

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (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: Please review the Parish Website for the latest updates: <https://ourladyoflight.uk/>

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

In today's Gospel, we have the image of two dejected disciples leaving behind Jerusalem and walking home to their village. They had been traumatised by the crucifixion of Jesus and had refused to accept the message of the Resurrection from the women visiting the empty tomb. They were overcome by the problems of life and had given-up on the promises of the Messiah. Jesus was a great prophet, but He had failed to set His people free. He was dead. It was all over. The Gospel tells us that, 'their faces were downcast'.

At this time during the period of 'lock-down' and the coronavirus, we can easily feel downcast. We worry about our love-ones and friends. We wonder whether life will ever get back to normal. We lose the vision of the glorified Christ and His resurrection. We forget that He is always walking with us.

What happens next? Jesus appears besides the disciples and walks with them on their journey home. Jesus tells them, "you foolish men! So, slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into His glory"? Jesus then explains Holy Scripture to them. Jesus gives them the Word of God. Later they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us"! The disciples invited the stranger who had given them the Word of God to stay with them. As they sat at table, Jesus took the bread and said the blessing; then He broke it and handed it to them'. Their eyes were opened, and they recognised the stranger as Jesus Christ. What had brought about this change? Jesus had fed them with the Holy Eucharist: 'the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ'. In the Holy Eucharist, their hearts and minds were opened to the presence of the Lord.

In this life, we are all disciples of Jesus Christ – we are all on a journey to our eternal home in heaven. On this journey, we can be tried and tested by difficulties, disappointments, and suffering. We can get down hearted and can even on occasions question our faith. It is at these

times, that Jesus walks very close to us. We do not always recognise His presence, but He is there gently encouraging and supporting us. We all look forward to the time when we can come together once again at the table of the Lord. At the Holy Mass we are fed by the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist to sustain and encourage us on our earthly journey to our true home.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS

Offerings can be made by standing order or electronic payments using the following details: **Bank Title: Catholic Church Clacton-on-Sea, Sort Code 401322, Account Number: 41020463** or by debit card using the donation button on our website. Members of the gift-aid scheme should quote their name and gift aid number in the Reference. Thank you for your support. Fr Patrick.

MONDAY 27TH APRIL – Monday is the 52nd anniversary of the Abortion Act. You are invited by the Good Council Network to say the Rosary and Fast in a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life.

LAY CHAPLIN VACANCY: visit www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk

FREE HOME SCHOOL RESOURCES: Mission Together has provided professional home study resources on the following website: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/home-and-parish-resources/>

THE FOLLOWING MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED BY THE PRIEST ONLY:

Saturday 25 th April <i>Feast of St Mark, Evangelist</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Killen Family Living and deceased (Ann Killen)
Saturday 25 th April <i>Vigil of the Third Sunday of Easter (A)</i>	5.00 pm	Mass: Anthony Butler Intentions (Gift)
Sunday 26 th April <i>Third Sunday of Easter (A)</i>	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	MASS: Ray Williams RIP (Paul & Joan Williams) MASS: Catherine Murphy RIP (James & Sylvia Murphy)
Monday 27 th April	9.30 am.	MASS: Theresa Fox RIP (Fox & Poole Family)
Tuesday 28th April	9.30 am.	MASS: Philip Sharp Intentions
Friday 1 st May <i>Memorial of St Joseph the Worker.</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Raymond Nightingill RIP (James & Sylvia Murphy)
Saturday 2 nd May <i>Memorial of St Athanasius, Bp, D.</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Nicola Christy & all front- line workers in Pandemic. (Julie Lee)
Sunday 3 rd May <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter (A) World Day of Prayer for Vocations.</i>	10.30 am.	MASS: Bernadette Gurtler Intentions (Lee Family)

*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*