

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 (C)

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 STEP 4: The revised guidelines are being implemented in the parish. Please note that face masks are required in the church.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets or at the Sunday collection, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by standing order, using the Smart Bar Codes 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:

Electronic Offerings £351.00 of which £251.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £338.71 of which £114.00 was gift aided.

Second Collection BCYS £198.44 of which £83.90 was gift aided.

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

GIVE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE: You can now give to the Parish with your smartphone using the bar codes displayed at the entrance and exit doors of the church. You can give from £3 to £20 with or without Giftaid. Simply scan the chosen bar code.

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

Today, we celebrate the First Sunday in Advent. The word 'Advent' means 'Coming'. In the Gospel from Luke, Jesus tells us that 'we will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory'. We are to 'stand erect; hold our heads high because our liberation is near at hand'. Jesus is speaking of the *Parousia*: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Only at the Second Coming will the Kingdom of God be fully completed on earth. At the Second Coming, death and sin will be destroyed forever.

We may not be alive at the Second Coming, but we cannot avoid our personal judgement at the time of our own death. We should not fear judgement from Jesus Christ because He is both our Saviour and Judge. He endured the perfect sacrifice of the Cross in order that we may be forgiven our sins and granted eternal life.

The Priest wears purple vestments during Advent. Purple is the sign of repentance. We light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The first Advent candle is known as the 'candle of hope'. Repentance is the hope in which we surrender our sinful lives to Christ' healing love. The hope that we have in a God that loves us.

Amidst the activity of Christmas season preparations, let us not forget Our God who loves us. Let us respond to the invitation for repentance in preparation for our personal judgement. There is no better way of responding to the call for repentance or to prepare for the celebrations of Christmas than the Sacrament of Reconciliation – to renew our relationship with Jesus Christ.

CONFRATERNITY OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: I wish to re-establish the Confraternity on the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. The Confraternity was established on 26th October 1895 by Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster. The objects of the Confraternity are:

1. To promote a true and tender devotion to Our Lady as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and the channel through whom He communicates His gifts and graces.

2. To obtain light to practice aright all other devotions of the Church, especially devotion to the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, to the Holy Spirit, and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and thereby to promote the sanctification of all the Members of the Confraternity.
3. To implore through the intercession of Our Lady of Light, that her Divine Son, the "Light of Light, and her Divine Spouse, the Holy Spirit, "Light of our hearts", may graciously vouchsafe to spread ever more and more the light of the Catholic Faith over the whole world, and especially over England.

Means to obtain the end proposed by the Confraternity:

1. The daily recital of the "Morning Offering" prayer of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.
2. Prayer to the Holy Spirit, and to His Spouse, Our Lady of Light.
3. Attendance at daily Mass, where possible.
4. The daily recital of the Rosary.
5. Reception of Holy Communion at least once a month, especially on Feasts of Our Lord, of Our Lady, of St Joseph, and the Holy Apostles.

Rules of the Confraternity:

1. The "Morning Offering" to be recited daily
2. Holy Communion once a month in honour of "Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit", and for the intentions of all Members.
3. To keep a picture of "Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit", and to have an earnest desire to spread the devotion.

Please apply in writing to Fr Patrick, with your full name, if you wish to formally join the Confraternity. The names of all new members will be written into the original register of members.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL CONCERT: Please join me and the Parish Choir at the Carol Concert at 2 pm outside of Morrison's in the Waterglade Retail Park on Saturday 11th December. There will be a full brass band. This is an important witness to the Christian meaning of Christmas, and an opportunity to stand together with the other Christians in the town. Fr Patrick.

FUNERAL: The funeral of Mary Powell will take place on Monday 29th November. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her grieving family.

MESSAGE FROM MISSIO. Fr Anthony Chantry, National Director, has written to me to thank the Parish for the generous gift of £409.97.

SVP: A member of the SVP will be speaking at all Sunday Masses. The SVP are requesting prizes for a Christmas raffle to support their work.

ST HELENA HOSPICE: Volunteers will pick up any real Christmas trees after Christmas for a small donation to the Charity. Register your tree at:
<https://www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/home>

BISHOP ALAN ADVENT PASTORAL LETTER: My dear People, on this, the First Sunday of Advent, we embark on a journey together with the Universal Church. Every diocese throughout the world has been invited by Pope Francis to walk the Synodal Pathway. The journey begins now and will conclude in Rome in 2023.

The Holy Father invites us to enter this Synodal Journey, moving towards greater Communion, Participation and Mission within the Church. These three themes reflect both our calling and ultimately our destination as Catholic Christians.

We begin in Advent, a season of listening, reflected in the most perfect example Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Listening was central to the Annunciation. First, God speaks to Mary; she loves God, and she listens to him with an open heart and a willingness to participate in His plan. Later, at the Visitation, Mary cares for and listens to her cousin, Elizabeth. Our Lady shows us what it means to be fully attentive to God and to neighbour.

Now it is our turn. We are being asked to pray together, to talk with, and listen to each other, and to share our dreams for a future Church that is enhanced by communion, participation, and mission.

The Holy Father has made it clear that each diocese ought to tailor the pathway to their unique, local situation and with this in mind I would like to encourage you to undertake this task within your Parish Partnerships. These were established as part of our Stewards of the Gospel process, which led, three years ago in the Advent of 2018 to the publication of our Vision Document: Shaping Our Future.

As a diocese, we now have some experience of collective discernment of the will of the Holy Spirit, as the common theme of listening together runs between the Stewards of the Gospel process and the Synodal Pathway. Pope Francis puts it beautifully, saying, "Our journeying together is what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God".

My hope is that the Synodal pathway will help us to discern and implement our own vision and manifest our missionary nature.

Now I urge you to come together in your parish partnership; to pray and to dream of the future of our church, to listen with care and respect to one another, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations.

Everyone should be included in this prayerful listening and discernment and there will be notices in your parish bulletin or on social media with further information.

As we journey together in our pilgrimage to the house of God our Father, I invite you to use the Synod Prayer which will be available in print form and also on diocesan and parish web sites. Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally

used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. This version has been designed specifically for the Church's Synodal Pathway. Please pray it, inviting the Holy Spirit into your busy lives and homes and know that I will be praying for you also.

Yours in Christ and Mary, +Alan Williams, sm, Bishop of Brentwood.

SYNOD PARISH REPRESENTATIVE: Eileen Morley has kindly agreed to be the Parish Representative for the Synod consultation.

HELP: An elderly lady needs a lift to Mass from Rose Croft Close. Please let Fr Patrick know if you can help.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: What are the unique insights of Catholic Social Teaching? takes place by Zoom on Sundays 28th and 5th December 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. The input and discussion will be led by Fr Dominic Howarth, Episcopal Vicar for Youth Ministry and Pastoral Care. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk All Welcome.

THE PASSAGE CENTRE: A Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

FRANCISAN SECULAR ORDER FRATERNITY: Monthly prayer meeting in the Presbytery at 6.00 pm on Friday 3rd December. All welcome.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 27 th November 2021.	9.30 am.	MASS: Rose Twyford RIP Paul Twyford.
Saturday 27 th November 2021.	11.00 am to 12.00 am.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 27 th November 2021.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 27 th November 2021.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 27 th November 2021.	1.30 pm.	MARRIAGE: Samuel William Ayriss and Faye-Michaela O'Connor.

Saturday 27 th November 2021. <i>Vigil of The First Sunday of Advent (C)</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Tim O'Donovan RIP Catherine Donovan.
Sunday 28 th November 2021. <i>The First Sunday of Advent (C).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Justin Aulisi RIP Angela Ryan.
Sunday 28 th November 2021.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Mary Tomlin Intentions Lindsey.
Monday 29 th November 2021	9.00 am.	MASS: Cyril Avery RIP B Nunn.
Monday 29 th November 2021.	12.30 pm.	FUNERAL: Mary Powell Dec'd.
Tuesday 30 th November 2021 Feast of St Andrew, Ap, Patron of Scotland.	9.00 am.	MASS: Caroline Angus RIP Mary.
Friday 3 rd December 2021 Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Pr.	9.00 am.	MASS: Anna-Mae Turner & Family.
Saturday 4 th December 2021.	9.30 am.	MASS: Alice Redmond RIP Joe Murray.
Saturday 4 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 12.00 am.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 4 th December 2021.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 4 th December 2021.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 4 th December 2021. <i>Vigil of The Second Sunday of Advent (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Amy Louise Acker & Family Intentions Shane.
Sunday 5 th December 2021. <i>The Second Sunday of Advent (C).</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Sharon Sinclair Intentions Janet Latto.
Sunday 5 th December 2021.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Nicola Dales & Family Intentions.