

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 (B)

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.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASS WITH EFFECT FROM FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER: Please follow the instructions of the Church Stewards and allow plenty of time before Mass starts to sanitize your hands and complete registration. Attendance at Mass is restricted to 50 people. **I would, therefore, ask that those who are able to attend Mass in the week to refrain from attending Mass at the weekends to allow others the opportunity.** Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. Fr Patrick.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS

Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by standing order or 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. 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:

Offertory Collection £365.00 of which £325.00 was gift aided.

Electronic Offerings £311.00 of which £55.00 was gift aided.

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

HEALTH & SAFETY REGULATIONS: The Diocese has established a browser-based system for the monitoring and completion of Health & Safety activities in parishes. Please may I have a volunteer from the parish with some Health & Safety experience to help me set-up and maintain the new system. Please contact Fr Patrick.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2020. Any young person wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Pentecost on 23rd May 2021, should make a request in writing to Fr Patrick. To qualify for the 2021 programme, the young person should be currently in Year 10 or above. We are proposing five Zoom sessions and one mini retreat led by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday 24th December 5.00 pm Children's Vigil Mass

Thursday 24th December 10.00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Friday 25th December 8.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Friday 25th December 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Places at each Christmas Mass will be by ticket only. If you wish to attend a Christmas Mass, please complete, and return the attached application form to the Presbytery by 11th December. Priority will be given to parishioners who have attended Mass on a regular basis in October 2020.

THE GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: Please write a letter to Priti Patel, The Home Secretary. The Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London. SW1P 4DF requesting that she does not introduce 'buffer zones' around all abortion centres' across the UK. Thousands of women have been helped by small, peaceful pro-life vigils.

BCYS ADVENT CONCERT: Sunday 6th December at 4 pm at Brentwood Cathedral. View on YouTube. For further information: www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols

THE PASSAGE HOMELESS CENTRE: Big give 1st to 8th December. Matching funds to support the homeless. <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

Mark 13:33-37

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. What is Advent and what are we celebrating? The word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means 'coming'. It is a period of expectant waiting for the Lord. We rightly associate Advent with a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ – the incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity into humanity - God becoming man. However, the word Advent is a translation of the Greek word 'Parousia'. The word 'Parousia' refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the end of time. The Advent period, therefore, anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. It offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for His Second Coming. There is also a third perspective to Advent and that is the coming of Jesus Christ into our hearts and souls.

In the Gospel from St Mark, Jesus tells us to 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come'. No one, except the Father, knows the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus has told us that there will be a Second Coming. We pray at each Mass for the Lord to Return at the Second Coming. It is a reality of our faith. I believe that Jesus is encouraging us to be constantly prepared for our personal meeting with Him at the end of our lives.

It is a tradition in the Church that the Priest wears purple vestments in Advent. The colour purple signifies repentance and renewal of our relationship with God. We should use the opportunities given to us in Advent to open our lives to Jesus, in order that we may grow into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Him. The Advent wreath and candles are also a great tradition at this time of year. The first candle is lit today on the First Sunday in Advent. The first reading today is from the Old Testament, foretelling the coming of Christ. The First Advent candle is, therefore, called the candle of hope. The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent concern Christ's birth in a manger and other prophecies. The second candle of Advent is, therefore, called the candle of Bethlehem. The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent relate to St John the Baptist and his message of the coming of the Messiah. The third candle is, therefore, called the candle of joy. The readings for the fourth Sunday relate to the Annunciation of Christ's birth to Mary. The fourth candle is, therefore, called the Angel's candle. Where an Advent wreath includes a fifth candle, it is known as the Christ candle and is lit during the Christmas vigil Mass.

WITH EFFECT FROM FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER MASSES WILL BE OPEN TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

Saturday 28 th November	9.30 am. IN PRIVATE	MASS: Sr Carmel Brennan Intentions (The Daly Family)
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Saturday 28 th November	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Church open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Sunday 29 th November First Sunday of Advent (B)	9.30 am. IN PRIVATE	MASS: The November Dead List RIP
Monday 30 th November <i>Feast of St Andrew, Ap, Patron of Scotland.</i>	9.30 am. IN PRIVATE	MASS: Jean Roberts RIP Caroline & Patrick
Tuesday 1 st December	9.30 am. IN PRIVATE	MASS: Sydney Jones RIP Vera Jones
Friday 4 th December	9.30 am. PUBLIC MASS	MASS: Margorie Talbot RIP Pat & Sandra
Saturday 5 th December	9.30 am. PUBLIC MASS	MASS: Fr Lawrence Sexton RIP Tim O'Donovan
Saturday 5 th December	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: In the presbytery garden.
Saturday 5 th December	11.00 am to 1.00 pm	Church open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 5 th December Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday of Advent (B)	6.00 pm PUBLIC MASS	MASS: Brian Locker RIP Parish
Sunday 6 th December Second Sunday of Advent (B) <i>(Bible Sunday)</i>	8.30 am. PUBLIC MASS	MASS: Leszek Holeszowski RIP Wojteck
Sunday 6 th December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Verona & John Cox RIP Ashley & Elaine Cox

APPLICATION FORM FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

NAME:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

1. The number of adults and children in your party coming to Mass: **No Adults:**
No Children:
2. Are you one household: YES/NO
3. Which Christmas Mass would you like to attend:

Please note that the 5.00 pm Children's Vigil Mass is strictly for families with young children only.

Facemasks are mandatory in the Church. People unable to wear a mask must not attend.

If you are not in your seat 15 minutes before the start of Mass, your seat may be reallocated to another person.

The completed form must be returned to 1 Church Road, Clacton on Sea, CO15 6AG by Thursday 11th December.

The celebration of Mass at Christmas will be subject to the Government COVID19 Regulations at the time.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS 2018

I understand that the parish will be holding the information given and any related paperwork in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018, under the heading of Legitimate Interest.