

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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/>

This Sunday is 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations' or Good Shepherd Sunday. We pray for vocations to the Priesthood and for the personal vocation of every Christian. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. If you visit the Catacombs of Rome, you will see the ancient image of Christ painted by the early Christian Church. The image is not of a Cross but of a young man carrying a lamb round his neck – the Good Shepherd.

In the first reading from Acts, Peter tells the community to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit. At our baptism, we become temples of the Holy Spirit; we become adopted Sons and Daughters of God; Jesus Christ places an indelible seal upon our souls. From that moment onwards, we belong to Christ – we become His sheep and He becomes our Shepherd. Whatever we do in our lives, even at times when we turn away from Christ, He stays by our side and quietly calls us to Him. At the most difficult times in our lives, in times of loss or suffering, He comes especially close to us. He even picks us up and carries us. We may not be fully aware of His presence in this life, but we will in the life to come.

In the First Letter of Peter, Peter tells a community that 'they have gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls'. Jesus Christ is the guardian of our souls. He wishes to lead us to eternal life in the safety of heaven.

In the Gospel from John, Jesus tells us that He is the Shepherd of the flock and the gate of the sheepfold. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and the only way to the Father. We are to know His voice and to follow Him. To follow Jesus, is to live our vocation in this life. Jesus shows us that to live life to the full is to live a life of service and love. Every Christian needs to ask, 'What does God want me to be? What are my gifts? How can I offer these gifts in the service of the wider community and to my own Christian community?' Our Christian communities can only grow and thrive when every member makes his or her contribution to the well-being of the whole. Vocations Sunday

challenges each one of us to reflect on how we personally are responding to the call that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is making to each of us right now.

FUNERALS: The following funerals are taking place next week:

Tuesday 5th May: Mary Flanagan Dec'd

Wednesday 6th May: Hanna Mary McGrath Dec'd

Please pray for the repose of their souls and for the support of their grieving families.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES: visit the website

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> for information on Mass streaming, latest news, prayer, useful links and the Coronavirus.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: This Sunday is when we traditionally pray for vocations to the priesthood for our Diocese. Usually on Good Shepherd Sunday the seminarians travel to parishes to speak about vocations. This year, Michael Barwick, Jonathan Burden and Deacon Paschal Uche have recorded video messages. You can watch them with the following link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1Gs_cDHvpew1BupiuyitH8u37_8bWjU

We continue to have evenings for those who would like to enquire about a vocation to the priesthood. Please get in touch with Fr Mark Swires at vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life and also that all of us may be able to hear what God is asking us to do. Visit: <https://www.brentwoodvocations.co.uk>

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.

THE FOLLOWING MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED BY THE PRIEST ONLY:

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)</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations.</i>	10.30 am.	MASS: Bernadette Gurtler Intentions (Lee Family)
Monday 4 th May <i>National Feast of the English Martyrs</i>	9.30 am.	MASS: Bruce & Barbara Morrison Intentions. (Deirdre)
Tuesday 5 th May	9.30 am.	MASS: Sean Craig RIP (Mary)
Friday 8 th May.	9.30 am.	MASS: Caroline Rosemary Twyford RIP (Paul Twyford)
Saturday 9 th May	9.30 am.	MASS: Fr Jim RIP (D Lane)
Sunday 10 th May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)</i>	10.30 am.	MASS: Johanna Cox RIP (D Lane)

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