

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (C)

Laetare Sunday

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 GUIDELINES: The wearing of face masks is suggested in crowded, enclosed spaces. You should continue to protect yourself and others.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION / DONATIONS: Offerings can be placed in one of the orange buckets or at the Sunday Mass collection, but I would request wherever possible, all offerings are made electronically by **1. Standing order; 2. Using the Smart Bar Codes at the Church exit doors; or 3. 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.

Electronic offerings greatly reduce our bank charges. 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 £442.40 of which £295.00 was gift aided.

Collection Offerings £556.30 of which £97.20 was gift aided.

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

LUKE 15: 1-3,11-32.

In the Gospel from Luke, the Pharisees, and scribes attack Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them. Jesus replied, 'I came not to call the righteous but sinners.' Jesus gave the parable of the Prodigal Father. The parable speaks of the son who rejects the love of his father – a son who rejects the comfort and safety of his father's house. We reject God's love and the safety of His house when we sin. The young son is us. The father is God. The son takes the father's inheritance and goes in search of freedom. The son believes he can have a better life without his father. He seeks independence and the pursuit of self-satisfaction in physical and material things. Everything goes wrong in the son's life. He finds that his independence is a disaster. His actions only lead to misery. The rejection of his father's love and home do not lead to happiness. These are illusions of freedom: the abandonment of the father's house; the extreme misery when all the money is gone; the deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to look after pigs; and the severe hunger leading to the desire to eat the husks given to the pigs for food. We seek the illusion of happiness in money, in wealth, in property, in power and in getting our way at the expense of others. We seek the illusion of happiness when we seek independence from God.

The son comes to his senses. He reflects on all he has lost. He seeks repentance and decides to declare himself guilty before his father. We come to our senses when we acknowledge our dependence on God. We come to our senses when we seek repentance and forgiveness from God. The father was looking out for the son. He sees his son in the distance and takes pity on him. God looks out for us and takes pity on us. The father does not wait for the son to reach his home; he runs to the son; he clasps the son in his arms and kisses him tenderly. He loves the son. God always welcomes the repentant sinner. There is great joy in heaven at our conversion to God's love. The beautiful robe, the ring and the festive banquet given to the son are symbols of that new life – pure, worthy, and joyful – of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of His family, which is the Church. There is a Reconciliation Service at our church with visiting priests on Monday 11th April at 7.00 pm.

CALLING ALL RED BOXES: Please give to a Church Steward or hand into the Sacristy any full Missio Red Boxes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening at 7.00 pm in the church. Please bring your children or grandchildren. It is very important that they experience this devotion.

VACANCIES ST BENEDICTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE: Lay Chaplain and Chaplain Apprentice. See www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk for details.

BRENTWOOD YOUTH SERVICE: Opportunity for Gap Year at Walsingham House. On Sunday 10th April, from 2pm – 4pm, there will be a short introduction to the House, including insights into the Gap Year, a tour of the House, and time for questions from prospective Team members and their parents. See www.bcys.net/events/whopenday/

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2022: The new Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of the church. There are also some blank 2nd collection envelopes for anybody paying by standing order. You must write your number on the 2nd collection envelopes.

VOCATION ENQUIRERS MEETINGS: The next evening for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 5 April at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. The speaker will be Mgr Kevin Hale. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

WEBSITE TO HELP UKRAINE: CARITAS has a webpage dedicated to ways that people can help – through prayer, financial donations, and donations of food, medical supplies, and clothing. All the information is at: www.caritasbrentwood.org/ukraine

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES.

Saturday 26 th March 2022.	9.30 am.	MASS: Pat & Sandra Murray Intentions Parish.
Saturday 26 th March 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 26 th March 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 26 th March 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.

Saturday 26 th March 2022. <i>Vigil of The Fourth Sunday in Lent. (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: All Jews living & dead Andrews Family.
Sunday 27 th March 2022. <i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent. (C). 'Laetare' Sunday.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Ann Hyde & Family Parish.
Sunday 27 th March 2022.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Brigit Vackey Intentions Justin George.
Monday 28 th March 2022.	9.00 am.	MASS: Jennifer Cotter RIP Caroline, James & Lisa.
Tuesday 29 th March 2022.	9.00 am.	MASS: Breda Grey RIP Brian Madge.
Friday 1 st April 2022.	9.00 am.	MASS: Vera Andrews RIP Syd, Sonya & Shane.
Friday 1 st April 2022.	7.00 pm.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	9.30 am.	MASS: Eileen Morley Intentions Parish.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	11.00 am to 1.00 pm.	Church is open for private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022.	12.00 pm.	THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 2 nd April 2022. <i>Vigil of The Fifth Sunday in Lent. (C).</i>	6.00 pm.	MASS: Gina McDonal RIP Theresa, May, Noel & Pauline.
Sunday 3 rd April 2022. <i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent. (C). 'Laetare' Sunday.</i>	8.30 am.	MASS: Peter O'Connor RIP Denis & Christine Brown.
Sunday 3 rd April 2022.	10.30 am. FAMILY MASS.	MASS: Dominic, John & Mary Henley Parish.