

**The Catholic Parish
of
Our Lady, Star of the Sea**



3rd Week of Advent, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week III

“Are you the one who is to come,
or have we got to wait
for someone else?”

Matthew 11:2

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
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Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
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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

“The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4-5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.”

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

CWL Notices

(1) CWL Raffle tickets for the Christmas Hampers, will be on sale before/after all Masses on the two weekends before Christmas - 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.

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



Christmas Masses & Service Times



Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve:

5pm – Vigil Mass of the Nativity – at Our Lady’s
8:30pm – Service of Readings & Carols – at Our Lady’s
9pm – Mass During the Night – at Our Lady’s

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day:

9am – Mass of the Dawn – at St Nicholas’
11am – Mass of the Day – at Our Lady’s



From Monday 26th through to Saturday 31st (The Octave of Christmas) Mass each day will be at 10am in the Parish Church of Our Lady’s.

Please put the above notice about Christmas Mass & Service times in your diary, on your fridge, or wherever else might be helpful! Please also give a copy to anyone who might like to come to one of the services. Why not think about making a personal invitation to someone? Christmas is one of those times when it becomes ‘socially acceptable’ to go to church, so even those who do not usually attend are normally much more open to being invited to Mass – “come and see” is, after all, an invitation given to all from Jesus.

Catholic Primary School

A reminder to all our parents that the local Catholic Primary School is St Mary’s, located on Kirkley Cliff Road (NR33 0DG). For anyone who is considering a school placement for their child, from reception through to Year 6, I would recommend contacting the school and arranging either a tour or a meeting with the Head of School, Mrs Ewa Parker. For more information please visit: <https://www.stmarysrcps.com> or Tel: 01502 565384.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week’s collection which amounted to £480.23 (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. We pray especially for **Bishop Alan Hopes**, who begins his retirement this week, and, from Wednesday 14th, **Bishop Peter Collins**, who begins his new ministry among us.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: December 11th – December 17th

- 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: Joel Parkinson (RIP)
- Monday 12th - 09:15 - St Nicholas'** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for: The Children and Staff of St Mary's School
- Tuesday 13th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** *(Mem, St Lucy)*
Offered for: Canon Peter Collins' Intention
- Wednesday 14th - NO MASS TODAY** *(Mem, St John of the Cross)*
Offered for: NA
- Thursday 15th - 10:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for: Bishop Peter Collins' Intention
- Friday 16th - 08:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for: Bishop Alan Hopes' Intention
- Saturday 17th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** *(Ad.Feria)*
Offered for: The Diocese of East Anglia
- Saturday 17th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for:
- Sunday 18th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** *(4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)*
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 18th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** *(4th 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.
