

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

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (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.

COVID 19 REGULATIONS: 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.

POST CHRISTMAS BREAK: Fr Patrick will be taking a break from Monday 28th to Friday 1st January.

THANK YOU FROM FR PATRICK: Thank you for your Christmas gifts, cards, offerings, and your prayers.

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:

Collection and donations: £340.50 of which £99.50 was gift aided.

Electronic Offerings £389.00 of which £153.00 was gift aided.

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

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection over the weekend 9th and 10th January in support of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2021. 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 9 or above. We are proposing five Zoom sessions and one mini retreat led by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. **The closing date for applications is 2nd January 2021**

BRENTWOOD DIOCESE YEAR BOOKS: are available at the back of the Church. Cost £2.80. Please place the money in the Repository Books Box.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The celebration is in honour of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and His foster father, Blessed Joseph, as a family. The Holy Family is presented to us by the Church as a model for all Christian families.

The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary went to the temple to present the baby Jesus to God and for their own purification. It was the law at the time, that every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord. The normal sacrificial offering would have been a year-old lamb in accordance with Mosaic Law. Joseph and Mary were unable to provide a lamb due to their poverty and, therefore, gave a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. The young couple were offering back to God, what had been given to them by God. Every child is a gift from God.

This was a family of great faith that had already suffered great difficulty and hardship. Joseph, who had initially been traumatised by the news that Mary, his betrothed in marriage, was expecting a child, and who through faith learned to accept the will of God

in his life. Who accepted and committed his life to Mary and the child Jesus. Mary, who was initially confused by the message of the archangel, who through an act of total faith and through her love of God, accepted to be the Mother of God. The baby Jesus was the promised Messiah to the world. A king, who was not born in a palace with servants to wait on him but born in a stable and laid in a manger – normally used for feeding animals. The child who was to become the Bread of Life for humanity.

This Holy Family who was forced to flee its home and possessions for the fear of persecution. The story tells us of a young family tested by exceedingly difficult circumstances but a family with a complete trust and faith in God.

The Gospel speaks of two witnesses to the events in the temple. These witnesses were the man Simeon and the prophetess Anna. The Gospel tells us that the Holy Spirit rested on Simeon. He was a man of great faith. Simeon recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah sent for the salvation of all nations and to be a light to the world. He warns Mary that a sword will pierce her very own soul. Anna was a woman of great prayer and faith. She also recognises Jesus as the child sent for the deliverance of Jerusalem.

How is the Holy Family a model for all Christian families? This Gospel tells us that the family is a sacred institution established by God. God Himself chose to enter humanity through a poor and simple family. God obtained His humanity through the Blessed Virgin Mary. We obtain our humanity and the foundations of our faith through our families. The Holy family as a reflection of the Blessed Trinity shows us how we are to live in families of love. The Holy family expresses the joy of a life lived for the other rather than for oneself. The Holy family teaches us the joy of a life surrendered completely to God in total faith and trust. At the heart of the Holy Family is found Jesus Christ – our Lord and redeemer. We have no better model for a Christian family.

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAYS: Live stream 30th January www.sppilford.org.uk 11.00am to 12.30pm discussion of Pope Francis's Book 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' with Austen Ivereigh.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LOBBY: Please email your MP using the following link urging the Government to reject the demands of the Assisted Suicide Lobby. The email takes 30 seconds: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

A NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY: CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY IN ENGLAND AND WALES – join here <http://www.facebook.com/groups/2873625336203735>

THE FOLLOWING MASSES WILL BE OPEN TO A MAXIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH.

Saturday 26 th December Feast of St Stephen, The First Martyr.	9.30 am.	MASS: Mary Peace & Family Intentions. Lindsey Abbachi
Saturday 26 th December Vigil Mass of the Feast of The Holy Family (B)	6.00 pm	MASS: Matthew & Elaine Todd & Family Lindsey Abbachi
Sunday 27 th December Feast of the Holy Family (B)	8.30 am.	MASS: Vera Jones Intentions Vera
Sunday 27 th December	10.30 am FAMILY MASS	MASS: Jenny Bashford RIP Julie Lee
Saturday 2 nd January 2021 Vigil Mass of Second Sunday after the Nativity.	6.00 pm	MASS: Stephen Giedrojc RIP Justyna
Sunday 3 rd January Second Sunday after the Nativity	8.30 am	MASS: Tim O'Donovan RIP Maureen Hughes
Sunday 3 rd January	10.30 am	MASS: Ellen Morrissey Intentions Jenny Keston