

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea



2nd Week of Advent, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week II

“A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.””

Matthew 3:2

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Parish Web Site: www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com

R.C. Diocese of East Anglia:
A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Parish Church: Catholic Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL.

Chapel of Ease: St Nicholas' Catholic Church, Morton Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0JQ.

Other Clergy: Rev. Fr. Stephen Bould; Rev. Fr. Neville McClement, Rev. Mr. Stephen Pomeroy.

Sacramental Preparation: Applications are made by Contacting Fr Pádraig – one month's notice is required for the Sacrament of Baptism and six months' notice for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Parish Newsletter: Items for consideration need to be sent to Fr Pádraig - frpmfoh@gmail.com – by Wednesday Evening please. The Completed Newsletter will be posted on the Website each Saturday.

Gospel Reflection

“In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11). In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: “. . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals” (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.”

Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

On the 8th December we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast celebrates God's choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God preserved Mary from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. Thus, Mary was the first to receive the benefit of the redemption that her Son would merit for all. To reflect upon this mystery, the Gospel reading for today presents to us the story of the Annunciation. It is through her exchange with the angel Gabriel that Luke, the Evangelist, introduces the person of Mary. The Annunciation begins in the context of Luke's account of the birth of John the Baptist. “In the sixth month,” referring to Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel appears to a virgin of

Nazareth—Mary. Indeed, there are many parallels in Luke's accounts of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. In this passage, Luke tells us much about Mary and the child she is to bear. We learn that Mary is a virgin from Nazareth who is betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of David. The angel greets Mary in the most glowing of terms, acknowledging the favour she has found with God. The son Mary is to conceive is described in messianic terms. He will be called “Son of the Most High” and the “Son of God.” Mary is bold in her exchange with the angel. She is troubled by his greeting and questions the message, asking “How am I to bear a son if I have no relations with a man?” Mary is told that she will conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and is offered a sign in the miraculous pregnancy of her elder cousin Elizabeth. Mary's affirmative response to this seemingly impossible message gives evidence to the grace we know that she possesses from God. Only one who is “full of grace” can be so receptive to and cooperative with the will of God. Because of this, Mary is the model of discipleship for all Christians.

CWL Notices

(1) CWL Raffle tickets for the Christmas Hampers, will be on sale before/after all Masses on the three weekends before Christmas - 3/4th Dec, 10/11th Dec, 17/18th Dec. The draw will take place after 11am Mass on Sunday 18th December in the Church Hall. This is part of our fundraising efforts in order to support some of our chosen charities who need our help. (2) Please note: There will be no CWL meeting during December, the date of the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th January at 1:30pm - all are welcome.

Dates for you Diary...

10/12/22 – Parish Christmas Event: Starts at 1pm - Festive Drinks & Food available. Raffle, Entertainment and even Santa! See Posters for more details – all are welcome.

11/12/22 – Lowestoft Civic Carol Service at 3pm in the Parish Church (OLSS).

24/12/22 – Christmas! Mass and Service Times are now on the Parish Website...

****NB – Always Check the Newsletter for Changes to Weekday Mass Times****

Upcoming Second Collections for 2022

10th/11th December – Diocesan Dependant Priests' Fund

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £414.94 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£403). Your continued financial support for your parish, the diocese and the wider Universal Church is much needed and very much appreciated.

We Pray for...

We pray for all in our Parish who are currently unwell and who are suffering from illness of one kind or another, praying especially for the housebound who are not able to join us for regular worship. We pray also for those who have recently passed away and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time; may they rest in peace. Names of the Sick and the Deceased may be written in the Parish Prayer Books and will be prayed for.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: December 4th – December 10th

- Saturday 3rd - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for:
- Sunday 4th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 4th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: P.J. Loftus & Irene Stone (RIP)
- Monday 5th - 10:00 – Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for: Private Intention
- Tuesday 6th - 12:00 – Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Wednesday 7th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Ambrose)*
Offered for: Mark Sherwood
- Thursday 8th - 09:15 - St Nicholas'** *(Solemnity, the Immaculate Conception)*
Offered for:
- Friday 9th - 08:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 10th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, Bls. H. Heath, J. Robinson & Comps)*
Offered for:
- Saturday 10th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: Joan Frances Bunyan (RIP)
- Sunday 11th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 11th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for:

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place every week during Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from 9:30 to c.10am) following the 9am Mass on Saturday Morning. One may also make an appointment with Fr Pádraig for confession at another suitable time.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, living or deceased, or for a particular intention (exams, interview, etc.), please collect a pre-printed envelope from the back of the church. Details of your request, including the preferred date, can then be entered on the front of the envelope (legibly please) and then your offering may be placed inside before being given to Fr Pádraig.
