal care.*

The full set of prayers are available online: <https://www.behold2020.com/>

THE FOLLOWING MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED BY THE PRIEST ONLY:

Saturday 28 th March	9.30 am	MASS: Bridie Lyne RIP (Joe & Mary Murray)
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Saturday 28 th March Vigil of the Fifth Sunday in Lent A	5.00 pm	MASS: John & Mary O'Donovan (Tim)
Sunday 29 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent A <i>(National Rededication to Our Lady)</i>	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	MASS: Antoni & Matylda Delikator RIP (Family) MASS: Tim Freyne Intentions (Tim & Catherine)
Monday 30 th March	9.30 am.	MASS: Frances Shelly Intentions (Birthday)
Tuesday 31 st March	9.30 am.	MASS: Julie Lee Intentions (The Altar Servers)
Friday 3 rd April	9.30 am.	MASS: Fr Bernard Caszo (Catherine O'Donovan)
Saturday 4 th April	9.30 am.	MASS: Patrick O'Brien (Eileen & Tom Murphy)
Saturday 28 th March <i>Vigil of Palm Sunday</i>	5.00 pm	MASS: Chris Downes RIP (Pat & Breda Cunningham)
Sunday 29 th March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	MASS: Frank McNicholas RIP (Nicola) MASS: Hughes Family & Friends Intentions (Maureen Hughes)

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 forever more. Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us. Amen